



Lakes Region Transportation Coalition

Meeting Minutes 6 March 2008

Casco Town Office

Coalition Members: Michael Corrigan, Bridgton News; Derik Goodine, Naples; Bert Kendall, Denmark; Donald McLean, Donald McLean II, Scott McLean, Dave Morton, Town of Casco; Lisa Villa, Harrison

Guests & Staff: Neal Allen, GPCOG; Matti Gurney, GPCOG; Jonathan LaBonte, MTA; Chris Mann, MaineDOT; Aaron Shapiro, Cumberland County; David Willauer, GPCOG

Community Updates: The Town of Casco is still working on their budget and working on the details of a new town hall. The school district will be losing half of their state aid the town is grappling with how they will make up the shortfall. Michael Corrigan from the Bridgton News provided an update to the group on Sebago and Standish's cost sharing efforts in dispatch, buildings, and vehicles. Corrigan also informed the group that the town of Bridgton is working on a sewer extension. The town also instituted a moratorium on new projects in the upper village in an effort to extend the life of the current system. Lisa Villa from the Town of Harrison told the group that the town had recently completed their MaineDOT Transportation Project Request form. The town is sharing health offices with Bridgton and soon will begin work on a lake safety program. Bert Kendall told the group that the roads in Denmark are horrible. Kendall suggested approaching boat safety as a nighttime issue instead of a general horsepower issue. Kendall told the group that because of the frequent changes in the State Legislative budget it has been difficult to get clear picture of funding. Derik Goodine told the group that Naples recently passed two TIF districts – Route 302/114 Corridor and the downtown district. The town hopes that these districts will help in some of the upkeep and beautification of the downtown. The town is currently investigating the theft of salt and sand from the storage shed. Naples is also working with the Governor's office on the use of dredged materials on Long Lake beaches.

Aaron Shapiro (Cumberland County) provided the group an update on the next round of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) awards. Shapiro told the group that ~\$600,000 will be distributed this round, excluding the set aside community awards (Bridgton is a set aside community).

Neal Allen informed the group that GPCOG has been working with the Cumberland County on a regional assessing report. Allen let the group know that the Portland area towns (Metro Coalition) are working on a regional crime lab. Cumberland County Sheriff's department is also involved in the development of the crime lab and will have access to its resources, ultimately benefiting the towns served by the Sheriff's department.

Jonathan LaBonte provided the group an update on MTA's pursuit of high speed tolling. Currently, there are no high speed tolls in New England. LaBonte cited benefits such as air quality (decreased idling) and noise level reduction. MTA estimates that 80% of truck traffic currently use E-Z Pass which will make the high speed tolling transition quickly, however the installment of the tolls will likely be in 1 ½ years.

Chris Mann told the group that MaineDOT had finalized the Long Range Plan. Over the next year MaineDOT will be developing better estimates for the cost of the Naples Bridge along with a regional economic impact study.

The group further discussed the MaineDOT Transportation Project Request forms. Chris Mann described Regional Planning Commissions' new role in the solicitation process. Mann told the group that the involvement of the local RPC is not intended to create more bureaucratic layers but instead provides a regional perspective to the project list prior to submittal to MaineDOT. Matti Gurney told the group that GPCOG had received a small number of project request forms from the Lakes Region municipalities and would be submitting all requests to MaineDOT (with RPC comments) on April 4th. Gurney provided the group with a revised regional project list for review. The project list was developed prior to the current biennium by the lakes region municipalities and submitted to MaineDOT. Gurney asked the group to review the list and requested that representatives of the towns sign in support of the list. The group discussed the list and came to the conclusion that they would like to see all municipality submitted projects at the next meeting to discuss. Staff acknowledges the request and will provide the group with a comprehensive list at the next meeting.

David Willauer told the group that GPCOG will be working with Cumberland County on a County wide emergency assessment. Willauer also gave an update to the committee on the towns who have submitted letters of support for the Lakes Region Transit Service and the towns which he will be making presentations at in the near future.

Next Meeting: 11:30 – 1:00PM Thursday, April 3, 2008, Harrison Town Office