

Transportation Advisory Committee
Minutes

May 27th, 2009

Present: Henry Anderson, Miriam Bader, Frank Claffey, Joel Chenard, Joseph Elgosin, Glenn English, Richard Hamilton, Carl Martland, Charles Muller, Rob Nader, Frances Ruch.

Staff: Mary Deppe, Tara Bamford, Michelle Moren

Call To Order:

Joseph Elgosin called the meeting to order at 3:00, Minutes, agenda and handouts were passed out. Glenn English made a motion to approve the minutes from the 4/15/09 meeting. Charles Muller seconded the motion, all were in favor and the minutes were approved.

Review and Approve Highways Chapter of RTP

Edit: Typo on page 11 misspelling "High Gallen" in NCC Staff Report. Should be Hugh Gallen.

Edit: I-93 Exit 32 is in Woodstock not in Lincoln.

Edit: Page 2 chart, Plymouth should be exits 25, 26.

Comment: Maps will be added to page 4.

Discussion: Overall comments were that it looked good, and also enjoyed the NCC Staff Report.

Traffic Volumes:

Comment made about the time that traffic counts are conducted and as to whether or not they reflect the true volume for that time. All traffic counts are run through a formula to give the ADT. If there was an increase in traffic we tried to consider the elements that may have been the cause. Comment on NH 116 in Whitefield there has been a noticed increase in traffic due to the development of Dalton Ridge. Discussion about the traffic volume decrease in the Harts Location area could be a variety of variables.

Comment:

Do we have capacity of roads? Would it be safe to say that for the volume we are seeing congestion is not an issue, depending on the definition of congestion? Discussion around traffic congestion and location example: junction of Littleton Main Street and NH 116 in Whitefield.

Bridges:

Red List Bridge Section Came From DOT. DOT number one priority is safety.

There was some discussion about Municipal Redlist Bridges, which are different from the State Redlist Bridges. There is information and a link to the Municipal Redlist Bridges by town on page 13 of the Highways Chapter.

Scenic Roads and Byways:

All maps with the exception of the Connecticut River Scenic Byway came from the Northern Journeys Guidebook.

Scenic byways funding is open again and there will most likely be another grant round early in 2010. Projects can be historical, safety, preservation but has to meet specifications.

NCC is working on obtaining funding to be able to take a more active role in the management of North Country scenic byways, with the River Heritage Trail and the Presidential Trail.

Issues and Suggestions from the Public:

This section was based on meetings held in 2004.

Regional and Local Priorities:

Discussion about rail not being mentioned – this was addresses in another chapter but there could be a statement added about other modes of transportation.

There was a question about number 9 and how to access the RSMS. This information can be accessed through UNH. Is a logical system for towns to use for road maintenance.

Joseph Elgosin asked for a motion to accept the Highway and Bridge Chapter with the edits. Glenn English made a motion to approve the Highway and Bridge Chapter. Carl Martland seconded the motion, all were in favor and the minutes were approved.

Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan Cycle

DOT is starting the Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan Cycle. There will be a round of GACIT hearings that are open to the public and will provide much opportunity for comment. These meetings are not yet scheduled but will most likely take place in September.

NCC sent letters out to towns in January for input on projects that are in the Ten Year Plan and there were not many responses. DOT needs input on projects and priorities. Two years ago, a sub-committee was formed and a ranking was done.

The TAC reviewed of Breakdown of TYP 2009-2018 NCC Region and Greg Placy's comments and the Ten Year Suggestions. Many of the projects on the TYP have not changed and many have not been completed. Ranking (High-Low priority) was a result of a detailed number ranking that was originally completed. There was some discussion around this original ranking and information on the projects. This ranking system will be revisited in the future to be updated. Also discussion as to what happen to projects that were on the Ten Year suggestions from the TYP round in 2007, but not on the other TYP list for 2009. This will be looked into and it is possible that projects were completed.

Committee wants staff to take a look at projects previously scored and cross reference with projects on plan.

Transportation Enhancement Program

Program is back and the application and guidelines are changing. There will be a mandatory workshop for whoever is managing the project and letters of intent are due to RPCs and DOT by July 2nd, 2009.

Other Business

Application for SRTS funding was submitted from the Town of Littleton. A sub-committee of the NCC TAC got together to listen to a presentation from the applicant. The application looked good and the committee scored it and will submit the scoring to DOT.

Motion to adjourn Richard Hamilton Seconded by Rob Nadler.

Minutes Approved: 6/17/09