



NCC Transportation Advisory Committee

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Meeting Minutes

July 30th, 2020

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robin Irving (Northumberland); Brigitte Codling (Haverhill); Clayton Macdonald (Stratford, Chair); Carl Martland (Sugar Hill); Rosalind Page (Lisbon); Paul Robitaille (Gorham); Doug Damko (Littleton); Doug Grant (Randolph); Rick Hiland (Albany)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Katie Lamb (NCC); Jared Cape (NCC); Linda Dusenberry (NHDOT); Christian Seasholtz (Congressman Pappa); Ben Belanger (Senator Hassan)

1. INTRODUCTIONS/ATTENDANCE:

The meeting began at 1:06 PM. Ms. Lamb read the Governors Emergency Order #12 Executive Order 20-04 language and then took a full roll call.

2. APPROVAL OF 03/05/2020 MEETING MINUTES:

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Grant and seconded by Mr. Macdonald. A unanimous agreement of all members present at the prior meeting was taken by roll call.

3. REGULAR UPDATES

a. Ten Year Plan

Ms. Lamb noted that NCC's Ten-Year Plan project proposals are due on August 28th 2020. Ms. Lamb asked members to have a think about any projects they'd like to get done in their communities and bring this opportunity to their town officials. She also noted to reach out to her with any questions or help with the application.

Ms. Lamb introduced the proposed criteria weightings for the Ten-Year Plan scoring, noting that a vote needs to take place in order for them to be used for this round of projects.

Mr. Grant noted that the percentages didn't add up to 100% due to rounding issues. Ms. Lamb apologized for the mistake and made a note to redo the maths so that the percentages work out correctly.

Ms. Lamb asked for thoughts on the general weighting of the criteria, less the rounding error:

- Mr. Macdonald expressed wanting the Equity, Environmental Justice, and Accessibility criteria to be raised up in percentage.
- Mr. Robitaille noted that he would like to see a higher weighting in the Economic criteria.
- Mr. Grant asked what the Support criteria covered and asked if its weighting could be lowered.

Ms. Lamb decided a survey for members to partake in to give their input on the weightings was a good idea. Ms. Lamb notified the members that they would have to reconvene as soon as possible after the survey results so that the weightings can be in place for the project scoring at the end of the month.

b. NH Statewide Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan.

Ms. Lamb stated that the plan was delayed due to COVID but is back on a new schedule. She noted that NHDOT expects to have a draft for consultation sent out within the next few months and then a final version mid to late 2021.

c. Other NCC updates.

Ms. Lamb discussed the Gorham parking study and noted that it will result in a final report with recommendations for an improved walking and parking experience in downtown Gorham. She also noted that NCC began this study at the beginning of July and have completed the parking inventory supply and 4 days of parking counts so far. Ms. Lamb stated that over the coming months staff will continue to work on the study and produce a final report with recommendations in November this year.

Ms. Lamb introduced that NCC will begin culvert assessments in Hart's Location the second week of August and that they are part of a larger effort to understand the stream crossings within the Saco Watershed. She noted that there are about 20 culverts to assess and will be completed during the month of August.

Ms. Lamb presented the new social media platforms, Facebook and Instagram, that NCC recently added. She noted that these are an effort to keep the public informed as well as a way to reach new cohorts of the population in the North Country, hoping to diversify engagement.

d. Scenic Byways.

Mr. Martland noted he was asked to join a call with Clean Energy NH for input on electric vehicle charging stations within the North Country and stated he suggested charging locations in town centers such as Berlin, Gorham, and Lancaster.

Mr. Martland also covered the new website and suggested members take a look at it. Ms. Lamb stated that the website had been initially soft-launched due to COVID but that a NCSBC meeting was scheduled for later that month where they will discuss a larger launch of the website.

Mr. Martland noted that creating and promoting a travel loops for towns is a way to bolster the economy by influencing tourists to spend an extra few hours in each place.

e. Updates from Communities.

- Ms. Irving noted an emerging transportation issue in Northumberland once a new hydrogen plant opens up at the end of September because curb radii are not wide enough for large trucks.
- Ms. Codling stated that Clark Pond Rd bridge was finally approved for FEMA funding and can be rebuilt after being closed since 2017. She also noted that they will be rehabilitating French Pond Road and that there was significant flooding around mid-July which resulted in \$25,000 of damages.
- Mr. Macdonald said that Stratford is overextended due to flooding damages but that Stratford is receiving speed feedback signs in an effort to slow drivers entering the town center. He also noted impacts of ATVs on the roads within Stratford.
- Mr. Martland noted that the staging of large vehicles last year created outrage within Sugarhill and that the Regional Plan should address these types of issues.
- Mr. Robitaille said that there have been issues with large trucks due to untrained drivers and lack of accurate GPS units. He also noted that the new ATV access point has gotten delayed multiple times this summer but is due to finally be done by the end of August. Mr. Robitaille discussed how better signage for ATV drivers is needed but that hopefully these issues will go away once the new access point is open. Additionally, he noted that approximately \$10,000 in damages were calculated due to flooding in Moose River area during July.
- Mr. Damko stated that Littleton planning on a TAP project for sidewalks for next year's bid. He also noted that they are exploring multiple avenues for funding for the Main Street Phase II project and that Littleton is also looking to install sidewalks from Junction 42 to the big box stores on Meadow Street.
- Mr. Grant had no update but inquired about the Route 2 TYP project in Jefferson/Randolph. Ms. Lamb said that is had been included in the final draft of the TYP but that it still had to be voted on by the Legislature. Ms. Dusenberry chimed in and said the Legislature approved it last Friday. Mr. Grant noted that trail usage in Randolph was astronomical the past few weekends. Mr. Robitaille noted the same occurrence in Gorham and that they are often inexperienced and unprepared hikers.
- Mr. Hiland discussed how Albany has seen a huge increase in tourists this year and that fines are up considerably as well. He noted that NHDOT is replacing some gaurdrails on

Route 16 and that there is talk to create a plan to address the Wildwood/Route 16/113 intersection.

5. REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Ms. Lamb noted that Alex Belenz is meant to hand off the draft plan to her within the next two weeks and expects a draft out for comment mid to late September.

Ms. Lamb discussed the survey that was released on June 22nd and how there have been a total of 170 responses as of today. She includes the following preliminary findings from the survey:

- 45% in rural areas; 25% in suburban/subdivision and town center/downtown
- \$67,000 median income
- majority of people drive to a town other than the one they live in, aside from bank
- only 13% of respondents 45 or younger; 87% of respondents 45 years or older

Ms. Lamb noted that the survey currently has no end date since she believes a survey like this is good to have at all times so the public can provide their input. Mr. Macdonald suggested that a flyer advertising the survey should be posted at the windows of town clerks and tax collectors.

ADJURNMENT

Mr. Grant makes a motion to close meeting, Mr. Macdonald seconds motion; the committee agrees unanimously to close meeting by a full roll call. Meeting is adjourned at 2:11PM.

Respectfully submitted by Katie Lamb.