



APPROVED MINUTES
NASHUA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
October 15, 2008

Members Present:

Martin Michaelis, Amherst	Tim Tenhave, Merrimack
Bradley Vear, Amherst	Donald Wunderlich, Merrimack
Tad Putney, Brookline	Janet Langdell, Milford
Peter Baker, Hollis	Noreen O'Connell, Milford
Brion Carroll, Hudson	Mike Fimbel, Mont Vernon
Howard Dilworth, Jr., Hudson	David R. Hall, Mont Vernon
Bernie Manor, Hudson (A)	Richard Quintal, Mont Vernon (A)
Leon Barry, Litchfield	Kathy Hersh, Nashua
Dotsie Millbrandt	Mark Plamondon, Nashua
Charles Moser	Brian McCarthy, Nashua (A)
Nelson Disco, Merrimack	Fred Teeboom, Nashua (A)
James Elliott, Merrimack	Tom Collins, Pelham
Karin Elmer, Merrimack (A)	Joe Torre, Wilton
Leigh Levine, FHWA	

Staff Present:

Steve Williams, Executive Director	Tim Roache, Principal Transportation Planner
Kerrie Diers, Assistant Director	Karen M. Baker, Administrative Assistant
Camille Pattison, Integrated Planning Program Manager	Steve Schaffer, GIS Manager

Noreen O'Connell, Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and requested that folks raise their cards when speaking for recognition purposes.

Privilege of the Floor

Members of the public in attendance did not wish to speak.

Introduction of New Members

Chairman O'Connell introduced new members Charlie Moser and Dorothy (Dotsie) Millbrandt from the Town of Mason and Richard Quintal and David Hall from the Town of Mont Vernon. Chairman O'Connell also informed the group that Nelson Disco would be retiring and that some recommendations should come from nominating committee to replace Nelson.

Update of Regional Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Air Quality Conformity Analysis

Steve Williams reminded the group that NRPC was in the final phase of a two year development cycle for the LRTP, TIP, and the Air Quality Conformity Analysis and the major responsibility it is for NRPC as a region. Williams introduced Tim Roache who did a short presentation describing all three documents and reviewed the comments and response to comments (see "Drafts TIP, LRTP, & Air Quality" memo and "Summary of Comments" document included in the agenda packet for detailed information) received during the 30 public comment period which ended on September 16th. In addition, Chairman O'Connell passed around comments from Commission member Brion Carroll. A public hearing followed the presentation at which time a conforming TIP, LRTP, and Air Quality Conformity Analysis were required for adoption in order to ensure uninterrupted access to Federal transportation funds for the region as well as the implementation of projects listed in the TIP.

Roache also passed around a memo in response to a late comment from FHWA and NHDOT regarding the proposed connection between NH 3A at the Sagamore Bridge and NH 111 in Hudson. He explained that that this project would now be labeled as an "illustrative" project by NRPC because it is envisioned

to be funded with private and local funding sources (see “*Response to Additional State and Federal Comments*” memo included in the agenda packet for a more detailed explanation) which under Federal Regulations can’t be included in the Ten Year Plan. The Air Quality Analysis has been adjusted accordingly.

Carroll asked NRPC to establish per project ratings to study the project in the same light as the Circumferential Highway was in order to give the project credibility. Roache responded Camille Pattison was involved in a planning study for the NH 3A/ 111 to determine the traffic benefits provided for the region by constructing this roadway.

Fred Teeboom said this was a 2 lane road and how would this have an effect. Roache referred to the northern crossing of the Merrimack River to Rte 3A, Rte 3 and the Turnpike connections that are slotted in the outer years of 2020-2024.

Roache explained how he come up with his formula for fiscal constraint and his reliance on NH DOT’s fiscal constraint as being correct when coming up with his formula.

James Elliott asked if there were efforts to use real air data with the NRPC model. Roache said that the model is calibrated to traffic counts and socio-economic data. Williams added that we are in non-attainment and that NH DES has several stations in the region that measure the air quality and that it is improving but we have days where it is exceeded. He added that EPA chose this process and that NRPC is involved in every step of the process as well as FHWA & DOT.

Roache asked for a recommendation. Mike Fimbel asked if this was what was being presented to the Commission to approve and could it be approved with tweaks. Roache said tweaks will force the Air Quality to be run again. Williams added that if one change is made to a document, then this changes all of the documents. Models would have to be run to show that air quality is not affected.

Carroll asked that next time modifications are made to the documents to make it a point of record that his comments were submitted.

Teeboom asked if both good and bad comments were published. Roache responded “yes” and it is already reflected in the appendices of the documents.

AT 8:20PM CHAIRMAN O’CONNELL OPENED THE PUBLIC HEARING

Dan Richardson of 70 Berkley Street, Nashua asked of all editorial specific comments were going to be adopted and the incorporated into the documents. Chairman O’Connell passed the question to Roache who responded as follows:

North Bridge – have been incorporated.

Rail – Not putting into document due to ongoing study on station sites.

Environmental Justice – was not touched for update, when full update done, will reflect. In addition, an Environmental Analysis would need to be done first and once complete, it will reflect in our document.

Richardson read from a highway code of federal regulations manual and questioned several sections pertaining to hearings, funding, agencies, financials, requirements, etc. Williams addressed all questions and pointed out specific areas in all three documents to look for answers to his questions. He also informed Richardson that there are different regulations for the TIP and the LRTP.

Nick Alexander also pointed out to Richardson that many of the funding sources you see are specific to DOT or the municipality in response to his funding questions.

Richardson read several more excerpts from the federal regulation codes asking several questions. Carroll asked where Richardson was reading from and what he was talking about and felt himself as well as the other members of the Commission should have copies of the documentation he was reading from

in front of them to have a better understanding of just where he was coming from and what he was talking about.

Burt Jans or Nashua commented on the quality of the pollution analysis done for Nashua and questioned if the model changes if over the time period the number of vehicles on the road changes. Roache addressed this questions referring to the EPA Emission Model 6 that is used in our model. Jans asked if it included fuel efficiency and better cars and when working with assumptions, will NRPC revisit and adjust the models accordingly. Williams informed Jans that they were not assumptions, but requirements adding that tailpipe emission standards were being used to estimate for the future.

Alexander added that conformity at minimum is revisited every 2 years and that VMT does increase, but because of fleet changes.

Peter Baker of Hollis asked to submit a document on behalf of a constituent of his and referred to the Airport section in the LRTP. Specifically, the concern was with the Nashua Airport expansion and the environmental impact it would have. He asked that the next time the plan is modified that this be evaluated and incorporated into the plan. Williams responded that NRPC does not have much of a role in air related travel even though it is technically transportation. He added that it is a separate issue and funded through a separate agency.

Tim Tenhave of Merrimack referred to the Nashua Transit expansion project with Merrimack and asked how or who should Merrimack enlist to make it happen. Roache explained that it was a coordination of human service agencies in the region. Kathy Hersh said Nashua would love to expand to anyone who is interested and that it is just a matter of money and that Mark Sousa would be the person to contact at Nashua Transit. She added that 80/20 is capital and 50/50 was operating expense. Nelson Disco said that the governing council had been approached in the past but turned it down.

Charlie Moser asked if Mason's lack of inclusion in the LRTP, TIP, and Air Quality process have a negative impact on Mason financially. Williams said there was no proposed projects by DOT and that they should not be impacted. In addition, NRPC would be working with Southwest RPC to get more information on projects for Mason

THE PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED AT 8:50PM

Teeboom had two comments: Firstly, he felt the projected inflation rate of 4% used in coming up with project costs in the out years was unrealistic and arbitrarily low and should be adjusted and secondly, inflation will continue to go up and the long terms plans should be re-evaluated continually to reflect this. Williams reiterated that there were two different plans; the TIP is based on actual cost and the 4% is a recommended for inflation from the FHWA. Leigh Levine elaborated a little more referring to history on the 4% inflation recommendation and added that FHWA would encourage MPO's to look into more accurate inflation numbers.

Roache asked the group for consideration to adopt the TIP, LRTP, and Air Quality Conformity Analysis. O'Connell asked Merrimack's alternate not vote on the above since all 5 members were present. After further discussion it was moved by Mike Fimbel and seconded by Donald Wunderlich:

THAT the Nashua Regional Planning Commission, acting as the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Nashua area adopts the Air Quality Conformity Analysis and finds that the 2009-2035 Long Range Transportation Plan and the 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program conform to the requirements of the federal Clean Air Act as amended.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mike Fimbel commented that there was lots of interagency work done and it was important that these documents be approved.

It was moved by Leon Barry and seconded by Joe Torre:

THAT Nashua Regional Planning Commission acting as the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Nashua area adopts the 2009-2035 Long Range Transportation Plan.

The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Tim Tenhave and seconded by Donald Wunderlich:

THAT Nashua Regional Planning Commission, acting as the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Nashua area adopts the 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program.

The motion carried unanimously.

Carroll suggested that any input regarding the LRTP, TIP, or Air Quality from here on in be in put in writing. Chairman O'Connell agreed that this would be a good idea.

Approval of Minutes - June 18, 2008

Chairman O'Connell asked if there were any comments on the minutes of June 18, 2008. Disco asked for a correction on Page 6 in reference to **Setting of the FY2010 Dues** motion, it should read ... "FY 2010 Local Dues Assessment be approved....". Tenhave asked for a correction on Page 2 in reference to the **NRPC Office Facility** paragraph. 2nd paragraph should read ... "current building not heated, **not** cooled, and tobacco....." There were no more comments and it was moved by Kathy Hersh and seconded by Nelson Disco:

THAT the minutes of June 18, 2008 be approved with amendments.

The motion carried unanimously.

The Commissioners agreed that having the projects reports would be sufficient enough and that they did not need to have staff review them. Kerrie Diers did ask that the Commissioners take a few minutes to fill out the Regional Plan survey. Camille Pattison informed the group of the new Regional Energy Roundtable similar to the GIS Technical User Group formed by Steve Schaffer which would be holding their kickoff meeting being held on November 18th at the NRPC office. As a last note, Williams informed the group of 2 energy grants, 1 of which was from EPA went into a little more detail.

Commissioners' Roundtable

A commissioner's roundtable was held.

It was moved by O'Connell and seconded by Dilworth

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 10:00 pm.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen Williams, Official Recorder