

LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION

103 Main Street, Suite #3
 Meredith, NH 03253
 Tel 603.279.8171
 www.lakesrpc.org



Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Notes of December 04, 2023

Members Present	LRPC Staff
George Tuthill – Alexandria David Kerr – Barnstead Rod Cameron - Belmont Bill Dowey – Bristol Seth Creighton – Franklin (virtual) Justin Hanscom (Alt) – Franklin (virtual) Meghan Theriault – Gilford Travis Mitchell – Gilmanton Malcolm (Tink) Taylor – Holderness Nate Guerette (ALT) - Laconia Dari Sassan – Moultonborough Joe Fagnant – Plymouth Joseph Perez (Alt) – Plymouth John Gotjen – Tamworth Lloyd Wood – Tuftonboro Tavis Austin – Wolfeboro	Sean Chamberlin, Sr. Transportation Planner
	Non-Voting Members
	Lucy St. John- NHDOT Chris Turgeon – NHDOT District 2 (virtual) Samantha Fifield – NHDOT District 3 (virtual)
	Guests
	Rebecca Elwood – HDR Rock Larachelle – HDR Scott Kimmond – Alton Unknown Virtual Guest

1. Welcome & Introductions / Call to Order

2. Items of Information

a. Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment Draft

- i. S. Chamberlin announces final draft of New Hampshire Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment is being finalized by NHDOT. Offers to provide copies to TAC. Discusses what the assessment covers.
- ii. Breaks down some of the statistics found in the assessment. Question from TAC – is this about the roads being vulnerable or the people? – S. Chamberlin explains the assessment is for vulnerable people safety (users of the road).
- iii. Discusses and reviews charts from the assessment and reviews work that RPCs and TAC will be responsible for.
- iv. Questions asked about complete streets program and NHDOT standards for that.
- v. Possible discussion about more complete streets at future TAC in the spring.
- vi. Discussions about access to crash data and other related information for crash analysis is an ongoing discussion at the state level.
- vii. S. Chamberlin tells TAC that RPC has been looking into bike/ped counters and other info about gathering more data on this info.
- viii. NHDOT rep, Lucy, states this assessment is a federal mandate for states to produce.

b. HB412

- i. S. Chamberlin provides background on HB412 – bill that created a committee to investigate and report on alternative road taxes for alternative fueled vehicles.
 - ii. S. Chamberlin says current tax rate has lost 50 percent of purchasing power do to various factors
 - iii. S. Chamberlin states HB412 Committee looked into mileage-based annual fees.
 - iv. S. Chamberlin states Federal and NH Fuel Tax rate has not increased since 1993 and 2014 respectively.
 - v. S. Chamberlin elaborates on questions about HB412 by the TAC members.
 - vi. One TAC member mentioned vehicle weight being used as a possible factor for fees.
- c. Transition to DPW
- i. S. Chamberlin begins discussion on the benefits of transitioning from separate departments to a DPW.
 - ii. SC gives examples from Alton that were provided by Scott Kimmond Alton DPW Director.
 - iii. SC opens floor to open discussion on topic.
 - iv. Plymouth states happy with their organization.
 - v. Gilford discusses current organization and past experiences at other municipalities. Gilford and Plymouth bring up that departments can usually sign up for mutual aide. Gilford states it feels like everything is more of a team and organization under the umbrella of a DPW. Another attendee states a similar viewpoint of being a team as a DPW.
 - vi. Primex study came up on positive work environments based off organization – member thinks it was Merrimack were the study was done.
 - vii. Plymouth states with their structure – only some departments are union while most are not – even without DPW, departments work very well together and provide mutual assistance with one another.
 - viii. Gilmanton speaks about their current transition from elected road agent to a DPW. Currently cross training individuals.
 - ix. Discussions on having separate village commissions (like water and sewer) rather than departments or DPW.
 - x. Gilford speaks about how water and sewer under DPW would be preferred to coincide maintenance with roadwork.
 - xi. Members speak on budgeting with departments and DPWs.
 - xii. Gilford speaks about getting infrastructure assessments done by LRPC and to use those as tools to increase budgets.
 - xiii. Laconia asked about what other communities were tax capped – Laconia was the only one that identified as one. Bristol school district is believed to be tax capped – that’s large part of the taxes.
 - xiv. SC discusses the expected transition time (~one year) to DPW and make sure roles and responsibilities are clear.
 - xv. Members state that it is hard to find elected positions/road agents that live in town (requirement). Hard to find individuals interested and/or qualified.
 - xvi. S. Kimmond provides information on current LTAP and UNH T2 assistance for Gilmanton on their hiring process for DPW director. LTAP provides this assistance to municipalities by request.

3. Approval of Minutes

- a. Approved September minutes

4. Subarea / Subcommittee Reports

- a. Bike/Ped Plan
 - i. S. Chamberlin announces that draft is mostly complete. Subcommittee to provide final draft at Feb. meeting, Feedback due by Jan. 19th.

5. Items of Business

- a. Community Updates
 - i. Holderness looking to complete sidewalk in the village area – currently have architect willing to draft up information on sidewalk. Holderness brought up pavement lines wearing down or missing.
 - ii. Plymouth also brought up new lines being painted also being too thin and hardly visible.
 - iii. Plymouth having issue with ADA ramp – had to rip old one up and state now says new one can't be replaced due to noncompliance. Explained cost issues of having a study done for just a single ramp. Issue also comes from ramp crossing a railroad.
 - iv. Franklin submitted TAP grant to DOT – no update on trestle bridge.

6. Other Business

- a. Public Comment
 - i. HDR member introduces themselves and thanks committee for chance to attend. Mentions scope of service that HDR offers. Mentions their work with other RPCs.
 - ii. Gilford mentions the importance for towns to reach out to services to have their bridges assessed for budget and safety.
- b. Closing
 - i. SC inquires about how Monday schedule is working.
 - ii. Next meeting Monday, Feb 5th, 2024 – location TBD
 - iii. Members asked to complete exit interview.

7. Adjournment