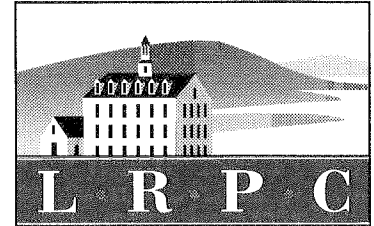


LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION

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MINUTES
LRPC COMMISSION MEETING
 Southern New Hampshire University
 Gilford, NH
 January 28, 2008

PRESIDING: Richard Waitt, Chairman

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 PM

QUORUM: Yes (by Adoption)

COMMUNITIES PRESENT: 15

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Maggie LaBerge, Alexandria
 Bob Ward, Andover
 Steve Favorite, Bristol
 Anne Cunningham, Freedom
 Richard Waitt, Gilford
 Stan Bean, Gilmanton
 Martha Twombly, Hebron
 Robert Snelling, Holderness
 Bruce Whitmore, Holderness
 Bill Contardo, Laconia
 Warren Hutchins, Laconia
 William Bayard, Meredith
 Herb Vadney, Meredith
 Herbert Farnham, Moultonborough
 Barbara Perry, Moultonborough
 Wayne Crowley, Northfield
 Douglas Read, Northfield
 Patricia Jones, Ossipee
 Mark McConkey, Ossipee
 Ralph Carter, Sanbornton
 Roger Murray, Wolfeboro
 Chuck Storm, Wolfeboro

OTHERS PRESENT: Rep. Gene Chandler, Bartlett; Bill Watson and Bill Cass, NH DOT, Derrick Hill, Pike Industries; Pat Moore, Alexandria; Lisa Morin, Gilford; Tom Garfield, Laconia SAU; Polly Sanfacon, Gilford; Rep. Jane Wood, Laconia; Sam Perry; Kimon Koulet, Mike Izard, Adam Hlasny, LRPC; Geoff Cunningham, *Laconia Citizen*; Kinney O'Rourke, *Laconia Daily Sun*; other interested parties.

ALEXANDRIA • ALTON • ANDOVER • ASHLAND • BARNSTEAD • BELMONT • BRIDGEWATER • BRISTOL • CENTER HARBOR • DANBURY • EFFINGHAM •
 FRANKLIN • FREEDOM • GILFORD • GILMANTON • HEBRON • HILL • HOLDERNESS • LACONIA • MEREDITH • MOULTONBOROUGH • NEW HAMPTON •
 NORTHFIELD • OSS�PEE • SANBORNTON • SANDWICH • TAMWORTH • TILTON • TUFTONBORO • WOLFEBORO

1 Welcome and Introduction

Chairman Richard Waitt called the meeting to order at approximately 6:03 PM. He welcomed all members and asked everyone to introduce themselves. He asked for a motion for those present to constitute a quorum, which was unanimously approved. *M/S/P Perry/Carter*. The minutes from the previous meeting were also unanimously approved. *M/S/P Carter/Contardo*.

2 Transportation Plans/Projects, and Fiscal Constraint

Chairman Waitt introduced Kimon Koulet, LRPC Director, who presented the financial ramifications of the proposed NH Ten Year Improvement Plan (TIP) on the Lakes Region. He gave some background information including the fact that Belknap County was the fastest growing county (percent wise) in all of New England from 2001-2006. As a result there have been significant increases in traffic, and ironically, about 83% of the funding in the last TIP for the region had been removed by the NH DOT, and approved by GACIT. He cited three projects in the proposed TIP that need the benefit of additional state bonding to survive, and encouraged support for them. He then introduced Bill Watson of the NH DOT.

3 The 2009-2018 Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan

Bill Watson, NH DOT Planning Bureau Administrator, addressed the Commission on the reality of transportation funding in New Hampshire. He mentioned that the underlying problem with funding is that construction prices have risen 40-45% over the past three years, while there has been no overall compensatory increase in revenue. The Federal Highway Trust Fund will run dry soon as well. Additional funding sources, including an increased gas tax, have been discussed. However, the notion of an increase in the gas tax was rejected by Gov. Lynch. B Watson said that 55% of the total funding is currently focused on preservation/safety. Several questions were asked, including the nature of funding cuts on specific projects, and whether or not the funding shortage is uniquely a New Hampshire problem, or exists across the nation. Concerns were also voiced that not enough emphasis has been given to public transportation. Another large problem leading to the funding shortage is the fact that 40% of the revenue received each year by DOT is being allotted to other agencies.

4 The Ten Year Plan and Bonding

NH State Representative Gene Chandler, (Bartlett, NH) gave a presentation about the fiscal woes of NH DOT, and the ramifications these woes have on the future of transportation in New Hampshire. One of the main problems with past TIPs is that the Public Works Committee did not pay enough attention to inflation, which affects the overall improvement budget. Another major concern was the amount of funding being diverted to other departments, including the Attorney General, Department of Safety, and Bureau of Land and Tax Appeals. It is estimated that \$113 million, or 40% of the total DOT revenue will be distributed to other departments in 2009. Rep. Chandler also mentioned that Gov. Lynch is against an increased gas tax, and in favor of bonding, which would get some projects completed sooner, despite having to be paid back with interest. Bonding would send

approximately \$50-60 million to red-listed bridges, which are the first priority for state highway improvement projects.

5 A Safer Road to Tomorrow: Investing in Infrastructure

Derrick Hill, Regional Manager of Pike Industries, gave a presentation regarding the pros and cons of investing in New Hampshire's infrastructure. He explained where the money comes from to fund infrastructure improvements, including the gas tax and car registration fees. There are currently 4800 miles of roads in New Hampshire, 1700 of which require some work, and 1200 of which need major work to be done. In 1993, 650 miles of road were resurfaced, while in 2006 only 330 were resurfaced due to lack of funds. He spoke of the fact that delaying repairs would only make them more costly in the long run. For example, maintenance delayed beyond 15 years can increase costs 4-5 times. A key to restoring sustainability to DOT lies in restricting money flowing out of their improvement funds. He mentioned House Bill 1618, a current bipartisan bill to limit non-DOT spending of DOT funds, which, in his opinion, is worthy of support.

6 Lakes Region Transportation Plan 2008

Mike IZard, LRPC Principal Planner, presented the 2008 Regional Transportation Plan which was prepared under the guidance of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC). Among other highlights, he discussed the rapid increase in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in New Hampshire. The VMT in NH is projected to increase 40% from 2004 to 2025, which will bring with it an increased demand for services. He added that capacity preservation and safety are the two top priorities for future road improvements. The Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) is a separate, ongoing project that is related to the RTP. After three rounds of TIP meetings, no new projects were scheduled, other than those for emergencies. Following his presentation, a motion to accept the 2008 Regional Transportation Plan was unanimously approved. *M/S/P Murray/Carter*

7 Other Business

K. Koulet noted that the next Commission Meeting would be held on February 25 in Ossipee, snow date Feb 26. The focus of this meeting will shift from transportation to housing, as the Inclusionary Zoning Implementation Program (IZIP) and Housing Conservation Planning Program (HCPP) will be discussed. There being no other business, Chairman R. Waitt declared the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:09 PM.