

Southwest Region Planning Commission
37 Ashuelot Street, Keene, NH 03431 603-357-0557 Voice 603-357-7440 Fax

**Transportation
Advisory Committee**

Transportation Advisory Committee

**February 4, 2019
2:00 p.m.**

Kendall Lane, Chair
Keene

Frank Sterling, Vice Chair
Jaffrey

Susan Ashworth
HCS Community Care

Brian Barden
Dublin

Leslie Casey
Sullivan

William Faulkner
Pathways for Keene

John Gomarlo
Winchester

Rhett Lamb
Keene

Mia Lee
Hancock

Gus Lerandean
Svanzey

Leandra MacDonald
Peterborough

Cheryl Mayberry
Walpole

Ed Smith
Hinsdale

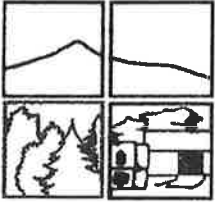
with

John Kallfelz
NH DOT District 4

**Southwest Region Planning Commission
37 Ashuelot Street
Keene, NH**

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Minutes of December 3, 2018
- III. Transportation Program Updates
- IV. NHDOT Statewide Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan Update
- V. Next Meeting
- VI. Adjourn



Southwest Region Planning Commission

Transportation Advisory Committee

Minutes

December 3, 2018

Present: Kendall Lane, *Chairman, City of Keene*; Susan Ashworth, *Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services*; Brian Barden, *Town of Dublin*; Leslie Casey, *Town of Sullivan*; William Faulkner, *Pathways for Keene*; John Gomarlo, *Town of Winchester*; John Kallfelz, *NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT)*; Rhett Lamb, *City of Keene*; Gus Lerandeau, *Town of Swanzey*; Leandra MacDonald, *Town of Peterborough*; Cheryl Mayberry, *Town of Walpole*; Ed Smith, *Town of Hinsdale*.

Staff members present: Tim Murphy, *Executive Director*; J. B. Mack, *Principal Planner*; Becky Baldwin, *Office Manager*; Todd Horner, *Planner*.

Guests: Lucy St. John, *NHDOT*, Matthew Bachler, Bruce Bohanon, Mike Kowalczyk, *Town of Swanzey*.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Lane called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m., welcomed those in attendance, and introductions were made.

II. Minutes of November 5, 2018

The minutes of November 5, 2018 were approved as submitted by unanimous vote.

III. Transportation Alternative Program - 2018 Round

Chairman Lane reminded members that there had been concern in the limited number of TAC members that were able to participate in scoring the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) applications prior to ranking those projects at the November 5, 2018 meeting. After the meeting, SWRPC staff spoke with NHDOT about the situation and NHDOT gave permission to extend the timeline for scoring in order to discuss project rankings at today's TAC meeting and forward the ranking to NHDOT on December 4, 2018.

Motion: To reconsider action taken at the November 5, 2018 TAC meeting regarding the ranking of Transportation Alternative Program applications.

Motion by Rhett Lamb, seconded by Ed Smith. Approved by unanimous vote.

J. B. Mack reported that prior to today's meeting, TAC members were asked to rank the five projects that were submitted for TAP funding in the region. He noted that twelve members of TAC participated in the

scoring process and reviewed the criteria that was used. Results of the ranking (with 80 being the highest possible score) are as follows:

- Jaffrey - 66.02
- Swanzey - 65.31
- Keene - 64.70
- Hinsdale - 60.43
- New Ipswich - 60.32

Gus Lerandeau asked whether the ranking of the Swanzey project should be higher since it will benefit more people. Rhett Lamb asked how this scoring compares with the scoring done at the last TAC meeting and he was referred to page 3 of the minutes from the November 5, 2018 meeting. Cheryl Mayberry observed that it is too bad that both of the projects pertaining to safe routes to school are at the bottom of the list. J. B. Mack pointed that the Keene and Jaffrey projects also involve creating safer routes to school.

Motion: To submit the Transportation Alternative Program application ranking listed above to NHDOT.

Motion by Cheryl Mayberry, seconded by Wink Faulkner. Approved by unanimous vote.

IV. Regional Transportation Improvement Program

J. B. Mack reminded TAC members that following their September 10, 2018 meeting, a draft version of the updated Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) was released for a 45-day public comment period. The RTIP was posted on the SWRPC website and the public comment period was announced in both the SWRPC *Highlights* newsletter and *Happenings* e-newsletter. No public comments were received. J. B. Mack noted that the subject of tree clearing on Manning Hill Road in Winchester has been brought up at several TAC meetings and suggested that TAC consider whether the project should be added to the "Unfunded Projects" list in the RTIP. Staff has been working with John Gomarlo and Winchester town officials who estimate \$750,000 will be needed to do tree clearing on Manning Hill Road. Gus Lerandeau asked if tree cutting will help the situation on Manning Hill Road and John Kallfelz replied that it might help a little but will not correct all the problems with that road. He added that having to close the road in bad weather conditions would be the same with or without clearing the trees. John Gomarlo commended District IV for the good job they do in maintaining the roads.

Motion: To add Manning Hill Road to the list of unfunded projects in the Regional Transportation Improvement Program.

Motion by Gus Lerandeau, seconded by Rhett Lamb. Approved by unanimous vote with John Gomarlo abstaining.

Motion: To adopt the Regional Transportation Improvement Program as updated and forward it to the SWRPC Board of Directors for their consideration.

Motion by Ed Smith, seconded by Cheryl Mayberry. Approved by unanimous vote.

V. 2021-2030 Ten Year Transportation Plan

J. B. Mack explained that NHDOT has requested that SWRPC provide them with a draft ranking of projects to be considered for inclusion in the 2021-2030 Ten Year Transportation Plan (TYP) by today so

they can undergo engineering review. The purpose of the engineering review is to understand potential impacts and develop more accurate project cost estimates. Once the reviews have been completed, NHDOT will provide feedback that can be used by TAC when considering final ranking of TYP projects that will be submitted to NHDOT in May 2019. Rhett Lamb asked if NHDOT will be increasing their staff to conduct reviews of proposed projects in a timely manner. Lucy St. John noted that reviews will be conducted by current staff. J. B. Mack explained that NHDOT has requested that each RPC submit 3-5 projects for review. Tim Murphy noted that this is part of NHDOT's continued effort to improve the process. There is a need to have accurate project cost estimates to avoid what happened several years ago when the ten year Plan became significantly over-subscribed.

J. B. Mack reported that TAC members had been asked to review and rank the six applications for the 2021-2030 TYP. Projects were ranked using criteria that include state of repair, safety measures, safety performance, congestion, facility importance, regional support, traffic volume, freight mobility, and alternative modes. Out of a possible maximum score of 100, projects scored as follows:

1. 72.76 - Keene - NH 10 (Winchester Street) - corridor improvements
2. 68.89 - Keene - NH 101 corridor improvements
3. 55.13 - Keene - West Street corridor improvements
4. 39.31 - Winchester - NH 10 (Manning Hill Road) - corridor improvements
5. 19.52 - Sullivan - Centre Street/Sullivan Center Road - rehabilitation
6. 12.22 - Marlow - Route 123 – relocation

Motion: To submit the top four ranked projects in the order listed to NHDOT for engineering review.

Motion by Rhett Lamb, seconded by Leslie Casey.

An amendment to the motion was made as follows: To change the listing to #1 - Keene - NH 101, #2 - Keene - NH 10 (Winchester Street), #3 - Winchester - NH 10 (Manning Hill Road), #4 - Keene - West Street.

Motion to amend by Gus Lerandeanu, seconded by Ed Smith.

Tim Murphy noted that it is unclear why we are being asked to specifically rank the projects being submitted for NHDOT engineering review at this point in the process. Lucy St. John responded that it is intended to show the level of regional concern as of today. Cheryl Mayberry suggested that out of respect to the time and effort people put into the ranking process, the results of the ranking should not be changed.

Amendment to the motion failed.

Original motion as presented passed by unanimous vote.

VI. Next Meeting: January 7, 2019 (if needed)

Tim Murphy noted that if NHDOT engineering reviews become available for the TYP projects earlier than anticipated, then TAC may be contacted to attend a January 7, 2019 meeting.

Ed Smith shared copies of an article that was written about the Hinsdale/Brattleboro Bridge project.

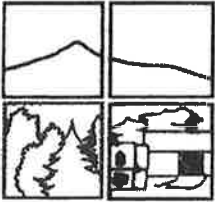
VII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rebecca I. Baldwin".

Rebecca I. Baldwin
Office Manager



Southwest Region Planning Commission

37 Ashuelot Street, Keene, NH 03431

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Agenda Item III

Date: February 4, 2019
To: Transportation Advisory Committee
From: Staff

RE: Transportation Program Updates

Background

Several transportation-related items of interest are on-going and are outlined below. These items can be discussed further during the February 4th meeting.

- a. Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) 2018 Round: Following the December 2018 TAC meeting, staff forwarded its TAP project ranking to the NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT). Proposals submitted by Jaffrey, Keene and Swanzey were among 9 projects selected statewide for funding. A copy of an NHDOT press release announcing statewide TAP awards is attached.
- b. 2021-2030 Ten Year Plan (TYP) Update: NHDOT has reported that its engineering review process is on schedule and SWRPC can expect to have NHDOT feedback in March 2019 to help inform its final recommendations for regional priority projects in the 2021-2030 Ten Year Plan update.
- c. SWRPC Winter Commission Meeting: SWRPC's Winter Commission Meeting, scheduled for February 12, 2019 and beginning at 5:00 p.m., will feature Victoria Sheehan, Commissioner of NHDOT, who will present information focused on transportation infrastructure revenues. Themes may include Federal and State funding, Toll Credits, NH's Turnpike, and unfunded needs across the State. TAC members are encouraged to attend.
- d. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP): NHDOT has formally requested that each NH regional planning commission (RPC) and metropolitan planning organization (MPO) prepare and submit a draft UPWP covering fiscal years 2020 and 2021 by February 15, 2019. The UPWP is the biennial work plan that NH RPCs and MPOs adopt to provide transportation policy and planning, data collection and management, and technical assistance services on behalf of New Hampshire and its municipalities. Final UPWPs are due April 12, 2019.
- e. Hinsdale-Brattleboro Bridge Project (Project #12210c): NHDOT recently announced a delay to the project advertising date from September 2019 to May 2020 due to delays associated with right of way acquisition proceedings in Vermont.
- f. Ashuelot Rail Trail Planning Pilot Project: SWRPC held a project open house on November 17, 2018 in Swanzey that was well attended. At this time, staff are working to prepare a series of informational surveys targeting municipalities as well as other stakeholders.
- g. Peterborough NH 101 & US 202 Corridor Improvement Initiative: SWRPC staff has created a business survey to learn about the transportation uses/needs for the businesses in the project study area. The survey has been reviewed by the project working group and edited

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accordingly. Staff is working with town staff on distribution of the survey. In addition, a report is being drafted with information that has been collected so far.

- h. Monadnock Regional Coordinating Council for Community Transportation (MRCC): The MRCC is scheduled to review and make decisions on the use of \$163,333 in Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 funds for New Hampshire Regional Coordinating Council Regions 5 and 6 at two meetings as follows: February 5, 2019 and February 19, 2019. Both meetings are scheduled for 9:00 a.m. at SWRPC's offices. The purpose of FTA Section 5310 program funds is to enhance transportation services for seniors and individuals with disabilities. Funding will be for services for State Fiscal Year 2020.
- i. Monadnock Alliance for Sustainable Transportation (MAST): The MAST Steering Committee met on January 16, 2019 to consider its priorities for this year. The meeting included authorization for SWRPC staff to create two subcommittees to support the application process of a third-round of Complete Streets grant funding made possible by a donor represented by the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation and to support activities relative to CommuteSmart NH initiatives occurring throughout the State between now and the end of June of this year. As part of the MAST Annual Meeting on February 4, 2019, Alta Planning + Design will provide an alternate opportunity for input on the New Hampshire Department of Transportation's update to the Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (2000).
- j. CommuteSmart NH: SWRPC staff are helping to plan and coordinate activities related to CommuteSmart NH, a statewide initiative that aims to promote commuting alternatives like carpooling, biking, and telecommuting. Currently, the initiative is working towards increasing awareness and use of the NHDOT's online ridematching platform, Rideshare, NH, which helps commuters find carpooling partners with similar routes and compatible transportation preferences. In addition, CommuteSmart NH is organizing a statewide challenge that offers incentives to workplaces and individuals who use carpooling, biking, or other alternative modes to travel to/from work.

In addition to the above, SWRPC staff and Committee members may suggest other transportation related updates during the February 4th meeting.

Recommendation

For your information.

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
January 23, 2019

Contacts:
Thomas Jameson, Planning &
Community Assistance Bureau, (603)
271-3462
Bill Boynton, Public Information
Officer, (603) 271-6495

Nine Local Projects Selected for Transportation Alternatives Program Funds Total of \$5.7 Million Awarded for Sidewalks, Multi-Use Paths, and Rail Trails

Projects submitted by nine New Hampshire cities and towns have been selected to receive a total of \$5.7 million in funding from the New Hampshire Department of Transportation's 2018 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) selection round.

TAP provides funding for alternative transportation projects, such as on-and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, rail trail improvements, and safe routes to school projects.

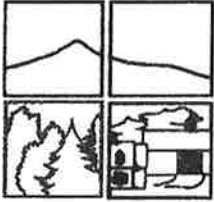
A total of 38 applications were submitted for TAP funds totaling \$22.6 million federal dollars. Criteria for scoring by the New Hampshire TAP Scoring Committee included safety, potential for success, connectivity, and socioeconomic benefits.

The following projects were selected for funding:

Municipality	Project	Federal \$
Franklin	Construct a pedestrian walkway on the existing Trestle Bridge over the Winnepesaukee River to connect to the Mill City Park Trail.	\$512,000.00
Jaffrey	Construct and reconstruct sidewalks, crosswalks and bike lanes on Stratton Road and Peterborough Street.	\$642,894.00
Keene	Construct roadway and streetscape improvements on Marlboro Street and construct a multi-use trail connection to the Cheshire Rail Trail.	\$478,400.00
Londonderry	Construct a 1 mile multi-use path along the side of Harvey Road, Webster Road, and Grenier Field Road.	\$800,000.00
Manchester	Construct ADA compliant pedestrian bicycle trail along Perimeter Road, South Willow Street and Harvey Road.	\$800,000.00

Nashua	Upgrade sidewalks to ADA standards and create bicycle lanes on Lock Street and Whitney Street.	\$799,179.00
New Castle	Construct bicycle shoulders and sidewalk along Wentworth Road, NH Route 1B from Beach Hill Road To Neals Pit Lane.	\$322,400.00
Northumberland	Upgrade 6,300 linear feet of sidewalk to ADA standards.	\$800,000.00
Swansey	Construct multi-use path on abandoned rail corridor in two locations. Improve Ashuelot Trail on the west side of town and improve Cheshire trail on the east side of town.	\$600,000.00

These local projects are subject to Governor and Council approval and require a minimum 20% local match in funding.



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Agenda Item IV

Date: February 4, 2019

To: Transportation Advisory Committee

From: Staff

RE: NHDOT Statewide Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan Update

Background

NHDOT recently hired Alta Planning and Design, Inc. (Alta Planning) to update the Statewide Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan which was last published in 2000 and is available on the NHDOT website at <https://www.nh.gov/dot/programs/bikeped/documents/BikePedPlan.pdf>. Part of Alta Planning's scope of work is to meet with each of the nine regional planning commission transportation advisory committees in New Hampshire to learn more about walking and bicycling needs in each region.

Phil Goff from Alta Planning will be attending the TAC meeting to discuss the purpose of the Statewide Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan and facilitate an interactive discussion about walking and bicycling needs in Southwest New Hampshire.

Recommendation

For your information.