



**SALEM-PLAISTOW-WINDHAM
TAC Committee Meeting
MINUTES**

Kingston Town Hall
Friday, December 20, 2002

Members Present: Ellen Faulconer, Chair, Kingston; Tom Case, Windham; Becky Ohler, NHDES; and Jeff Brillhart, NHDOT.

Others Present: Ansel Sanborn and Jim Moore, NHDOT.

Staff Present: Dave Walker, Scott Bogle and Roxanne Rines, RPC.

Meeting opened at 9:10 a.m.

I. Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves and stated what municipality they were from or the agency they represented

2. Communications

Walker stated there will be a Route 125 Advisory Task Force on January 30, location to be determined.

Ohler stated as of January 1st, outside burning of residential trash is forbidden.

3. Approval of September 27, 2002 minutes.

Minutes were tabled until next meeting.

4. Ten Year Plan – Jeff Brillhart, NH DOT

Walker introduced Jeff Brillhart, Ansel Sanborn and Jim Moore from NH DOT and stated they would be giving a presentation on project programming of the Ten-Year plan.

Moore explained why the plan needs to be financially constrained and spoke about funding. He continued that DOT staff has been updating project estimates. Projects have increased because of inflation and project scope have been expanded.

Sanborn distributed handouts. He explained the hierarchy of DOT. Under the Federal Surface Transportation Act, ISTEA, and TEA-21 DOT has to have a Long Range Statewide Transportation Plan. The plan has to be 20 years in length, goals and objectives do not have to be part of the specifics at the state level. NH DOT's first plan was in 1995, staff has decided it's time to update, which will take about 15 to 18 months to complete.

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Sanborn stated components of the state's plan are: state rail plan; bicycle and pedestrian plan; intermodal transportation plan; intelligent transportation systems strategic plan; and state highway plan. All of the above work needs to be coordinated with the State Development Plan, Office of State Planning, Regional Transportation work, and with adjacent states.

Sanborn continued that DOT has been told it's nice that big projects get funded, but what about the small projects. The Long Range Transportation process is a great place to get it started. He further explained the process.

Sanborn reviewed how the Ten-Year Plan process works and what changes DOT are looking at making. He stated DOT is willing to work with RPC and community staff on how to best approach a project application.

There are no DOT transportation projects they are all statewide transportation projects, which is a new way of looking at projects that need to be completed within the state.

Sanborn asked members for their ideas of how DOT can work better. He explained how the total amount of funding is divided into each of its sub-sections. Discussion ensued between committee members and DOT staff.

Walker asked if towns could just give a general description of the kind of project they are looking for and then DOT will help them develop an application? **Sanborn** stated that is a good and then they will meet and help develop the project.

Faulconer asked how a concept for a project is going to work, when applications need to be complete. **Sanborn** stated towns can identify the problem they want to fix and where it is located. DOT will then have a meeting with the town to discuss specifics. **Walker** stated there has to be certain changes to the plan in order to accommodate the idea of submitting concepts.

Brillhart stated the state plans on completing more corridor studies and they work well to help identify needed projects.

Walker clarified the process for projects: the MPO will make a generalized list of projects solicited and then DOT will help develop the project ideas and cost estimates. **Sanborn** stated it would be ideal if staff would look at their list and make the first cut of projects before DOT is invited.

Walker stated project solicitations from communities are due at the RPC by March 1st, they are due at DOT by May 1st. The town needs to give a description of the problem, the location and potential solutions.

He continued that he wants towns to look at projects they already have in the plan and determine if those projects are still as important. If current projects are still important the Board of Selectmen need to send a letter to the RPC stating that the project is still a top priority.

Walker stated the long range plan helps to establish priorities. **Ohler** stated DOT in the past has not been adding in the cost of landscaping after a project is finished. **Faulconer** stated DOT should give municipalities the option of completing the landscaping in the state right-of-way themselves.

5. Long Range Transportation Plan

Walker stated this item will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

6. Project Updates

Members were given a handout with updates.

7. Next Meeting

A notice will be sent informing members that discussion will take place on the long range plan and the date.

8. Adjourn

Motion adjourned at 11:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne M. Rines
Recording Secretary

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