

NCC Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

@Zoom

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Thursday, January 14th, 2021

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Clayton McDonald (Stratford), Carl Martland (Sugar Hill), Mark Decoteau (Waterville Valley), Raymond Gorman (Colebrook), Paul Robitaille (Gorham), Rosalind Page (Lisbon), Donna Laurent (Jefferson), Kim Cowles (Franconia), Robin Irving (Northumberland), Doug Damko (Littleton), Doug Grant (Randolph)

OTHERS PRESENT: Katie Lamb (NCC), Jared Cape (NCC), Lucy St. John (NHDOT), Chuck Henderson (Office of Sen. Shaheen)

1. INTRODUCTION/ATTENDANCE:

The was called to order at 9:03am and a roll call and round of introductions was completed.

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES (11-02-2020)

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Paige and seconded by Ms. Cowles. A unanimous agreement from all members present at the prior meeting was taken by roll call.

3. REGULAR UPDATES

NCC Updates

- Ms. Lamb updated the committee on the “Rack & Ride” program and gave a brief instructional presentation on how to use the online mapping tool that has been created to allow anyone to mark where existing and desired are/should be located. She noted that the tool allows users to upvote locations where a desired bike rack has been added to the map and that a planning guidance document is being created for bike parking solutions. North Country Council is seeking to coordinate with local artisans and vocational programs to create and implement new bike racks.

- Ms. Lamb stated that letters of interest for the TAP program are due February 5th. She noted that the funding is for bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects and that 80% of costs are reimbursable up to \$1,200,000. A list of eligible activities is posted on the NH DOT website. Mr. Martland expressed his willingness to write letters of support as NCSBC chair.
- Ms. Lamb noted that the Regional Transportation Plan is being finished up and hopes to have a draft ready to present for the next TAC meeting.
- Ms. Lamb stated that the Coordinated Public Transit and Human Services Plan will be finished for a vote in May by the Regional Coordinating Councils. TAC may need to take a vote, so Ms. Lamb will check to see.
- Ms. Lamb noted that new informational sheets on parking strategies and funding opportunities are now available. She also stated that upcoming funding opportunities are and will continue to be posted on the website and in newsletters.

Scenic Byways

- Ms. Lamb noted that the North Country Scenic Byways Committee met last month. Ms. Lamb is inquiring about the ability historical markers in unsafe locations. A report is in process for project prioritization. Byway information sources are being pulled together.
- Mr. Martland noted disparity exists in historical marker location qualities. The state map of markers has some errors and missing data. Mr. Martland submitted a letter on the proposed cell tour in Lincoln and stated his willingness to submit a letter regarding proposed project impacts on byways for communities upon request.

Updates from Communities

Stratford:

The town is still experiencing issues with OHRV use and is working to adopt policy for use of OHRVs on town roads. Feedback speed signs have been received but won't be mounted until the spring.

Sugar Hill:

The town is looking to replace a bridge on Brayton Hill Rd and is looking for best way to go forward with this project regarding spending and specifications. Fifteen months ago, the town received a letter about the installation of safety signs along Route 117. The town voiced opposition to the sign installation for scenic reasons. Mr. Martland noted

that no action has been taken by the NHDOT to date and wanted to know if the plan was stopped, delayed, or changing.

Waterville Valley:

The town experienced significant population growth in 2020, and that population appears to be relatively permanent. The population growth has increased traffic along the town's transportation network. The town is working on an inventory prioritization project of town roads for the road improvement plan and recommendations for improvement or additions for their pedestrian planning. A warrant article will be voted on in 2021 for \$9,000 for immediate road repairs.

Colebrook:

Construction for the 2021 Main Street project has experienced delays due to public consultation during COVID. The project is still happening, but is progressing slower than the town had wished.

Gorham:

The parking study was adopted by the selectmen. The town is working on bike and trail grants. The industrial park sold 176 acres of land for agriculture, which will increase traffic along US Route 2. The town experienced population growth this past year, much of which is due to Gorham natives moving back due to new remote working options. The planning board is discussing three projects which all have driveways on US Route 2 and NH Route 16. The town may require new projects to apply for new driveway permit from NHDOT even if they have existing driveways. The goal of this effort would be to shrink driveway frontage/curb cuts wherever possible.

Randolph:

Potential rumble strip installation was met with community interest. State Representative Tucker wrote a letter that was added to record. Rep Tucker stated that rumble strips seem to be appropriate in addressing safety issues but could create a noise issue. The representative requested that the NHDOT pause installation so that a more in depth assessment can be done.

Lisbon:

The town voted to approve an updated master plan that reflects an update in zoning ordinances, an action plan for more dialogue to ensure the master plan is followed, interest in bike path trails. The town has expressed interest in a parking and pedestrian study, similar to what was done in Gorham.

Jefferson:

The town is updating their master plan and will be done soon. The town is looking to make some regulations for short term vacation rentals and RVs.

Franconia:

The NHDOT is paving Main Street this summer. The town is looking at bike and pedestrian infrastructure from Rt 142 to Rt 177. The town has concerns about their portion of funding as they want to fix sidewalk at the same time as road improvement. At the main intersection in town, Rt 116 and Rt 18, most drivers do not see the stop signs and has led to crashes and many close calls. The town is looking at safety improvements.

Northumberland:

The town is proposing the creation of an EMS complex as the NHDOT dispatch is phasing out. The preferred location is on a town road, but alternatives include NHDOT roads. The town has put in a for a TAP application regarding site issues with Church St and State St (3-way intersection) for vehicle deployment. The town has requested in the past that the NHDOT to swap ownership of State and Church Street but it didn't happen. The town believes the swap might make more sense as the pattern of traffic might need to change as a result of the EMS complex. The town submitted the RFQ to representatives. The town plans to submit for TAP regarding a pedestrian walkway and covered bridge, however architectural and archaeological assessment might be needed.

Littleton:

The Main St Project Phase 2 did not get into the Ten Year Plan and the town is pursuing other funding sources. The town is trying to get into final design and construction on Cottage St is looking at applying for a second TAP project. The River Front Commons project, which will add significant parking to River District, is fully funded and should be going forward this year. The town is working to improve rehabilitation on existing town parking lot behind the Jax Jr Theater, which will include taking down the existing barn.

4. FINAL THOUGHTS/COMMENTS

The committee noted further research and conversation on RVs in the community are needed.

ADJOURN

Mr. Martland made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Laurent seconded the motion. The decision to adjourn was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.

Respectfully submitted by Jared Cape and Katie Lamb