

# Transportation Advisory Committee

## MINUTES

October 26, 2009

**Present:** Kendall Lane, *Chair, Keene*; Susan Ashworth, *Keene City Express*; Rick Carrier, *Town of Chesterfield*; Ken Gardner, *Town of Winchester*; Larry Hill, *Town of Winchester*; John Kallfelz, *NH DOT*; Rhett Lamb, *City of Keene*; Charles Miller, *Town of Walpole*; Carol Ogilvie, *Town of Peterborough*; Ed Smith, *Town of Hinsdale*; Guy Swenson, *Town of Frankestown*.

Staff members present were JB Mack, *Senior Planner*; Becky Baldwin, *Office Manager*; Tara Germond; *Assistant Planner*.

Chairman Lane called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

### **I. Minutes of August 11, 2009 and September 21, 2009**

The minutes of the April 11, 2009 and September 21, 2009 meetings were approved as submitted by unanimous vote.

### **II. Review of Transportation Enhancement Scoring**

Staff member J.B. Mack explained that today's meeting would be dedicated to receiving presentations from the eight Transportation Enhancement applicants. He went on to review the scoring process that would be used based on the set of criteria that was approved at the August 11<sup>th</sup> TAC meeting. Guy Swenson questioned how to score a project that might qualify for more than one category and Chairman Lane explained that the maximum score for any of the criteria is a 10. It was agreed that TAC members would submit their scores to staff no later than the end of business on November 10<sup>th</sup> by way of e-mail, fax or regular mail. Staff will present the results at a TAC meeting scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on November 20<sup>th</sup>. The following TAC members recused themselves from participating in today's discussions involving projects they have been involved in: Carol Ogilvie, Town of Peterborough; Larry Hill and Ken Gardner, Town of Winchester; Ed Smith, Hinsdale Historical Society; and Rhett Lamb, City of Keene.

### **III. TE Presentations**

Complete applications and presentation materials for each of the 8 Transportation Enhancement applications have been made available to TAC members. Questions and answers from today's presentations are noted below.

**a. NH DOT Bureau of Environment - Historic Highway Bridge Inventories and Management Plans: Phase I**

Question: Has the study for this project been completed?

Answer: It is in draft form at this time.

Question: How many bridges will be inventoried?

Answer: Approximately 291.

Question: Will any bridges be repaired through this project?

Answer: No it provides for an inventory and management plan for bridges that were built prior to 1960.

Question: What is the current process?

Answer: To do them on an individual basis as needed.

Question: Does this application only cover the cost of Phase I.

Answer: Yes.

**b. City of Keene - Roundhouse T Phase II**

Question: Does the City need an easement from the Mayo Group?

Answer: Yes for part of it.

Question: Over how many years was the accident data collected and who caused the accidents?

Answer: Data was collected over a nine year span and blame was not assigned.

Question: Will this project link all existing paths?

Answer: Yes.

Question: What plans have been made to safely cross streets with heavy traffic?

Answer: Don't have final details as yet. Need to talk to property owners.

**c. Town of Dublin - Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project**

Question: How much has the town approved in match funding?

Answer: \$135,000.

Question: Why is the town applying for Transportation Enhancement funding rather than through the 10-Year Plan.

Answer: Through the 10-Year Plan the State would make the road wider and faster where the intent of the town is to slow traffic down and make pedestrian travel safer. The village is literally cut in half by Route 101 and they are looking for a safe way for everyone including elderly and the handicapped to be able to cross the highway.

Question: Is this part of the ongoing traffic calming project?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Has the town obtained all of the required right-of-ways?

Answer: Yes, and they also have the required curb cuts.

Question: Why is the town willing to pay to put a crosswalk on a state highway?

Answer: They have been told by the DOT that the state can't install a crosswalk that doesn't have a sidewalk to go to.

Question: Is the speed limit on Route 101 effective?

Answer: The current speed limit is 30 mph but the average speed traveled on that portion of the highway is 47 mph. It is hoped that the proposed project will help reduce speed by 10 mph.

#### **d. Town of Bennington - Sidewalk and Intersection Improvements**

No questions were asked regarding this presentation.

#### **e. Monadnock Community Hospital - Walkway**

Question: How many people are expected to use the walkway on a daily basis?

Answer: 5% of the daily visitors to the hospital approximately 30-40 people.

Question: Are their currently sidewalks on Route 202 and how far is it to the downtown area?

Answer: There is a sidewalk on Route 202 and it is approximately ½ mile to the Town Library.

Question: Does the walkway behind the Wellness Center meet ADA compliance?

Answer: The walkway is not intended to be an ADA path.

Question: Have accommodations been made to plow the walkway.

Answer: The Town has agreed to maintain it up to the gated area within 1-2 days following a storm.

#### **f. Hinsdale Historical Society - Ebenezer Hinsdale House Renovations**

Question: When was the property acquired?

Answer: This past May with the assistance of an LCHIP grant and private donations.

Question: What are the plans to raise the matching funds?

Answer: They already have some funds and plan to conduct a campaign to raise the remainder.

Question: Will there be an economic benefit to the Town of Hinsdale?

Answer: It will be minimal - visitors to the property might shop or eat in town.

Question: Are funds available to maintain the property?

Answer: The previous owner has the right to remain on the property for two years with the understanding that they pay all maintenance costs for that time period.

Question: Is the Town of Hinsdale involved in the project?

Answer: No it is a project of the Historical Society.

Question: Explain the concept of the proposed transportation museum?

Answer: One or two of the barns will be used to exhibit old carriages and sleighs.

#### **g. Town of Winchester - Sidewalk Improvements**

Question: Explain the alternate crossing at the bridge?

Answer: The walkway will be adjacent to the existing bridge.

Question: Have accommodations been made for parking?

Answer: There is a large parking area and the merchants encourage people to use it.

Question: How does the Town plan to raise the match funds?

Answer: There will be an Article on the 2010 Town Warrant.

#### **h. Town of Peterborough - Pathway Center**

Question: Who will be responsible for the daily maintenance?

Answer: The Town.

Question: Can the area be policed easily?

Answer: It will be very visible from the parking area.

Question: Will there be direct access from the north end of town?

Answer: Yes it is currently not well marked but signs will be installed.

Question: How late will the center be open?

Answer: It will depend on the time of year but generally until 10:00 or 11:00 p.m.

#### **IV. Next Steps**

J.B. Mack reminded committee members to submit their scores on the above projects by the end of business on November 10<sup>th</sup> and that the results will be presented by staff at the November 20<sup>th</sup> TAC meeting.

#### **V. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca I. Baldwin  
Office Manager