

## Transportation Advisory Committee

### Minutes

**December 16, 2009**

**Present:** Henry Anderson, Executive Councilor Raymond Burton, Frank Claffey, Joseph Elgosin, Glenn English, Doug Grant, Carl Martland, and Beverly Raymond

**Staff:** Michael King, Mary Deppe, and Michelle Moren

**NHDOT:** William Rose

### **Call To Order:**

Beverly Raymond called the meeting to order at 3:05.

### **Welcome / Introductions / Attendance**

Round table of introductions were completed and attendance was taken.

### **Review and approve minutes from 10/21/09**

Motion was made by Frank Claffey to approve the minutes from the 10/21/09 TAC meeting, Joseph Elgosin seconded the minutes with the addition that the motion be subject to additions as needed. All were in favor and none were opposed.

### **Safe Routes to School – Round 4**

Mary Deppe explained that round 4 of the Safe Routes to School deadline has passed, there were 3 applications received for our region, 2 infrastructure projects and 1 non-infrastructure project. The non-infrastructure project was from Littleton the other 2 were from Northumberland and Whitefield. Prior to this meeting presentations for the applicants were held and scoring was done by the SRTS scoring group. There is no final score as of this point but it will be tallied after this meeting. The next step will be to compile any comments the group had about the projects and comments the applicants had about the process and submit to the NHDOT. One specific comment is that there are points given for projects that have letters of support from local and regional walking/bike groups, most towns do not have local groups due region's rural nature, and that component may be geared toward the regions with a higher population. Another point noticed was that there should be some guidance for the applicants: for example the surveys that are completed are sent to a national survey center to be analyzed, and it takes a length of time for the data to be returned. Most applicants do not receive the data back by the time the applications are due. It should be noted in the application materials that the applicants should take a look at the survey information prior to it being sent off and summarize the information in the application or as an attachment. One applicant in this round did do this, but another did not have the survey information summarized.

Glenn English asked if NCC provides administrative assistance to towns that have applications as well as John Corrigan from NHDOT, so there is an opportunity to receive technical help if needed. Mary Deppe explained the John Corrigan is always willing to go to any town that needs/ asks for assistance as well as NCC staff. For the development of the current applications, there has been participation in meetings as well as a number of phone conferences, and reviewing application materials to provide assistance with different pieces along the way.

Mary asked William Rose for an update on when the state will be reviewing applications and when we will know what will be funded. William Rose explained that John Corrigan is out this week and at this time has not set a date for a State Committee meeting. The State review process will allow for applicants to give presentations to this Committee. William Rose also explained that for the first time in New Hampshire's SRTS program, there are more

applications than there is funding. Applications were submitted for about 11 projects for the whole state.

William Rose also explained that at this time NHDOT is not sure about the future of federal funding for the SRTS program. This goes for all federally funded programs. State has not asked for more funding after the first round this program (planning phase) because we were not spending it all. Similar to other programs is a set aside program and is 100% funding. Funding is on hold for now.

Bev Raymond noted that Mary Deppe did a great job of getting all of the application materials out to the scoring committee with plenty of time for prior review.

Mary Deppe noted that John Corrigan was also very helpful in this process and that he conveyed concerns about the applications in time for the applicants to make changes and provide materials to the NCC scoring committee.

### **NHDOT updates**

#### **• *TYP / GACIT update***

Executive Councilor Burton explained that the GACIT Committee approved the Ten Year Plan and signed the letter of transmittal to Governor Lynch. The TYP is now in the hands of the Governor for review and approval.

Glenn English asked how the NCC region made out on our recommendations. Councilor Burton explained that currently the information is not available yet. There were 2 recommendations added; Stewartstown Bridge and Route 16 (Milan/Dummer) in addition to what was submitted and approved by the council. Route 16 is a number one priority for the NCC region.

William Rose added that \$4.3 million in additional projects have been added to the 10 Year Plan by the NHDOT Commissioner.

Executive Councilor Burton explained that there were 37 GACIT hearings throughout the state. The TYP had \$3.3 billion worth of projects and only 3 billion dollars of funding available. DOT came in with a list of projects that the Commissioner felt should be added and was.

A question was asked about Councilor Burton's thoughts on the process?

He explained that when getting local input, towns are always requesting more funding for projects, but there is only so much to go around. In the past, the Governor(s) have mostly left the TYP alone. However, in this round a project came in during a GACIT meeting requesting \$1 million to study a section of NH 106. Ed DuPont was present at a local hearing to represent the project. Commissioner Campbell made the motion to add the project to the TYP and it was seconded by Councilor Wieczorek.

Michael King expressed concern over adding \$4.3 million to a plan. This has happened in the past where we have added to it and the plan ended up becoming a 20 year plan.

Joe Elgosin explained that there about been projects in Whitefield in the Ten Year Plan that keep getting pushed back into further years.

William Rose explained that Joe is speaking of a TE project that has drainage issues. The project has not gone away but needs to be coordinated with another project to save money and time.

William Rose explained that \$4.3 million plus \$195 million added in at the end of the last process is about an additional years worth of projects. There was a question about what

projects are being taken out, and Rose answered that at this point, nothing is being taken out. The logic going forward assuming that there is match to the federal funding coming in there is additional money that will be available to fund projects. The idea is to have enough projects ready so that if any fall behind there are others ready to fill in.

Glenn English commented that it would be unfortunate if the state come back to the towns and the TAC asking them to reprioritizes projects, this has happened before.

Executive Councilor Burton handed out a list of projects that are being added to the Ten Year Plan and asked that they be attached to the minutes.

There is a 10 million improvement project for Franconia Notch, the project was presented to DOT there was concurrence at that meeting.

Executive Councilor Burton made a motion that the minutes reflect appreciation of William Rose bringing this list to the Committee meeting, was seconded by Frank Claffey, all were in favor none were opposed.

Carl Martland stated that he also attended the Franconia Notch meeting, at which a comment was made that an interstate highway was needed to be developed in the North Country. His professional experience is that this is not relevant there is a highway I-93, plenty of capacity. If you want to improve North Country transportation should be looking at other options.

### ***Other NHDOT News***

Application and guidance materials for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program are now available. In the past, the NCC region has not been eligible for this funding. To be eligible, applicants must show that there will be improvements to air quality in non-attainment areas. All these areas are in the southern part of the state and all of the North Country is an attainment area.

### ***TE Program Update***

William Rose explained that 53 applications were submitted in the last TE grant round with a total of \$23 million dollars in funds asked for, with only \$6.2 million available for 2 years. Scheduling of an Advisory Committee meeting will occur near the end of January.

## **Updates**

### ***Transit Update***

Bev Raymond explained that Tri-County CAP is currently putting out and RFP for the Carroll County Public Transit. The RFP will be on the TRI-County CAP and Carroll County Transit web-sites on December 28<sup>th</sup>. Applicants will have to have driver qualifications or be a transit operator; there will be a pre-bid meeting on 1/5 /09 in Tamworth at the TC CAP building.

A Travel Trainer has been hired full-time through stimulus funds until Sept 30<sup>th</sup>. This trainer will be traveling through Coos, Carroll and Northern Grafton County, educating individuals on what public transit is, how to use it and if any individuals qualify funding to use the system. Outreach through the school systems, senior centers, and health and human services.

### ***Scenic Byways letter of intent***

Mary Deppe explained that it is unknown when funding will be available, but Dean Eastman has requested that anyone that may be interest in applying for funding submit a letter of intent, deadline was mid November. For the region there were 5 letters of intent received for projects. DOT has asked SBC to look at letters and provide comments and choose the top priority for the region, the SBC chose a top priority for each category, 3 land conservation projects, 1 historic preservation project and 1 corridor management project.

Michael King Recently attended a State Scenic Byways Committee meeting, there were 12 letters of intent including Sunapee and Rockingham. Question was asked by Glenn English as to if we are coordinating Connecticut River Scenic Byways Committee with the CRJC or are they doing their own input? They will give input for project of their region 3 of our projects the letter of intent was submitted by Rebecca Brown. In the future we are going to make an effort to work closer together with Connecticut River Scenic Byways Committee. Tara Bamford attended the last meeting and Mary will also attend future meetings. Unsure what will happen with the current grant round as to if or how much funding will be available.

### ***North Country RideShare update***

Michelle Moren explained that the group had their first committee meeting, which TAC was updated on at the last meeting. Since then we have gathered a program description to be used to gain committee members, giving them information upfront about the tasks and responsibilities of committee members. PSU has been contacted about a student internship or student project to design the theme for North Country RideShare website and brochures. Software for NH RideShare that will tie in to VT and ME will be up and running in March, our website tie-in will occur in May. NH, ME and VT RideShare websites will be inter-connected and our site will act as a porthole to NH site.

### ***RCC update***

Mary Deppe explained that Regional Coordinating Councils RCC's, Grafton and Coos regions recently merged to form the Grafton Coos Regional Coordinating Council. This group is submitting an application to the SCC to become recognized as an RCC in New Hampshire. In November, the NCC BOD voted to approve the Grafton Coos RCC as a standing committee but did not approve the by-laws as there were still concerns about liability.

Beverly Raymond explained that the SCC has put together draft legislation to take the liability off of the RCC members. If we vote as a board to accept the legislation we come under an RSA that we are not liable and the State has the liability. Pat Crocker, an UVLSRPC Transportation Planner has put together a draft application to the SCC for them to decide on the RCC this will be going out next week. There a number of individuals that have signed the MOU including Patsy from transport central, Frank Claffey, and Beverly Raymond. Other members are still signing up.

Michael King explained that there is currently no funding available from the state to hire the brokers. NCC's work on this is currently being funded by an NHDOT planning grant.

### ***NH Rail Transit Authority***

Michael King explained that he is a member of the NH Rail Transit Authority, which meets monthly. Members are appointed by the legislature. The NH Rail Transit Authority was originally formed to develop the commuter rail from Nashua to South Station. In this legislative session coming up, there has been a name change requested, with the intent to make it more than a transit authority and add rail freight and bus connections. Michael King will draft a letter for Bev Raymond's signature.

Glenn English made a motion to send a letter of support for the NH Rail Transit Authority name change and was seconded by Doug Grant and Joe Elgosin, all were in favor and none were opposed.

Carl Martland commented that the most important piece of this is the bus connection to local services. The NH Transit Authority named it so it would include this piece. Another important corridor is I-91 the connection to St Johnsbury, mentioned by Doug Grant. Joe Elgosin asked if there interaction with the NH group between ME and VT because of the fact that there are shared corridors. All the partners that come in to play are involved.

**Other Business**

Next meeting February 17<sup>th</sup> 2010

**Adjourn**

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

Minutes Written by: Michelle Moren 12/22/09

Minutes Submitted by: Mary Deppe 2/17/10

Minutes Approved: 2/17/10