



MINUTES
NASHUA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
June 21, 2006
(As Amended)

Members Present:

John Eresian, Chair, Hollis	Janet Langdell, Milford
Marilyn Peterman, Amherst	Mike Fimbel, Mont Vernon
Martin Michaelis, Amherst	Brian McCarthy, Nashua
Bradley Vear, Amherst (A)	Kathy Hersh, Nashua
Jay Hennessey, Amherst	Jean-Guy Bergeron, Pelham
Howard Dilworth, Jr., Hudson	Tom Collins, Pelham
Suellen Seabury Quinlan, Hudson	Joe Torre, Wilton
Ray Peebles, Litchfield	Steve DuBois, NH DOT
Nelson Disco, Merrimack	Becky Ohler, NH DES
Richard Roulx, Merrimack	

Staff Present:

Steve Williams, Executive Director	Camille Pattison, Sr. Transportation Planner
Kerrie Diers, Assistant Director	Ryan Friedman, GIS Planner
Steve Schaffer, GIS Manager	Shirley Vance, Executive Assistant

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

Privilege of the Floor

There were no members of the public in attendance who wished to speak. At the request of Jean-Guy Bergeron from Pelham, a moment of silence was held in memory of a soldier from Pelham who lost his life in Iraq.

Approval of Minutes -March 15, 2006

It was requested by Jay Hennessey that the results of the roll call vote taken on March 15, 2006 regarding the adoption of the amended Bylaws be included in the minutes. He then moved, seconded by Linda Saari:

THAT the vote approving the minutes of March 15, 2006 be tabled.

The motion carried unanimously.

Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Architecture for the Nashua Region

Steve Williams and Ryan Friedman presented a PowerPoint slide show describing the ITS Architecture for the Nashua Region. Williams explained that the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) apply technology and communication to improve the safety and efficiency of the transportation network of a region. Common examples of ITS applications include the EZ Pass tollbooth system, electronic message boards along the road, and vehicle location tracking. Through the guidance of a committee made up of local officials from around this region, NRPC has produced this Regional ITS Architecture by identifying areas where ITS can help to solve traffic, safety, and information problems in our communities. The following transportation-related issues have been identified for the Nashua Region: traffic congestion; incident response; traveler information; and transit system management and security.

Once transportation issues have been identified, we are able to recommend solutions through a variety of ITS Market Packages. Market packages, which are collections of physical equipment and data, are then identified. They then can be potentially selected as projects which can enter the transportation planning process for future deployment in our communities. Examples of market packages include:



Transit Vehicle Tracking – The ability for a transit agency to pinpoint the location of the buses and vans in their fleet at any given time in order to improve the efficiency of route assignment and provide real-time arrival and departure information to the public.

Surface Street Control – The centralized operation of traffic signals, surveillance equipment, and communications regarding the street network. Such things as signal timing and incident response times can be streamlined and improved as a result of using this package.

The ITS Architecture for the Nashua Region conforms to Federal guidelines in order to ensure that any projects that are implemented are consistent with other systems from this region and others. The guidelines call for very specific technical requirements for every piece of equipment to meet this goal.

In addition to these requirements, the Architecture identifies the people and agencies that need to be involved in each market package, the exact information to be shared by these entities, and the agreements that have to be in place amongst them. NRPC will be updating this document every two years to coincide with NH's statewide transportation planning process in order to include any new project that is identified as ITS-related and capable of improving the transportation system.

The purpose of tonight's presentation is to receive public input, to receive recommendations from the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) and to consider adoption of the ITS Architecture for the Nashua Region. Discussion followed.

Helen Fenske brought up the Route 130 and Route 13 studies. She stressed that health and safety issues in Brookline are not being addressed. Steve talked about the process for including transportation projects into the 10 year plan. No projects were accepted in 2005 and none will be in 2007. If a project is already in the plan, the ITS needs to be adopted for it to go forward.

Jay Hennessey noted that in the presentation there were several packages which included video surveillance of public roadways. He then asked Steve Williams whether a person concerned about government surveillance might be concerned with the proposal. A discussion ensued.

Suellen Seabury Quinlan pointed out that police prosecutions where surveillance footage was available of the perpetrator were frequently lost due to incompatibility of equipment.

Jay Hennessey asked Steve Williams if passage of this document could potentially enable greater government surveillance of civilians, to which he responded that it could.

After further discussion, it was moved by Suellen Seabury Quinlan, seconded by Bradley Vear to open the public participation session. Art Fenske added that anything that helps transportation is good to go. It was then moved by Suellen Seabury Quinlan, seconded by Richard Roulx:

THAT the Draft Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)
Architecture for the Nashua Region be adopted.

The motion **carried** with Howard Dilworth, Jr. and Jay Hennessey opposed.

Steve Williams noted that Ryan had done a great job with the ITS document and stated that we are the only RPC in the state that has produced this report in-house.

FY 07 Budget



Steve Williams discussed the proposed budget for FY 2007. There is an overall increase of 4.4%. The NRPC still has the lowest per capita dues rate in the state. He talked about a new DOT program for the coming year which will integrate transportation and land use planning. This \$150,000 project will be matched by NH OEP funds. After further discussion, it was moved by Bradley Vear, seconded by Jean-Guy Bergeron:

THAT the FY 2007 budget as proposed be adopted.

The motion **carried** with Howard Dilworth, Jr. opposed.

FY 2008 Dues

Steve Williams mentioned again that NRPC has the lowest per capita dues assessment in the state. Local dues comprise 8% of the total budget. A \$5,000 increase is proposed for the coming year (about 3½ %), as recommended by the Executive Committee. Nelson Disco moved, seconded by Tom Collins:

THAT the local dues for FY 2008 be set at \$150,000.

The motion **carried** with Howard Dilworth, Jr. opposed.

Annual Grant and Contract Authorization

It was moved by Mike Fimbel, seconded by Suellen Seabury Quinlan:

THAT the Executive Director be authorized to file applications with federal, state, and local governmental units and agencies to implement the FY 2007 work program of the Commission, and to execute agreements to receive funds for such purposes.

The motion **carried** unanimously.

Commissioner Appointments

The Nominating Committee consisting of Marilyn Peterman, Mike Fimbel and Ray Peoples proposed the following slate of officers for FY 2007:

Kathy Hersh, Chair
Noreen O'Connell, Vice-chair
Nelson Disco, Treasurer

It was moved by Richard Roulx, seconded by Tom Collins:

THAT the slate of officers as presented by the Nominating Committee be approved.

The motion **carried** unanimously.

The Chairman recommended Bradley Vear, Ted Luszey and Bill Parker to serve again on the Audit Committee. It was moved by Mike Fimbel, seconded by Joe Torre:

THAT the Audit Committee as appointed by the Chairman be approved.

The motion **carried** unanimously.



Chairman's Report

John Eresian's term of office expires on June 30. He thanked the following: the Commissioners, especially the current and former Treasurers who come to the office every week to sign checks, etc.; the Nominating Committee; the By-Laws Committee consisting of Kathy Hersh, Martin Michaelis and Suellen Seabury Quinlan for their work on revising the Commission's By-Laws; Kathy Hersh, Vice-Chair, for filling in as Chair when needed; the staff; and Executive Director Steve Williams

Commissioner's Roundtable

Kathy Hersh thanked John Eresian for all of his hard work and effort, and his leadership as Chairman during the past two years. He was presented with a plaque and Shaker's Box. A Commissioners' Roundtable was then held.

It was moved by Richard Roulx, seconded by Jay Hennessey:

THAT the meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM.

The motion **carried** unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Williams, Official Recorder.