



**NCC Transportation Advisory Committee  
Littleton Regional Healthcare, Littleton, NH  
Meeting Minutes  
November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

**Members:** Clayton Macdonald, Stratford (Chair); Doug Grant, Randolph; Donna Laurent, Jefferson; Paul Robitaille, Gorham; Raymond Gorman, Colebrook; Mark Decoteau, Waterville Valley; Stan Judge, Shelburne

**NCC Staff:** Alex Belenz

**NHDOT Staff:** Linda Dusenberry (Bureau of Planning and Community Assistance)

**Guests:** Brian Bresnahan (Congresswoman Kuster)

**Call To Order:** Mr. Macdonald called the meeting to order at 3:23 PM and introductions were made.

**1. Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Grant noted that Mr. Macdonald's last name was spelled incorrectly. Ms. Laurent motioned to approve the minutes and Mr. Grant seconded, with the minutes unanimously approved.

**2. Regular Updates**

**North Country Council Updates.** Mr. Belenz provided several updates:

- NCC assisted NH State Parks and NHDOT in submitting a joint Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) application for funding for a transit feasibility study for Franconia Notch. The study would inform capital purchasing and scheduling for a shuttle system that would meet the demand for overflow parking once a parking ban is enforced on the interstate. The study would also provide an overview of the challenges and opportunities related to potential transit-based solutions to other areas in the White Mountain National Forest that have issues with overflow parking.
- NCC has wrapped up its culvert assessment project for the Androscoggin Watershed and will be working with NH Fish & Game to schedule meetings with communities to review the results and provide information on strategies and funding sources for culvert upgrades and replacements.

### ***Updates from Communities***

- Mr. Gorman noted that Colebrook's Main Street reconstruction and TAP projects were moving ahead.
- Mr. Grant noted that the Plymouth Highland Street project was moving ahead despite being scheduled in the Ten Year Plan for 2025. Mr. Belenz noted that the Town had opted to move forward and fully fund the project themselves.

### **3. Transportation Alternatives Program Project Rankings**

Mr. Belenz reviewed the discussion that was had at the previous meeting regarding TAP proposals and rankings (meeting summary: [http://www.nccouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/NCC\\_TAC\\_Summary\\_102218\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.nccouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/NCC_TAC_Summary_102218_FINAL.pdf) and project summaries and rankings: [http://www.nccouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/TAC\\_TAP-Presentation.pdf](http://www.nccouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/TAC_TAP-Presentation.pdf)). Mr. Belenz noted that the TAC had expressed that all of the projects were worthy of funding. Mr. Belenz shared a draft transmittal letter to NHDOT containing the project rankings for TAC members to review. Mr. Macdonald noted that the letter included text expressing support for all of the submitted projects and that the projects were all closely ranked. Mr. Grant motioned to approve the transmittal letter as written and to support the included TAP projects, with Mr. Macdonald seconded the motioned. ***Unanimously approved.***

### **4. Ten Year Plan Project Review**

Mr. Belenz provided an overview of conversations at previous TAC meetings regarding the Ten Year Plan process. Project ranking criteria were discussed at the previous TAC meeting. Criteria definitions are established by NHDOT, with regional TACs having the ability to weight the various criteria in order to reflect regional priorities. Feedback on criteria weights was received from TAC members during the October 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting and through a survey that was sent out.

Mr. Belenz led attendees through an overview of the Ten Year Plan process, proposed criteria weights, Ten Year Plan project proposals from communities in the region, and preliminary project rankings (presentation available here: [http://www.nccouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/TAC\\_TYP-Plan-Presentation.pdf](http://www.nccouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/TAC_TYP-Plan-Presentation.pdf)). Specific comments from attendees on projects are listed below.

#### ***Berlin NH 16 Reconstruction/Rehabilitation***

- Mr. Robitaille noted that the drainage issues on NH 16 near Vintage Junky have resulted in an icy roadway in the winter, which has caused serious accidents in the past. However, since this section is proposed to be rehabilitated (not reconstructed), it was unclear if the drainage issues would be addressed.

- Mr. Decoteau noted that it might have been better to split the project into two parts – one project for the roadway reconstruction north of the Cleveland bridge, and one for the roadway rehabilitation south of the Cleveland bridge. Mr. Belensz noted that it can be beneficial to schedule the two projects at the same to minimize travel delays and disruptions along the roadway. Mr. Judge added that the poor roadway surface is more of a concern before the speed limit drops to 25 MPH, and that the ride is quite rough.

*Berlin: NH 110 Reconstruction and Rehabilitation*

- Mr. Macdonald agreed that this project was a lower priority than the other project submissions.
- Mr. Grant noted that there is a large regional recycling facility along this section of NH 110, so there is some additional regional importance.

*Gorham: NH 16 Roadway Realignment, Retaining Wall Improvement, and Culvert Replacement*

- Mr. Robitaille noted that this spot has long been an area of concern for the Town of Gorham. The hill behind the retaining wall is mostly clay, and the Town is concerned about the potential for landslides during a 100-year rain event. Any efforts to improve the retaining wall and associated drainage could help prevent significant impacts to the roadway from such an event.

*Littleton: Main Street Phase II – Roadway Reconstruction, Pedestrian Improvements, Intersection Improvements*

- Mr. Grant noted that construction management would be challenging given the number of businesses and residents along and near Main Street.
- Mr. Macdonald noted that he was not particularly concerned about trucks being able to navigate the consecutive 90-degree turns in the proposed Bridge Street – Saranac Street realignment.
- Mr. Macdonald noted that the project could be split into multiple phases or projects.

*Shelburne: Culvert Upgrades along US 2*

- Mr. Macdonald noted that the preliminary project scores show a high score for the Freight Mobility criteria due to the improved resiliency of the road. This is essentially “double counting” with the Resiliency criteria. Mr. Macdonald suggested that Freight Mobility score be lowered.
- Mr. Judge noted that the Town identified replacing the Kidder Brook culvert as a high priority during the 2001 Corridor Study, and it is currently the Town’s number 1 priority regarding US 2. The project is an opportunity to improve the vertical alignment of the road to promote better sightline at the Kidder Brook crossing as well. During the

October 2017 storm, culvert washouts along US 2 effectively stranded the Town of Shelburne.

- Mr. Robitaille noted that this would be a highly beneficial project for the Town of Gorham, and noted his support for this project as a Gorham resident.
- Mr. Macdonald noted that this project would be an opportunity to improve aquatic organism passage.

Mr. Belenz thanked the members for their attention and comments. NHDOT has requested that the TAC's refrain from formal votes on project rankings at this stage, as NHDOT has not yet had an opportunity to review the projects and provide engineering-based cost estimates. A formal vote on the project rankings will be taken at the April meeting after NHDOT has met with NCC to discuss their review of the projects.

#### **5. Regional Transportation Plan Work Session**

Mr. Belenz noted that there was not enough time to go into a work session on the Regional Transportation Plan. Time will be set aside at the next TAC meeting.

#### **6. Next Meeting**

Mr. Belenz proposed February 21<sup>st</sup> as the next TAC meeting date. Mr. Belenz proposed the idea of having the meeting in a different location in the region, perhaps south of Franconia Notch. Mr. Belenz will send out a poll to TAC members to determine the next meeting location.

#### **7. Adjournment**

Mr. Grant motioned to adjourn and Mr. Gorman seconded. All members voted to adjourn at 5:10 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Alex Belenz