

Southwest Region Planning Commission
Transportation Advisory Committee

Minutes

August 28, 2023

Present: Frank Sterling, Vice Chair, *Town of Jaffrey*; Susan Ashworth, *Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services*; Brian Barden, *Town of Dublin*; Sara Carbonneau, *Town of Winchester*; Leslie Casey, *Town of Sullivan*; Gus Lerandeanu, *Town of Swanzey*; Leandra MacDonald, *Town of Peterborough*; Ed Smith, *Town of Hinsdale*; Ruth Ward, *Town of Stoddard*.

Staff members present: Tim Murphy, *Executive Director*; J. B. Mack, *Assistant Director*; Becky Baldwin, *Office Manager*; Jason Cooper, *Planner*.

Guests: Keith Cota, *HDR Inc.*; Frank Dobisky, *Thomas Transportation*; William Rose (ex officio), *NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT)*; Ricky DiCillo and Vanessa Parting, *NHDES* (remote).

I. Welcome and Introductions

Vice Chairman Sterling called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m., welcomed those in attendance, and asked for introductions from attendees.

II. Minutes of June 5, 2023

Motion: To approve the minutes of June 5, 2023 as presented.

Motion by Gus Lerandeanu, seconded by Ed Smith. Approved by unanimous vote with Ruth Ward abstaining.

III. Transportation Program Updates

J. B. Mack referred TAC members to the transportation program update information that was included in the agenda packet. He drew attention to the deadlines for submitting proposals to both of the NHDES grants which are September 15, 2023 for the Clean Diesel program and October 13, 2023 for the Granite State Clean Fleets program. Gus Lerandeanu asked if any funding has been awarded to-date and Ricky DiCillo responded that Fitzwilliam received funding to purchase a new fire truck. J. B. Mack noted that staff has sent information on these grants to each of our municipalities.

IV. FY 2025-2034 Ten Year Plan Update

J. B. Mack gave an overview of the Ten Year Plan (TYP) update process and noted that the Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) hearings will be taking place this fall. William Rose of NHDOT provided a high-level overview of the FY 2025-2034 TYP update using a [NHDOT presentation that will be delivered at the upcoming GACIT hearings](#). He noted that new programs have been added to this update including Bridge, National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure, PROTECT, and the Carbon Reduction Program. He also reviewed the state funding which comes from road toll revenues and noted that any reduction in traffic volume corresponds to a reduction in available funding. He explained that since the last TYP update steel, concrete and asphalt prices have increased significantly. In addition, the projected inflation rate used for the TYP was increased from 2.8% to 3.7%. William Rose noted that 84% of the TYP update is dedicated to roads and bridges, the remaining 16% is reserved for railroads, transit, and airports. For the 2025-2034 TYP, nineteen projects were submitted for consideration by regional planning commissions statewide with a total projected cost of \$68 million. The Swanzey Project #44218, the top priority submitted by the SWRPC Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), is included in the draft TYP.

Leandra MacDonald asked who determines the awards for the PROTECT funding and William Rose explained that this is in the development stage at present.

William Rose noted that the GACIT hearings for Southwest NH are scheduled for September 25th at 6:30 p.m. at the Keene Recreation Center and October 17th at 7:00 p.m. at the Jaffrey Fire Station. He added that a schedule of all the hearings in the State is available on the NHDOT website. Tim Murphy asked if there will be an opportunity for staff to present at the hearings and William Rose responded that staff will be given five minutes for their presentation. J. B. Mack noted that individual TAC members can also speak when the hearings are opened for public comment.

Ed Smith questioned why NH receives the lowest amount of funding in the entire country. William Rose said that many share the same frustration, but the method for allocating funding to states is a federal process that NHDOT doesn't have control over.

J. B. Mack asked if anyone present is planning on attending the GACIT hearings. Sara Carbonneau noted she would attend the Keene hearing and Frank Sterling volunteered to attend and testify at the Jaffrey hearing. Tim Murphy noted that anyone can provide testimony at the GACIT hearing but if they are speaking as a representative of TAC what they present should represent the consensus of the Committee. J. B. Mack stated that he would provide a list of talking points for TAC Chair Lane and Vice Chair Sterling to provide at the Keene and Jaffrey GACIT hearings, respectively.

V. Presentation: Planning for Electric Vehicle Charging

J. B. Mack introduced staff member Jason Cooper who provided a presentation on planning efforts that have taken place to-date regarding the development of infrastructure to support electric vehicle (EV) charging. In the Spring of 2022 SWRPC conducted a survey to gain input on what municipal officials feel are the largest obstacles/challenges to implementing EVs. The survey results showed that funding opportunities and identifying locations for charging units represent significant concerns. SWRPC has also conducted interviews with several municipalities on the subject and posted several blogs on the SWRPC website. Jason Cooper referenced the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program which is focused on the development of alternative fuel corridors. He noted that an alternative fuel corridor should

have a charging station every 50 miles that is located within 1 mile of the corridor. In the Monadnock Region, NH Route 9 and Route 101 are currently being considered. In addition, SWRPC is currently collaborating with Clean Energy NH and Drive Electric NH to provide information to our communities so that when funding becomes available we will be in a better position to submit proposals. Future efforts will include publicizing funding opportunities, assisting with technical support in helping our communities determine the number of charging units they will need, and helping communities with streamlining the permitting process. Tim Murphy noted that there is an economic development element to this - if we want to encourage tourism, we need to provide ways for EVs to get here. Leandra MacDonald agreed noting that we value our town centers and want to enhance them.

VI. Other Matters

No other matters were brought before the TAC at this time.

VII. Next Meeting: November 6, 2023

J. B. Mack announced that the next meeting of TAC is scheduled for November 6, 2023 unless there is a need to meet sooner.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca I. Baldwin
Office Manager