

Transportation Advisory Committee
Minutes
February 18, 2009

Present: Charles Muller, Henry Anderson, Ed Betz, Raymond Burton, Frank Claffey, Dean Eastman, Joseph Elgosin, Glenn English, Joel Godston, Carl Martland, Beverly Raymond, Bob Stevenson, Steven Young.

Staff: Mary Deppe and Michelle Moren.

Call To Order:

Beverly Raymond called the meeting to order at 3:00. Members of the committee and guests introduced themselves. Minutes, agenda and handouts were passed out. Joe Elgosin made a motion to approve the minutes from the 12/17/08 TAC meeting. Frank Claffey seconded the motion, all were in favor and the minutes were approved.

Review / Approve Priorities from the Rail and Air Chapters of the Regional Transportation Plan

Mary Deppe encouraged committee members to email or return comments / edits on the Regional Transportation Plan chapters through the mail at a later date to be incorporated into document.

The NH State Plan Recommendations are located at the end of each chapter. These are created by the state and we ask the committee to agree, disagree or provide comments to the statements.

NH State Airport Plan Recommendations

1.) System Capacity

Bullet 1. (Airport Service Area Coverage) agree

Bullet 2. (Adjacent Out-of-State Airports) agree with comments

- Fryeburg airport is important to the region shouldn't be overlook because it is not in the state.
- Edit (changes.) (delete from to – competition)
- Joel commented that he was recently in Concord with legislatures to discuss aviation; he came away with a feeling of strong support from the state legislature.
- Dean commented that the state match funding is gone at the current time and the funding would be 95% federal, 2.5% state, and 2.5% local.

Bullet 3. (Airport Roles) agree

Bullet 4. (Entry Criteria for New Facilities) agree

Bullet 5. (NPIAS Airports) agree, with comments

▪ Glenn commented that the Haverhill Select board has not made a decision on this as of yet.

Bullet 6. (North Country Airports) agree in full, there was discussion around 3rd sub-bullet as to the benefit value and safety of this.

2.) Financial / Economic

Bullet 1. (Federal & State Funding) agree

Bullet 2. (Increase State Funding for Airports) agree, comment look into to see if this is currently happening.

Bullet 3. (Innovative Funding Sources) agree

- Bullet 4. (Airport Sponsorship & Funding Options) agree
- Bullet 5. (Business Use of Airports) agree, comment valuable to the local economy, keeping in mind that not all support due to the stereotype that can be surrounded around an airport community, education is a must to change this perception.
- Bullet 6. (Airport Financial Performance & Political Support) agree

3.) Division of Aeronautics

- Bullet 1. (Preservation of Public Airports) agree with comment to include private airports.
- Bullet 2. (Airport Database) agree
- Bullet 3. (Continuation of Statewide Steering Committee) agree, comment question is there a committee?

Discussion about the plan is it for airports (managers, owners, and operators) or for users more focus toward operators.

4.) Intermodal Transportation

- Bullet 1. (Airport Access) agree discussion of access to Manchester and other larger airports, possibly something for the Regional Transportation Plan to address.

5.) Environmental Issues

- Bullet 1. (Guidance and Assistance) agree

6.) Airport Security

- Bullet 1. (Monitor changes) agree discussion concerning applying the same regulations to small airports and aircraft.

Regional and Local Priorities - Air

- 1.) (ILS) Support with change discussion as to only Mount Washington Regional Airport is the only airport NCC supports in this technology, does not make sense to do at all airports due to cost, and level of safety. Last sentence (NCC supports ...at all North Country airports) will change to (NCC supports... at Mount Washington Regional Airport), paragraph above sentence refers only to MWRA.
- 2.) (Linking Modes) agree comment transit plan should address with larger airports.
- 3.) (Balance Economic Development/Environment) agree
- 4.) (Airport Use and Tourism) agree
- 5.) (Safety and Efficiency) agree

The following recommendations paragraph:

- Bullet 1.) agree
 - Bullet 2.) agree
 - Bullet 3.) agree
- Comments; changed budget year to 2010

Additional Priority:

1. Support legislation in order to preserve public and private existing airports.

State – Owned Line Improvement Recommendations in the North Country

Discussion:

- Question, are all 3 lines in this need of repair? Yes

- Question, has any rail that was converted to trail been converted back? Yes in the mid-west.
- Remove (Depending on operational...\$30,000 each.)
- These do not look like recommendations.
- Mary will review the Rail Plan and try to determine what the true recommendations are for the North Country Rail Lines.

Regional and Local Priorities – Rail

- 1.) (Planning and Connections) Comment: change (connections with VT, ME and Canada) to (US and Canada Class I railroad systems.)
- 2.) (Planning/ED/Environmental Issues)
- 3.) (Funding to open in-active lines) Discussion as to the generalization of the question, what type of funding, where will it come from.
- 4.) (Funding for Rail Replacements) Discussion 3.) and 4.) should be rewritten. There needs to be a proven need before support is given.
- 5.) 6.)7.) The group did not discuss these and will review when the revised priorities are distributed.

Discussion: Bob Stevenson made the comment that there is an operation line from Ossipee to the southern part of the region that hauls once a day connecting to larger lines. Is there a possibility of connection to this line?

Councilor Burton:

Just returned from Concord review of Bill 644 (Gas Tax) 5/5/5 tax to go to roads and bridges. Predicts that there will be a toll increase in the future would go specifically to mile on toll road collected on.

Comment Glenn English it is on record the TAC supports an increase in the gas tax. There was some concern shown that Bill SB186 has a lack of North Country representation.

Comment Joel Godston to Councilor Burton, does he want action taken on Bill HB 644 in support. Yes

Gas tax in NH is still the lowest in New England.

Transit Plan Update

NCC received funding from DOT to update the Coordinated Transit Plan. Have a good overview of what providers are out there. Due to various reasons had some difficulty completing remainder of surveys.

Transit Update - NCT

Working in Carroll County on the proposed Transit System. NCT has been invited to apply for funding hoping to receive 2 more years worth of funding to support the project manager's position. The Stimulus plan will hopefully bring funding for new and replacement vehicles for both NCT's operations and for the Carroll County Transit Project.

Safe Routes To School

Funding round just closed, there are 3 applicants Whitefield, Jackson and Franconia. The review process will begin with a sub-committee to review and score applications. DOT is considering a rolling process for the smaller grants. Each applicant will be allowed 10 minutes

to discuss their proposals on 2/26 at 11am at the NCC offices where the subcommittee will be meeting to score applications.

There was a discussion about putting an item in the bylaws that state that an applicant for funding may not participate in the scoring of their town's application or other towns applications in that round. Mary will draft a statement for discussion at a future meeting.

Adjourn

Glenn English made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve Young seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 5:25.

Minutes Approved: 4/15/09