

The Municipal Network (TMN) – summary from 6/29/09 meeting

Attendees June 2009:

Regional Planning Commissions: Tom Kennedy, Peter Gregory, and Christine Walker

Enfield: Steve Schneider, John Kludge [absent: David Saladino]

Hanover: Julia Griffin, Brian Walsh, Kate Connolly, Judith Esmay, Bill Diedrich

Hartford: Hunter Rieseberg, Sabino Romano, John Jalowiec, Bruce Riddle

Lebanon: Nicole Cormen, Ken Morley [absent: Georgia Tuttle, Stephanie Jackson, Paul Calenrella]

Norwich: Pete Webster, Daniel Johnson, Tom Gray [absent: Sarah Nunan]

Discussion Leaders (Scribe): Bill Bittinger (Sarah Reeves), Mary Ann Cadwallader (Deb Jones), Frank Gould (Anne Morris & Barbara McIlroy), Deb Maes (Doug McIlroy)

Facilitator: Anne Peyton, CPF

Part 1: Additional Inter-Municipal Collaborative Efforts (additions to be added to the list of examples)

- Schools: Dresden, Mascoma, Lebanon, Rivendell etc
- Other bus lines - Connecticut River Transit, Stagecoach
- Trails network (Upper Valley Trails Alliance links municipal efforts)
- Lake Host Programs (Goose Pond, Mascoma) – to monitor invasive aquatics, educate boaters. Supported by Conservation Commissions etc.
- Upper Valley dispatch
- Mascoma Valley Health initiative
- Hazardous chemical agreement
- Upper Valley Household Hazardous Waste Collection Committee
- WARM: fuel assistance
- Coordination of farmer's markets (31 in area, to date)
- Connecticut River Joint Commissions (CRJC - VT/NH communities)

Part 2: Characteristics of Topics of Regional Significance (#'s of dots):

- Towns share the burden and benefit; the balance of impacts may be unequal (10)
- Economic interconnectedness (7)
- Shared infrastructure causes dialog (6)
- Not constrained by municipal boundaries/multi town effect/impact (6)
- Apolitical, requires operating on a different level, more cooperation (4)
- Development that has impact on traffic (3)
- Process for resolution of issue is not simple (frustrating) (2)
- Unique Resource – may benefit widely and cannot be found elsewhere (example: river) (2)
- Subtle long-term effects on 'local' identity (1)
- Destination not equally accessible for each of our diverse communities (1)
- A decision in one town can affect other towns (1)

Part 3: Transportation Issues (topics represent 'next level' thinking from 1/09 SWOT analysis, #'s indicate priorities among participants)

Transportation/intermodal hub (16)

Integrate funding for intermodal facility for Upper Valley / park & ride lots throughout the region / Advance Transit; Intermodal transportation hub for Upper Valley; Freight hub; as confluence of state highways, we are a transportation 'hub'; Improved rail would reduce trucks.

Forum to resolve issues of regional significance (10)

Mad River example – Warren - Waitsfield planning process, for small towns; if one town says ‘no’ to development project, it will happen in another town.

Public transportation (10)

Coordinate, support and enlarge and tie development to it; Towns have a history of support of mass transit – it has to continue

Universal fiber/connectivity to reduce commuter trips (7)

Map vehicular patterns of traffic (6)

Need analysis to plan mass transit

Transportation based development (6)

Include transportation as component in development

Housing /Jobs imbalance (4)

Other transportation issues (with no votes, no sense of agreement, keep in mind):

Route 4 – limitations of 2-lanes

More zip cars for region

Bike racks/bike trails

Need save lanes on roads and bridges

Sidewalks inadequate

Hub for information (communication services / US postal / internet hubs)

Part 4: Closing Discussion – moving forward

- Intermodal facility, DOT feasibility funding via NH Paul Hodes for UVLSRPC, along I-89
- Possibility of online list serve or discussion through Vital Communities - process for us to stay in communication
- Pay attention to ‘on the ground’ neighborhoods and impact
- Local decision can diminish regional ‘conversation’ and circumvent bigger impact

Next meeting: continue transportation as topic

- Multimodal Facility
- Regional Forum (how to set up, who to involve, funding; some towns already talking?)
- Parallel process – decision making
- Listen to those who have been working on this – transportation planners
- Barbara McIlroy – noted LWV saw potential for large public forum on transportation issues affecting both states.
- Nicole: take messages from this meeting back to our municipal board/commissions - a ‘take home’ assignment.

Recommendation to Vital Communities/LWV:

- Survey monkey, follow-up

End of notes

Summary notes by Barbara McIlroy and Anne Peyton

Page 2