

Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission Transportation Advisory Committee

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

September 14th, 2021

4:00-5:30 PM

Hybrid Meeting: In-Person at UVLSRPC Offices / Videoconference via Zoom

Members Present In-Person: Dick Jones (Lyme), Peter Kulbacki (Hanover), Liz Emerson (Charlestown)

Members Present Via Zoom Videoconference: Van Chesnut (Advance Transit), Bob Harrington (New London)

Staff Present In-Person: Alex Belenz

Others Present via Videoconference: Jason Ayotte (NHDOT), John Butler (NHDOT), Lucy St. John (NHDOT)

I. Call to Order

Chair Van Chesnut called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM. Roll call attendance was taken. Alex Belenz noted that under UVLSRPC TAC bylaws, the members present in-person constituted a quorum of the TAC.

II. Lebanon Exit 18 Ten-Year Plan Project (#29612) – NHDOT Presentation & Discussion

Jason Ayotte (NHDOT Project Manager) provided a detailed overview of the Lebanon Exit 18 Ten-Year Plan Project (#29612). Alex Belenz noted that this project was prioritized by the UVLSRPC TAC for funding in 2016 in response to congestion and mobility challenges at I-89 Exit 18. Project development is being overseen by a project advisory committee consisting of residents and officials from Lebanon and Hanover, as well as UVLSRPC and Advance Transit.

Presentation slides can be accessed at

https://www.uvlsrpc.org/index.php/download_file/view/2145/113/.

Pete Kulbacki inquired about signal timing adjustments at Exit 18. John Butler noted that the Bureau of Traffic regularly monitors signal timing performance in this area, and that improvements are needed beyond what can be achieved by signal timing adjustments. Alex noted that the scope of transportation needs in the project area is well beyond what the current project construction budget (~\$3 million) can achieve; however, NHDOT has recommended an \$11 million budget increase in the draft FY 2023-2032 Ten-Year Plan.

III. Action on Minutes from April 27th, 2021

Unanimously approved via roll-call vote.

IV. NH Ten-Year Plan & Transportation Alternatives Program – Updates

Alex Belenz provided an overview of regional projects included in the draft FY 2023-2032 Ten-Year Plan. Several projects have been proposed to receive increased funding in order to address all needs in the project area: Lebanon I-89 Exit 18/NH 120 improvements, Charleston NH Route 12 reconstruction, and the New London park-and-ride expansion.

Both of the regional Transportation Alternatives Program projects (Newport, Claremont) were prioritized for funding by NHDOT. Claremont was the highest-ranked project statewide, while Newport was just above the funding cut-off. The project rankings could be changed by GACIT or the legislature.

Alex noted that the GACIT public hearing schedule is yet to be finalized. Communities are being encouraged to attend the hearings and advocate for their projects.

V. Regional Corridor Transportation Plan – Update & Discussion

Alex Belenz provided an overview of the latest progress on the *Regional Corridor Transportation Plan*. Public outreach activities (online survey, interactive map, virtual public forums) will wrap up in October, with a draft plan being completed later in the fall. Van Chesnut asked about the corridor-based approach for the long-range transportation plan, Alex noted that it has been a useful approach for breaking up the region, particularly for soliciting useful public input.

VI. Updates from Members

- Liz Emerson, Charlestown – noted that NH Route 12 is still closed between Charlestown and Walpole due to slope failure following severe rains. Jason Ayotte add that the proximity of the roadway to the adjacent railroad corridor is complicating emergency repair efforts. Alex noted that the proposed additional funding for the NH Route 12 reconstruction project is critical for ensuring the future resiliency of the road.
- Peter Kulbacki, Hanover – the Town will be performing maintenance on bridges on Ruddsboro Rd in 2022, with likely traffic impacts.
- Van Chesnut, Advance Transit – Advance Transit is continuing to engage partners to support expansion of the Blue Route to 15-minute headways.

VII. Other Business

None.

VIII. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned via unanimous roll-call vote at 5:08 PM.