

Transportation Advisory Committee

Minutes

February 17, 2010

Present: Henry Anderson, Executive Councilor Raymond Burton, Joseph Chenard, Frank Claffey, Joseph Elgosin, Glenn English, Doug Grant, Stanley Judge, Mary Lou Krambeer, Charles Muller, Rob Nader, Benjamin Gaetjens- Olsen, Beverly Raymond, Bob Stevenson, Bob Jackson, and Sidney Regen.

Staff: Mary Deppe and Michelle Moren

NHDOT: Dean Eastman

Call To Order:

Beverly Raymond called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

Welcome / Introductions / Attendance

Round table of introductions was completed and attendance was passed around.

Review and approve minutes from 10/21/09

Motion was made by Joseph Elgosin to approve the minutes from the 12 /16/2009 TAC meeting with the addition that the motion be subject to additions as needed. Doug Grant seconded the motion all were in favor and none were opposed.

Due to Dean Eastman (presenter of I-93 topic on the agenda) running late at another meeting the committee will skip ahead to updates.

Updates

Transit Update (Bev Raymond)

Travel training program is going strong, the travel trainers have met with groups in the Carroll Country area, seem to be well accepted. The trainers have met in Coos and Northern Grafton. They have meet with a Senior Housing Development in Pittsburg and also Indian Stream in Colebrook. The program is receiving calls and requests to visit locations, if anyone knows of a location that they should visit call Bev Raymond's office at 752-1741 and ask for Brad Wallace.

Currently the State of New Hampshire is reviewing all the state committees to determine whether or not they are still active. Currently, the SCC is on the edge of be kept as an active committee. The Chair Jeanne Ryer, is presenting information to the legislation in favor of keeping the SCC.

Doug Grant mentioned that Pat Crocker said that they had gotten to the right people and that on the next version of the bill the SCC will be on the list.

North Country RideShare (Michelle Moren)

As of the last TAC meeting we have developed a design contest with a \$1,000 contract to be awarded for the design of a theme and logo to North Country RideShare, the contest ends March 1st and a winner will be chosen by April 1st. If needed, the deadline will be extended. This contest has gone out to a professor of graphic design at PSU to inform students. There has been little response as of yet, but it is still early school returned to session first week of February.

Several larger employers in the area were identified and contacted to gain support and interest in North Country RideShare. So far there has been interest without any follow up. We hope to schedule the first committee meeting sometime in the end of March to review the designs received in the contest and pick a winner.

RCC Update (Mary Deppe)

Grafton-Coos Regional Coordination Council was just recently approved by the SCC as the 4th in the state another in the Seacoast Area was approved as the 5th. In order to be approved as this there was a work plan put together, now we are starting to implement this plan. Doug will be busy gathering data to implement the plan.

NCC and Lakes Region Regional Planning Council have begun discussions about the development of the Carroll County RCC. NCC and LRPC are looking into funding.

Glenn English asked how the funding is handled between NCC and Upper Valley Lake Sunapee. Mary explained that we each have separate grants currently. There is a grant round with applications due in March. NCC is looking into developing an application for RCC funding.

Glenn English asked if there is any current legislation to increase funding for RCC planning grants.

Doug Grant mentioned that the 5304 grant got auxiliary funds to administer transport central. Mary explained that NCC contracted with NHDOT to administer the feasibility study for Transport Central and received a small portion of funding to administer the study no other funding has come from NHDOT to NCC for administration on the Transport Central project.

Doug Grant mentioned that everyone is please with Will Rodman, the SCC Mobility Manager, and the energy he brings to the project. If anyone knows of funding to keep him please let us know.

Bev Raymond mentioned that NHDOT has somewhere around \$800,000 that they are looking at putting an IT system in place to contact and contract with each other. This will all be through a 5310 Elderly and Disabled Program.

I-93 Toll Discussion

I-93 Fact Sheet and email from Carl Martland was handed out.

Mary recently received an email that some of the RPC's around the state have decided to endorse the I-93 border toll. NHDOT could open up \$270 million over ten years that would help pay for unfunded projects throughout the state. Three other RPC's have decided to endorse this even though Bill Watson is not asking for endorsements. This TAC group can decide if it would like to endorse the toll or not.

Dean Eastman commented that this is a pilot program and there are only 3 positions, 2 are filled, if MA receives it NH will not. If funded, this project will affect the Ten Year Plan and will potentially free up money for other projects impacting the entire state. Glenn English asked about the time line, Dean explained that the state has decided to apply for the program and the Governor has approved it. NH has also met the criteria. Mary asked if there is a decision date, Dean has no date as of this point. One criterion is that the applicant has to show there is a reason for the toll. In NH, the reason would be to fund the expansion of I-93. In MA the toll would be revenue driven and this is not a good reason. This may put NH in a better position for approval.

Glenn English made a motion that the TAC support the states effort to apply for the pilot program toll on I-93 including the purpose mention on the bottom of the second page of the I-93 Fact Sheet handed out earlier. Doug Grant asked what the GARVEE Bonds funding is;

someone explained that it is a way to move some of the funding out of the Ten Year Plan, by using GARVEE Bonds although there is a debt in using these funds. The motion was seconded by Frank Claffey all were in favor none were opposed.

Introductions

Were made again due to a number of additional people, and the attendance sheet was sent around along with a card for Steve Young a long time member who is no longer a member.

Glenn English asked Mary Lou Krambeer if there was anything that Congressmen Hodes could do to support the I-93 toll. Mary Lou said that we could ask Congressman Hodes for support if Bev or Mary will write a letter to be sent to him.

TE Scoring / Process

Executive Councilor Raymond Burton explained that all the applications for TE are in with Bill Watson and Tom Jameson. The TE committee has set the days of hearings, March 15 and March 26. There is \$6 million of funding for a two year period and about 50 applications. The applications are divided into 3 tiers, the top tier consists of the top priorities from the RPC's, the second tier consists of a group of about 25 projects and the third tier. Each applicant will be invited to present but the third tier will be forewarned that they are in the bottom tier. This does not necessarily mean that the top tier projects are the only projects to be funded what it really comes down to is the state committees scoring.

Glenn English asked Executive Councilor Burton if there was anyway a first tier project could be bumped out by a second tier project. Executive Councilor Burton commented that absolutely there is a 9 member committee, president of the senate has an appointment, and the speaker of the house, the governor's office has an appointment, the trail bureau, historic preservation and regional planner (David Preece).

Glenn English commented that this really discounts the work of the RPC's; Executive Councilor Burton commented that this is why the recommendations from the RPC's were in the first tier because the RPC's recommendations do have value. Executive Councilor Burton also commented that as an elected official he looks upon the RPC's and TAC committees as having great value.

Additional News from Executive Councilor Burton

Governor re-nominated George Bald and nominated Ted Austin as the new State Parks Director. The next G&C will be March 10th he does not anticipate that the G&C will be holding a hearing on nominations but welcomes the input. Executive Councilor Burton explained that George Bald has been with us many years in state government and Ted Austin is new to state government and comes from private tourist ski industry. Executive Councilor Burton went on to explain that the transportation ten year plan is now in the legislature, and with the public works committee chaired by Kathy Bouchard, they are going through their process and hopefully by July 1st there will be another ten year state plan in NH state law. He also explained that there has been a side committee created by the legislature as a result of the inability to pass the state gas tax increase. This committee has been established to study the future all transportation. The committee will meet the first Monday of every month, with November as the report out date.

A question was asked as to why Governor Lynch is against increasing the gas tax. Executive Councilor Burton commented that we are in an election cycle and there is limited interest in proposing increases in anything, the only new proposed cash to run NH state government is in the area of expanded gaming.

Executive Councilor Burton has filed for re-election as Executive Councilor and County Commissioner.

Doug Grant asked Executive Councilor Burton why he doesn't come out strongly in favor of raising the gas tax. Executive Councilor Burton took the time to work with the trade association, prepared a letter to all 80 state representatives in district 1, but it was voted 46 no. He feels he has gone as far as he can go.

Joseph Elgosin comment that the gas tax does not figure in vehicles that use alternative fuels, thus leaves people that are getting a free ride on the highway that are not using gas. This tax has to be change to figure in the individual use of the system.

Other News

SRTS and Scenic Byways

Dean Eastman explained the SRTS applications will be scored the end of March, and scenic byways applications are due April 2nd. Mary commented that a small group of TAC member met prior to this meeting to review a start up grant application for the city of Berlin, there were a few comments and will leave it up to the applicant to change or not.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Doug Grant and seconded by Frank Claffey. All were in favor none were opposed.

Minutes Written by: Michelle Moren 2/25/2010

Minutes Submitted by: Mary Deppe 6/16/10

Approved 6/16/10