

Transportation Steering Committee
Minutes
June 20, 2007

Present: Henry Anderson, Mary Deppe, Joseph Elgosin, Glenn English, William Houle, Mike King, Greg Placy, Beverly Raymond, Bruce Sloat, Steven Young.

Call To Order:

Glenn English called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the last meeting were distributed and reviewed. Joel Elgosin made a motion to approve the minutes from March 21, 2007 and was seconded by Steven Young. A vote was taken, all were in favor, none opposed, and the minutes were approved as written.

New Business:

Mike King suggested the following topics be discussed at the Full Committee Meeting:

- Ten-Year Plan
- Scenic Byways has problems and was pulled away from OEP. Bill Watson is now the Coordinator of Scenic Byways. Carol is still at OEP but doing something different.
- GACIT Hearings.
- Tom Jameson will present the NH Regional Bike Maps.

Glenn English mentioned that new and already in process Scenic Byway grant projects are on hold.

Glen asked if the detailed business plan available. Mike responded that Acting Commissioner O'Leary is focused on the money they don't have and the Long Range Business Plan has "disappeared".

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be September 19, 2007. We may have a meeting between now and then because of fallout from the GACIT hearings.

Glen asked if other people have resubmitted their projects. Mike responded that a few of the other RPCs are nervous about what the others are doing.

Greg Placy said he has no idea about the business plan. Obviously, there are a lot of DOT issues and they are feeling the pinch. Betterment was hit hard but may come back. The Legislature knows the financial situation DOT is in now—they have been very upfront. To fix DOT based

on \$.15 gas tax would replace most funds back to maintenance. On the maintenance side, the budget is \$1M short from last year's winter overtime. Mike suggested they talk to the Full Committee. DOT can't tell us to lobby for gas tax. The Legislature is on board, the Truckers' Association has endorsed gas tax, BIA endorses an increase. The Governor made a pledge not to increase the gas tax and he can veto it. Our towns need to write letters to the Governor supporting a gas tax increase.

White Mountain National Forest:

Mike said we received an inquiry from the WMNF which was given to Beverly. This is driven by federal government to do transit in and around the National Forest. Driving on the Kanc and parking is a problem. A suggestion was made to build parking lots at either end of the Kanc and use shuttle buses. Greg Placy said the WMNF is open, it has no gates. We need to look it differently from others and look at what opportunities exist. Discussion continued on transporting visitors here from Montreal, Boston and New York City without cars, incorporating people in communities, some parking lots in the forest are saturated and additional lots cannot be made, and the fact that this forest is only five hours away from 7 million people.

Other Business:

None

Adjourn:

Joel Elgosin made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Bruce Sloat. The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Minutes Approved: 9/19/2007