

Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission Transportation Advisory Committee

MEETING Minutes
February 21st, 2023
4:00-5:30 PM
Hybrid Meeting via ZOOM
Kilton Public Library
80 Main St, West Lebanon, NH 03784

Members Present: Richard “Dick” Jones (Lyme, Vice Chair), John Haffner (Vital Communities), George Sykes (Lebanon, Chair), Bill Chaisson (Wilmot), Christina Hall (Hanover), Ellen Hender (Vital Communities), Adams Carroll (Advance Transit) Scott Hazelton (Sunapee), Todd Cartier (Newport),

Partners Present: Nate Reichert (Lebanon), Allyson Browning (Newport), Chris Turgeon (NHDOT), Paul Coats (Lebanon), Candy Reed (SCS), Nik Coates (Lebanon)

UVLSRPC Staff Present: Andrea Cass

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

- a. Chair George Sykes called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM.

II. Action on Minutes from December 13th, 2022

- a. Jones motioned to approve the minutes; Haffner seconded. Adams and Cartier abstained. The minutes from December 13th were approved 6-0-2.

III. FY 2025-2034 Ten-Year Plan Updates

- a. Cass explained how the TYP projects in our region are now being reviewed by NHDOT. She also mentioned how UVLSRPC will be speaking with Councilor Warmington on March 1st about our regional transportation priorities and GACIT hearings.
- b. Adams asked for the RPC to advocate for additional funding for public transit and ask how it can be a priority. Haffner seconded it as a priority.
- c. There was general discussion about different state committees to communicate with.

IV. Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program updates

- a. Cass shared that there were some very recent updates regarding the CMAQ program. She shared correspondence that the RPC received from NHDOT:
- b. “Regarding non-EV applications, ““We are prepared to move forward with the 24 non-EV applications immediately. Based on the total requests for these projects, we believe that all of them can be accommodated without the need to prioritize at the RPC/MPO level. All 24 will still need to have AQ analyses completed. We have reviewed the applications ourselves, received feedback from NHDES and will be convening a meeting shortly

to get this effort going with the RPCs. If a project has a positive AQ analysis, the scope is eligible and the funding is reasonable, the project will be moved forward into the Draft TYP as a CMAQ funded project."

- c. "Regarding EV applications, we need time to review this Final Rule on NEVI and see how it applies to the EV applications so that we can work to make each one competitive and successful. We believe that, in time, if we can show reasonable funding and eligible scope, we will be able to utilize sources of funding including CMAQ, Carbon Reduction funds, NEVI and potentially others to move all of the projects forward. We believe that EV applications in municipalities will be looked at in one group, and applications submitted by others will be looked at in another group. At this point in time, we believe that doing this will help to facilitate applications because of the nature of municipal vs. private ownership/responsibility requirements. We need to review the Final Rule and implementation plan and ensure that the submitted EV applications meet the expectations of the rules, or are able to be amended and revised to meet those requirements.
- d. The Commissioner is requiring NHDOT staff to ensure that we have followed up on this and offered recommendations for moving forward with this EV applications in 6 month or less. That is, the project applications will not be lost. They will not be put aside and forgotten. They will be considered as priorities for us to move forward with."
- e. Paul Coats shared information about the Mascoma River Greenway extension. There was general discussion about the importance of this extension. An additional 1500 people will be within a half a mile as a result of this project. Haffner asked if there were any coordination with West Lebanon revitalization.
- f. Cass explained New London's CMAQ projects of electric vehicle purchase and charging infrastructure.
- g. Cartier shared how they would love to see Advance Transit or other public transit (SCS route) to the proposed Park and Ride. A lack of drivers has been a major challenge with public transit.

V. Long Range Transportation Plan

- a. Cass noted that UVLSRPC launched the [Story Map](#) and "Report Card" [Public Survey](#). So far, we have received 65 responses so far. We have started to collect qualitative data including student transportation, transit development plan review, parking requirements, land-use considerations, volunteer transportation, interregional travel, and we are starting our interviews.

VI. Regional Corridor Transportation Plan – Implementation Update

- a. Cass noted we have started to identify our future technical assistance projects and reviewed our work from the past year. Meghan Butts reached out to all our communities to identify their current transportation priorities and make note of any changes.

VII. Updates from Members

- a. Jones mentioned there are signs of construction at the Lyme-Thetford Bridge. The contractor has started to identify access points.

VIII. Other Business

- a. Cass mentioned how there is a lot of future funding for electric vehicle public charging.

IX. Adjourn

- a. Jones motioned to adjourn. Hall seconded. All in favor. 8-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM.