

Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission Transportation Advisory Committee

MEETING MINUTES

March 20, 2018

5:00-6:30 PM

UVLSRPC Offices

10 Water Street, Suite 225

Lebanon, NH 03766

Attendees: Mike Lavalla (Lebanon), Dick Jones (Lyme), Paul Carreiro (Orford), Van Chestnut (Advanced Transit), Stacey Chiochio (Grantham), Peter Kulbacki (Hanover), Terri Paige (SCST), Scott Sweet (Claremont), Jessica Wilcox (NHDES), Elizabeth Strachan (NHDES), Lucy St. John (NHDOT), Steve Schneider (ED UVLSRPC), Meghan Butts (UVLSRPC)

1. **Call to Order**

Mr. Chestnut called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

2. **Action on Minutes from January 9, 2018**

Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the minutes from January 9, 2018. Ms. Chiochio seconded the motion to approve. Mr. Carreiro, Mr. Kulbacki abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

3. **Presentation from NH DES**

“The Future of EV Charging in NH Municipalities”

Presented by Jessica Wilcox, Granite State Clean Cities Coordinator and NHDES Grants

Manager and Elizabeth Strachan, NHDES Transportation Analyst

Electric Vehicle (EV) registrations continue to rise in New Hampshire and surrounding areas indicating that EVs are in NH’s future. This presentation includes an introduction to EVs and EV charging technology as well as a discussion on how municipalities can prepare for the future through policies and innovative thinking.

Ms. Wilcox gave her presentation mentioned above on municipal strategies to electric vehicles and infrastructure. The presentation provided municipal planning strategies that were briefly discussed through questions surrounding areas of focus, technology upgrades, benefits to small rural communities, and the next steps.

4. **Regional Transportation Plan Discussion**

Ms. Butts began the conversation by discussing and reviewing the Transportation Chapter of the UVLSRPC Regional Plan as an important reminder to the goals that UVLSRPC and the TAC developed as part of the regional planning process in 2014-2015. Ms. Butts reported that NHDOT had recently reached out to discuss the development of a corridor-focused regional transportation plan that would include sections on each regional corridor with added analysis involving natural, demographic, economic, development, modal, and traffic impacts in relation to each corridor. Ms. Butts reported that this type of plan would be based on the work done by the Southwest Regional Planning Commission in the Keene area. Ms. Butts reported that these discussions were preliminary and that questions and comments were welcome at this time. Ms. St. John from NH DOT welcomed questions on this topic as feedback for the larger discussion between UVLSRPC and NH DOT on this topic and logistics.

Questions/Comments

- TAC members: How is this different than what we already have in our regional plan which is mode based sections?
- Ms. St. John: Explained the differences mainly being a focus on regional corridors and those impacts, issues, and challenges for a regional focus that individual municipal transportation challenges.
- TAC members: Interstate 91 is a key major corridor for our region but is outside of our region. We should consider this if we are considering Interstate 89 in our planning.
- TAC Members: General comments on past planning experiences of "Wish Lists" vs. attainable goals, limited funding for all types of projects, and plan time-lines.
- TAC Members: What are the benefits to doing a corridor- focused plan?
- Ms. St. John: Explained the benefits that SWRPC has experienced through the planning process as a greater understanding of the regional transportation network and regional collaboration. She explained that this process is very detailed and a greater understanding of road infrastructure beyond roads and bridges.
- TAC Members: Does this plan open us up for more funding opportunities?
- Projects stand a better chance of being funded if they are in a regional plan. This will be discussed at future meetings with NHDOT as this is a preliminary discussion.

- TAC Members: The group has done a great job collaborating on regional efforts for many years and has been successful at looking at regional priorities. The TAC has also created a number of plans and project priorities over many years where many of these same issues have been discussed in length. Many of these plans and project have fit into corridor models and some do not. There is concern that: 1. This work has already been done to some degree and there may not be a need to spend time developing this new plan, and 2. What happens to the municipalities that are not touched by an identified major regional corridor? What about minor regional corridors? What about towns that do not have a regional corridor? Where do they fit in to this process? What happens to those projects outside of the corridors that have already been identified?
- Ms. Butts: Replied that these comments would be discussed with NH DOT as this topic develops.

Ms. Butts encouraged general regional transportation plan comments. Mr. Chestnut commented that we need to include a better link to the updated Ten-Year Plan in our current regional transportation plan. Ms. Paige suggested adding addendums to the current regional plan describing efforts that are in progress or planning an update of the chapter. Ms. Butts supported these ideas by suggesting the plan be a working document or following along with the timed updates. Ms. Butts reiterated the importance of reviewing the regional plan periodically to encourage implementation.

5. NHDOT Updates

Ms. St. John reported that the Ten-Year Plan is now in the Senate. Mr. Chestnut reported that New Hampshire has received only a portion of Federal transit funds due to the Federal budget being postponed. Mr. Chestnut thanked NHDOT for their continued support for transit funding from the Federal resources. Ms. Butts and Ms. St. John publicized the NH Freight Summit happening in Thursday from 4-6PM at the Claremont Savings Bank Community Room. This public information secession is to discuss the NH State Freight Plan.

6. UVSLRPC Staff Updates

Ms. Butts reported that UVLSRPC staff will be working with the Town of Lyme to complete a culvert inventory and assessment. Ms. Butts reported that there are proposals out to Washington for a culvert inventory and to Newbury and Plainfield for an

RSMS collection and pavement preservation plan. All of these projects are supported by the regional plan.

7. TAC Member Updates and Other Business

Mr. Kulbacki reported that the Town of Hanover is planning to complete the sidewalk project on route 120 toward Lebanon. The plan has two parts. One is to continue the sidewalk from where it left off last season and the second piece is from Greensboro Road to Buck Road.

8. Adjourn

Mr. Jones motioned to adjourn. Mr. Kulbacki seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30PM.