



NCC Transportation Advisory Committee

Littleton Regional Healthcare

Meeting Minutes

March 5th, 2020

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rosalind Page (Lisbon); Doug Grant (Randolph); Raymond Gorman (Colebrook); Paul Robitaille (Gorham); Doug Damko (Littleton); Mark Decoteau (Waterville Valley); Clayton Macdonald (Stratford, Chair); Carl Martland (Sugar Hill); Stanley Judge (Shelburne)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chuck Henderson (Senator Shaheen); Brian Bresnahan (Congresswoman Kuster); Alex Belenz (NCC); Katie Lamb (NCC); Linda Dusenberry (NHDOT)

1. INTRODUCTIONS/ATTENDANCE:

The meeting began at 3:03 PM. A round of introductions was completed.

2. APPROVAL OF 11/21/2019 MEETING MINUTES:

The meeting minutes were approved unanimously via motion of Gorman/Grant.

3. REGULAR UPDATES

a. Ten Year Plan

Mr. Belenz gave an update for the 2019-2028 Ten-Year Plan, with note of the Legislature to pass it in summer 2020. He also introduced the upcoming round of Ten-Year Plan projects and that the process would start earlier this year. Mr. Belenz also noted NCC's consideration of bringing on the services of an on-call engineer. In addition, Mr. Belenz mentioned that he and Ms. Lamb were working on updating the Ten-Year Plan criteria as part of a dedicated subcommittee of Transportation Planners Collaborative and encouraged members to provide input as part of the update.

b. NH Statewide Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan.

Mr. Belenz noted that the plan is currently under review and editing with the state and should be released for comment this summer.

c. Other NCC updates.

Mr. Belenz gave an update on NCC's role in working with White Mountain National Forest and others on issues of overflow parking and traffic safety across the Forest, including the ongoing efforts in Franconia Notch.

- Mr. Grant asked what the loss of the Franconia Notch shuttle program was for the prior year. Mr. Belenz responded with \$50,000-\$100,000 and also mentioned the issues the National Forest has had with staffing shortages.
- Mr. Martland suggested an expansion of the shuttle program to nearby resorts/hotels. Mr. Belenz responded saying that concern was expressed for doing that as it may result in the loss of control that WMNP has over the program.

d. Scenic Byways.

Mr. Belenz gave an update about the byways website, stating that it is almost ready to go live and the positive impact the website will have on tourism and information on the byways. He also mentioned the call for National Scenic Byways and how there is unlikely to be an application this round due to time constraints.

e. Updates from Communities.

- Mr. Gorman talked about the Colebrook Main Street update and the difficulty of doing so.
- Mr. Deconteau noted issues with GPS systems (mainly Google Maps) that are sending out of town people on roads that shouldn't be used, especially during the winter. He further stated that that town has filed a request with Google to change their GPS calculations but were unsuccessful.
- Mr. Robitaille noted Gorham's induction to the Appalachian Trail Communities; the upcoming restriping of Route 16 from Route 2 to the old Shaws by NHDOT; and working on a plan to redevelop and rebuild trailheads, as well as rebuilding the trail to Pine Mountain.
- The Shelburne dam on the Androscoggin River is undergoing a relicensing process, there may be an opportunity for increased recreational access/facilities as part of the relicensing.

4. COORDINATED PUBLIC TRANSIT AND HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN

- Mr. Belenz describes the role of Regional Coordinating Councils and talks about the benefits of a coordinated system, as well as how funding is shared between programs. He also notes the importance of these services as the population ages.
- Mr. Belenz covers the status of the plan and what is being done, including finding the gaps in service, and reaching out to those with insight that can help us better understand the region's transit needs.
- Mr. Gorman asked about the inclusion of commuting needs into the plan. Mr. Belenz responded that commuting needs are a newer focus in the plan and that it is being developed.
- Mr. MacDonald mentioned measuring the loss of productivity by not having transit services since the shortage of housing drives people far from areas of employment.
- Mr. Belenz asked members for feedback from their communities on the needs of the residents in terms of transit services in order to better inform the plan.

5. REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Mr. Belenz included an update on the plan, mentioning that the plan is being modernized by way of an online interactive platform in addition to the paper version. He noted that public outreach via surveys are coming up soon as part of the Regional Transportation Plan update.

Meeting adjourned at 4:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Katie Lamb