

Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission Transportation Advisory Committee

MEETING Minutes

August 30, 2022

4:00-5:30 PM

Hybrid Meeting via ZOOM

Kilton Public Library

80 Main St, West Lebanon, NH 03784

Members Present: Van Chesnut (Advance Transit, Chair), Liz Emerson (Charlestown, Remote), George Sykes (Lebanon), Richard “Dick” Jones (Lyme, Vice Chair), Christina Hall (Hanover), Adams Carroll (Advance Transit), Ellen Hender (Vital Communities), John Haffner (Vital Communities)

Partners Present:

Chris Turgeon (NH DOT District II, Remote), Lucy St. John (NH DOT, Remote), Richard “Ricky” DiCillo (NH DES, Remote)

UVLSRPC Staff Present: Meghan Butts, Andrea Cass

I. Call to Order

- a. Chair Van Chesnut called the meeting to order at 4:04PM. Roll Call.

II. Action on Minutes from July 14th, 2022

- a. Dick Jones made the motion to approve the minutes from July 14th; Van Chesnut seconded. George Sykes abstained. The minutes from July 14th were approved 6-0-1.

III. Presentation: Clean Diesel Program from Richard DiCillo, NH DES

- a. The presentation can be found [here](#). There is \$1.4 million anticipated available funding pool. The goal is to improve NH’s air quality and reduce exposure to diesel emissions. Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) and NH matched funds to maximize available funds. Vehicle/engine/equipment upgrades and installing stationary plug-ins for idle reduction are the two major categories of projects. Examples include replacing school buses, plow trucks, refuse trucks, drayage truck and replacing them with new diesel, electric, or CNG. There are eligibility and administration restrictions. It is a competitive process and scoring is based on criteria (cost effectiveness per emissions reduction). Ricky DiCillo and Jessica Wilcox are point-of-contacts for this program.

Liz Emerson asked if it was possible to use these funds in a leasing model for replacing a vehicle. Ricky DiCillo said any interest on the loan would

not be eligible for reimbursement. He suggested looking back at the DERA documents or reaching out directly.

Van Chestnut asked, do you still have demand for replacing 2009 vehicles? Ricky DiCillo said yes. They had conversations with constituents that have been dealing with pre-2009 vehicles.

Dick Jones made a comment that there are issues with supply-chain and the town meeting schedules. Ricky responded that this grant would likely be able available next year but that it is based on available funds.

IV. FY 2025-2034 Ten-Year Plan Projects and Discussion

Staff has been reviewing final proposals for TYP projects. Originally, there were seven project proposals. Then, there were four and now there are three. Claremont (Main Street, Phase II) is still submitted. Lebanon (Hanover St) is still submitted. Newport (Park and Ride) is still submitted. After discussion with Newport, the Sunapee St project was withdrawn. Sunapee is going to be conducting public outreach for the Route 11 project, and therefore, withdrew their application.

Meghan Butts asked if the TAC would like to have a scoring committee.

Liz Emerson said she would like to participate. Dick Jones said he would like to participate. Vital Communities said they would like to have a representative as well.

Dick Jones mentioned 2 or 3 people were on the scoring committee last time. It took about an hour to an hour and a half.

Van Chesnut asked for volunteers for the subcommittee. The TAC agreed by consensus for the people who volunteered (listed above).

Staff noted that they will share all the information given to UVLSRPC by applicants to the scoring committee, including the cost estimates and applications.

There was discussion about giving an opportunity for interested parties to speak on behalf of the project before the TAC Committee. Others suggested that this opportunity be before the scoring committee.

There was a motion made by Van Chestnut and seconded by George Sykes to provide an opportunity for interested parties to speak before the scoring committee. There were no objections. The motion was approved.

V. *Regional Corridor Transportation Plan* – Implementation Update

Staff provided an update on the Corridor Plan. Staff is looking to add an addendum to the corridor plan. As priorities shift, UVLSRPC wants to make sure they are adding projects to the plan as they arise in communities.

The goals/purpose of having the addendum would be to think about non-capital projects, serve as a technical assistance document for non-capital projects, use as a supporting document for grant applications, inform UPWP and RPC work plan, enhance the support for capital projects, highlight UVLSRPC work, and add future strategic areas of focus.

Van Chesnut noted how the Advance Transit blue line expansion is a good example of a project for the addendum.

John Haffner asked if there are any community outreach components that could be a part of the corridor plan. Staff stated that this would be a primary component.

VI. Election of Officers

Dick Jones self-nominated to be the chairperson. Christina Hall nominated George Sykes to be the chairperson. George Sykes accepted the nomination.

A vote was held to elect the Chair. George Sykes was voted Chair 6-1. Dick Jones was unanimously voted as Vice Chair.

VII. Updates from Members

- a. UVLSRPC staff met with DOT for our mid-contract review. They received positive feedback and will be meeting ahead. UVLSRPC hired a new person for GIS.
- b. George Sykes (Lebanon) noted Spencer Street project is essentially complete. The rail trail is finished. There was a walkthrough with congresswoman Kuster regarding Mechanic Street. Cape Airs contract is coming due soon. There are two other airlines put forward. George Sykes wants the TAC to discuss this airport task as a regional transportation topic.
- c. Van Chestnut (Advance Transit). They are currently updating the Transit Development Plan. Steadman Hill, a consultant, was hired (same as last time) who will be leading the Plan. There will be a public outreach process. They plan to do a rider survey and will be looking for volunteers to assist people in filling them out. There are supply chain issues on electric buses and having a hard time getting bids for charging. Christina Hall mentioned that there was a new shuttle bus seen at Dartmouth. TAC will find out more information.
- d. Chris Turgeon (NHDOT) wrapping up retaining wall projects and road resurfacing. The focus is on winter maintenance.

VIII. Other Business

IX. Adjourn

- a. Dick Jones moved to adjourn; George Sykes seconded. All in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.