

 **NRPC MINUTES - APPROVED**  
**NASHUA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**March 17, 2010**

**Members Present:**

Martin Michaelis, Amherst	Charles Moser, Mason
Brad Vear, Amherst	Karin Elmer, Merrimack
Peter Baker, Hollis	Janet Langdell, Milford
Howard Dilworth, Jr., Hudson	Andy Seale, Milford
Suellen Quinlan, Hudson	Mike Fimbel, Mont Vernon
Stuart Schneiderman, Hudson	Mike Tabacsko, Nashua
Bernie Manor, Hudson	Ed Gleason, Pelham

**Others Present:**

Brian McCarthy, Nashua Alderman	Nancy Mayville, NH DOT
Diane Sheehan, Nashua Alderman	

**Staff Present:**

Kerrie Diers, Executive Director	Steve Schaffer, GIS Manager
Tim Roache, Assistant Director	Camille Pattison, Principal Planner
Ryan Friedman, GIS Planner	Shirley Vance, Executive Assistant

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

**Privilege of the Floor**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**Introduction of New Members**

Fimbel noted several staff members in attendance and Diers introduced Steve Schaffer, Camille Pattison, Ryan Friedman and Shirley Vance. Diers felt it was important for Commissioners to meet staff members and to be aware of their expertise.

**Public Hearing – 2009-2012 TIP Amendment #4**

The Chair opened the public hearing on Amendment #4 to the 2009-2012 TIP. Roache noted that the TIP needs to be amended to account for changes to projects within our region and to maintain consistency with the Statewide TIP (STIP). This bill would provide \$65,000,000 in increased funding for Maintenance and Operations projects such as Bridge Rehabilitation, Painting, Preservation & Improvement Projects and Pavement Resurfacing, Rehabilitation & Crackseal Program and Related Work. To be eligible for funding these projects must be programmed into the TIP. Additionally, many of the projects in the proposed Amendment #4 were advanced in anticipation of the passing of the Federal Jobs Bill. NH DOT has taken a proactive approach to avoid unnecessary delay in accessing these funds should they become available. The projects included would be ready to go (shovel-ready) once funding is approved. If that Bill does not pass, it is expected that many of the projects in this Amendment would revert back to their previous schedule and funding.

Statewide projects cover a number of smaller projects that are not listed as individual projects in the TIP. The increases in Amendment #4 reflect the extensive need for additional preservation of the existing highway and bridge system in NH which should be met should additional funding be received through the Jobs Bill. Individual projects within the larger programs will be chosen based primarily on readiness and need.

The Air Quality Analysis still holds because there were no changes in our region. Other regions had some changes and therefore made changes to their Air Quality Analysis. Fiscal constraint was maintained.

NRPC withdrew the proposed changes to Nashua 10136A submitted in Amendment #4 to the adopted Nashua Metropolitan Area 2009 – 2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The reasons for the withdrawal are two fold: 1) the changes initially submitted by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation were factually incorrect, and 2) additional information is required showing that the unfunded balance of the project (approximately \$5 million) can reasonably be assumed to be available for the project.

The Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) met last week and recommended approval of the proposed amendment.

Commissioners questioned Nancy Mayville about individual projects in our area. Mayville noted that the State will provide detailed information when it becomes available. Nothing is specifically identified at this point. Quinlan asked Mayville if DOT participated in this process and if they were they in favor of the proposed amendment. Mayville said yes.

Following further discussion, the Chair closed the public hearing at 7:25 PM. It was moved by Quinlan, seconded by Gleason:

THAT the Nashua Regional Planning Commission approve Amendment #4 to the adopted Nashua Metropolitan Area 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) as proposed.

The motion carried unanimously.

### **Presentation - Regional Travel Demand Model**

Roache explained the Travel Demand Model which is a data-intensive two year program which cannot be used before it is completed. Friedman gave a PowerPoint presentation which described the process. The model itself is a travel demand forecasting and planning tool which can be used for the State transportation planning process, air quality analysis, local and regional projects and innovative planning ideas. Several mapping examples were depicted. The model components consist of traffic analysis zones (TAZs), the road network and input data. The model breakdown includes:

**TAZs:** 2,034 total zones; extremely detailed in most non-rural areas; homogenous land uses and road access; built from disaggregated census geography; and special zones for certain uses.

**Road Network:** 834 miles of public roads; nearly every thru-road in region; important driveways; and future connections.

The modeling process **inputs** consist of Census Data (households, vehicles available, working population (by industry), school-age population and employment sites (by industry). The Road Attributes include Length \* Speed = Time and capacity. The **outputs** include zone-to-zone trips, road segment volumes, congested travel times, and intersection turns.

Calibrating the model consists of establishing a base year condition; calibrated to daily traffic counts; numerous model runs; and aim for certain validation standards. These standards are R<sup>2</sup> (coefficient of determination), 88% regionwide recommended, the NRPC model is at 96.2%.

Examples of individual projects depicted were the Merrimack Townwide project and Emergency Planning in the region. The next model is scheduled to run after the ongoing census has been completed. A question and answer session was held. The Chair thanked Ryan for his presentation.

### **Approval of Minutes – December 16, 2009**

The Chair asked if there were any comments on the minutes of December 16, 2009. It was moved by Gleason, seconded by Seale:

THAT the minutes of December 16, 2009 be approved.

The motion carried with 2 abstentions.

Michaelis requested that Commissioners have access to the minutes before they are received in the next package which is three months away. Diers noted that the draft minutes are posted on the website within 6 days. A link will be emailed to Commissioners when they are posted.

### **Committee and Other Reports**

Diers discussed the report which had been included in the agenda package. It describes activities of the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee, the NH Rail Transit Authority, the Statewide Coordinating Council/Region 7 Coordinating Council, the Region 7 Regional Coordinating Council (RCC&) and the NH Association of Regional Planning Commissions. This is the format that will be followed in the future.

Seale asked about the NH Rail Transit Authority. Will they be re-applying for funds in the newest round? Diers said that an application will be submitted for planning dollars for the Nashua-Concord run. The original application was not approved but they were encouraged to re-submit in April.

A question on the model was asked by Vear regarding the modeling interaction with Google maps. Is this public information? Everything except employment data is public information.

Langdell asked about the CMAQ projects. How many of them are in our region? Diers noted that some communities have sent letters of interest, but there is no determination as of yet.

### **Subcommittee Reports**

Diers discussed the publication included in the agenda packet called *Program Highlights, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2010*. This publication may be used as stand-alone document which can be brought back to your communities to inform them of what's happening at NRPC. It will be published quarterly and is a summary of NRPC Transportation, Land Use Programs, Mapping & GIS Programs and Environmental Programs. The last page is a listing of staff contact information. There is also a survey form that may be completed about the work taking place in your community and how NRPC may be able to help. This document is available on our website.

[http://www.nashuarpc.org/aboutnrpc/commissionreports/2010/3.17.10/2010\\_1stQProgHighlights.pdf](http://www.nashuarpc.org/aboutnrpc/commissionreports/2010/3.17.10/2010_1stQProgHighlights.pdf)

A question was asked about the 10 Year Transportation Plan cycle. We are at the end of a two year cycle and will be starting again at the end of summer. Diers said that a fact sheet called the *Transportation Planning Process Overview* had been created as part of the iTRaC program and is available on our website.

[http://www.nashuarpc.org/landuse/PDF\\_files/fact\\_sheets/FS24\\_transportation\\_planning.pdf](http://www.nashuarpc.org/landuse/PDF_files/fact_sheets/FS24_transportation_planning.pdf). This fact sheet describes how the process works. Mayville said that NH DOT also has something similar on their website.

### **Subcommittee Reports**

**Regional Policy Committee:** Peter Baker distributed two handouts. The first was a memo to NRPC Commissioners regarding the creation of a subcommittee to develop a series of policy statements about NRPC which would be brought to the full board for approval in September. He is looking for two volunteers to assist him throughout the summer with this process. The second handout was prepared by Jill Longval and describes the US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development Sustainable Communities Planning Grant which promotes regional planning that integrates housing, transportation, land use and environmental quality, and economic development. Andy Seale from Milford volunteered for the subcommittee and Quinlan nominated Kathy Hersh to be the other volunteer.

**Historical Documentation Project:** Dilworth stated that after seeing pictures at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, he realized that there is an enormous amount of historical data available about the NRPC. There are boxes of slides and pictures that could be cataloged and organized electronically to preserve NRPC's history. There is no deadline for completing this project; it would be on-going. There are several long-time Commissioners with anecdotal knowledge who could provide valuable input to this process. The subcommittee would begin mid to late January. A request for equipment may be included in the FY 2011 budget.

### **Other Business**

Fimbel noted that biking and walking routes can now be found on Google maps.

**Commissioners' Roundtable**

A commissioner's roundtable was held. It was moved by Michaelis and seconded by Quinlan:

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 9:20 pm.

The motion **carried** unanimously.

Diers noted that the next NRPC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 16, 2010 at 7:00 PM and not April 21<sup>st</sup> as indicated on the agenda.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kerrie Diers, Official Recorder