

Transportation Advisory Committee

MINUTES

November 20, 2009

Present: Kendall Lane, *Chair, Keene*; Larry Hill, *Town of Winchester*; Dave Krisch, *Town of Swanzey*; Rhett Lamb, *City of Keene*; Charles Miller, *Town of Walpole*; Carol Ogilvie, *Town of Peterborough*; Bernie Schneckenburger, *Town of Hancock*; Ed Smith, *Town of Hinsdale*; Frank Sterling, *Town of Jaffrey*; Guy Swenson, *Town of Frankestown*.

Staff members present were Tim Murphy, *Executive Director*; JB Mack, *Senior Planner*; Becky Baldwin, *Office Manager*

Guests: Ed Germain and Susan Peters, *Town of Dublin*.

Vice-Chairman Krisch called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

I. Minutes of October 26, 2009

The minutes of the October 26, 2009 meeting was approved as submitted by unanimous vote.

Chairman Lane arrived and proceeded to Chair the meeting.

II. Presentation: Dublin Safe Routes to School Application

Staff member J.B. Mack explained that we received one application for the fourth round of funding through the Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS). The Town of Dublin is seeking funds to improve the sidewalk and crosswalk in front of the Dublin Consolidated School. He further explained that the Town submitted a similar request that was unsuccessful during the third round of funding. He called upon Ed Germain and Susan Peters who provided a presentation pointing out weaknesses in their prior application and modifications that have been made to make this request a stronger one. It was noted that the town has also applied for funding for portions of the project through the Transportation Enhancement program. Mr. Germain and Ms. Peters were asked what would happen to the project if they only received funding from one or neither of the programs. Mr. Germain noted that two weeks ago the town was notified by the State that the crosswalk to the school is not ADA compliant and will have to be removed or replaced. He added that if funding was not received from either program the town would use their own funds to build a new crosswalk and walkway to the back of the school. Ms. Peters explained that if they received SRTS funds the town funds would then be used to repair the sidewalk from the school to the center of Town. Should they be fortunate enough to receive funding from both programs the current sidewalk would be extended to the General Store at the

bottom of the hill. Chairman Lane noted that the purpose of SRTS funds is to increase the safety for children traveling between their homes and school not from their school to downtown. J.B. Mack noted that the objective of the Dublin SRTS proposal is for improvements leading to the school and on school property. Chairman Lane suggested the presentation be changed to emphasize children's safety not access to the center of the village.

Motion: To approve the application for consideration by the State SRTS Advisory Committee.

Motion by Rhett Lamb, seconded by Dave Krisch. Approved by unanimous vote.

III. Transportation Enhancement Scores

J.B. Mack

a. Review and Approval of Scores

J.B. Mack explained the new Department of Transportation scoring process for ranking Transportation Enhancement applications whereby the top three from each Regional Planning Commission receive bonus points that are added to the DOT scoring to promote equity in the distribution of awards throughout the State. He reviewed the criteria used by TAC to rank each of the seven applications that were submitted in our Region and distributed copies of the scoring results. He identified the top three applications as follows:

- Winchester: Sidewalk/pedestrian bridge on Main/Warwick Streets, \$317,400
- Keene: "Roundhouse T" Multi-use Path Improvements, \$609,365
- Dublin: Sidewalks/crosswalks/lighting on NH 101, \$685,050

Chairman Lane expressed concern that the Winchester application does not have a commitment on behalf of the town to provide the required match funding. J.B. Mack explained that the Town is looking into the feasibility of applying for CDBG funds to help meet the match and plan to place an article on the warrant to approve the match contingent on receiving the federal funding. Rhett Lamb questioned what would happen if we submit the Winchester project as our number one choice and they are unable to come up with the match funding. Tim Murphy explained that if they were unable to meet the match the funds would be awarded to the next highest ranked project on the State list which may not be one of ours. Chairman Lane asked how long after notification of an award does an applicant have to come up with the required match. J.B. Mack responded that they have two Town Meeting cycles to come up with their match. Chairman Lane noted that we need to have our strongest application ranked as #1. Bernie Schneckeburger asked how we could make the Winchester application stronger and Chairman Lane suggested getting a letter of support from the Board of Selectmen. Charles Miller asked what the history of increasing budgets was for Winchester and Larry Hill responded that any improvements to the Town are usually approved at Town Meeting. Tim Murphy suggested granting conditional approval of the Winchester ranking contingent upon a letter of support from the Board of Selectmen.

Motion: To support the Winchester application as SWRPC TAC's number one project contingent upon a strong letter of commitment signed by the Board of Selectmen and to support the Keene and Dublin applications as our second and third projects respectively.

Should the Winchester Board of Selectmen be unwilling to support the Winchester project then the Keene project will become our number one application.

Motion by Frank Sterling, seconded by Ed Smith. Approved by majority vote with Rhett Lamb and Larry Hill recusing themselves and Charles Miller voting in the negative.

IV. Other Matters

a) Support of future Transportation Enhancement funding

J.B. Mack suggested that in view of the intense competition for Transportation Enhancement funding TAC might want to consider sending a letter to our congressional delegation urging them to support continuation and increased funding of the program as the federal transportation bill is debated.

Motion: To send a joint letter signed by the Chairman of the SWRPC Board of Directors and Chairman of TAC to our congressional delegation regarding continued support for the Transportation Enhancement program.

Motion by Dave Krisch, seconded by Ed Smith. Approved by unanimous vote.

b) Next Meeting

Tim Murphy noted that staff is in the process of scheduling a joint meeting between the Board of Directors, TAC and the Department of Transportation to discuss the recently completed Road Safety Audits that were conducted in Fitzwilliam, Peterborough and Winchester. TAC members will be notified of the date of the meeting once arrangements have been finalized.

V. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca I. Baldwin
Office Manager