



MINUTES-Draft

NRPC TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING February 19, 2003

Members Present: Steve Williams, NRPC
Art Leblanc, Town of Hollis
Bill Parker, Town of Milford
John Whittaker, Nashua Transit
Paul Newman, Nashua Urban Programs
Todd Landry, City of Nashua, Engineering
Mike Yeomans, City of Nashua, Planning
Subramanian Sharma, NH DOT
Becky Ohler, NH DES
Mark Archambault, NRPC Senior Planner
Steve Wagner, NRPC Regional Planner

Others Present: Ray Guarino, NRPC Transportation Planner
Betsy Hahn, NRPC Regional Planner
Matt Waitkins, NRPC Transportation Planner
Ryan Friedman, NRPC Transportation Planner
Camille Pattison, NRPC Transit Planner
Mark Archambault, NRPC Senior Planner
Steve Wagner, NRPC Regional Planner
John Vogl, NRPC GIS Manager
Steve Heuchert, NRPC Senior Planner

Call to Order and Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Steve Williams at 3:04 PM. Williams asked the Committee if there were any corrections to the minutes from the 1/15/03 meeting. Steve Heuchert was inadvertently omitted from attending the meeting. John Whittaker moved to accept the minutes as amended and Paul Newman seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Draft FY2005 to FY2014 Ten Year Transportation Plan

Williams referred the Committee to the new project table created by NRPC staff in the meeting packet. Projects that show up in the 2003-2012 Plan and do not appear in the 2005-2014 Plan are projects that will be completed prior to 2005. Projects that appear in 2005-2012 include new projects added by NHDOT, rescheduled completion dates for projects or projects started in 2003-2012 that will be completed in the working draft timeframe. A typo should be noted for Hudson's NH 102 sidewalk and bike lane construction. The start date in the working draft should read 2005. Williams went through each community. The transit bus garage was not listed as one of the City of Nashua's projects. NHDOT will be contacted concerning this omission.

The legal size worksheet is the Working Draft 2005 to 2014 Ten Year Plan proposed funding by RPC and fund type as of February 4, 2003. In our region, 80% of the total proposed funding is for the Circumferential Highway project using turnpike funds. This region has a low statewide investment of federal funds for a region with a high population rate. As an example The North Country Council has a smaller percentage of the state's population than does the Nashua region, but of available federal transportation funds 16.4% will be invested in that region.

Williams stated that these issues would be brought to the attention of the Executive Committee and Commission in the near future. A Regional Roundtable will address this issue in the spring.



TIP/STIP Amendment #2

The TIP is the budget for the next 3 years of expenditures of federal dollars. Each amendment must go through a public process. In our region we only have administrative changes. There are three types of projects: turnpikes, change in completion dates, and statewide interstate maintenance, which does not effect this region. Nashua has a change in project limits for a project Broad Street but this does not alter funding requests. The public process will be completed by the end of March. If NRPC does not receive any comments or significant changes, a letter will be sent to NHDOT stating the process has been observed and the Amendment will be approved.

Draft UPWP

The draft Unified Planning Work Program for FY2004 and FY2005 will be presented at the March meeting and the Committee is requested to provide input. In the past the UPWP has been very project oriented and this document has changed somewhat to include multi-jurisdictional corridors. Williams asked members of the TTAC if there were any specific studies the TTAC desired NRPC to add into the UPWP. None were identified.

UrbanSim Development

John Vogl, GIS Manager, gave a comprehensive overview of the necessary datalayers and their readiness and accessibility for use in a GIS to support UrbanSim. UrbanSim requires data on three levels: the region, traffic analysis zones (TAZ) and grid cells. Regional data includes land development, zoning and growth boundaries. A geographic level of TAZ will be developed so the travel demand model works in the UrbanSim model. Data on household demographics and land use considerations will be required at a level of a 150 by 150 meter grid cell in our region. This equates to approximately 36,400 cells. A complete description of the model was included in the meeting packet. It was Vogls analysis that most of the required GIS data was currently available that would be needed to develop UrbanSim. The exceptions were in the towns of Mont Vernon, Lyndeborough and Wilton. In those communities several data items are not available and will need to be researched from hardcopy records at the Town Halls. Although this is time consuming, it is not too bad since all three are small communities. Vogl estimated that total data development time could be between four and six months.

Regional Bike/Ped Plan Update

Matt Waitkins presented a PowerPoint presentation on the update of the Regional Bike/Ped Plan and the methodology used to designate routes for various levels of riders and walkers. The presentation identified the federal mandates for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan. It also described the over all process that NRPC is following to develop the plan and the outline of the final plan. The Plan strives to have a quantitative methodology for establishing suitability of existing facilities. Waitkins demonstrated how an analysis is being conducted of the origin and destination points for bicycle and pedestrian trips, and the suitability of existing road and sidewalk facilities for use by bicyclists and pedestrians. The analysis was demonstrated using Milford as an example. Waitkins showed how the method can be used to determine the key locations for improvements or addition of bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The final document will be presented to all communities for public comment. One recommendation NRPC has is that this document be an ongoing process and have regular updates.

Next Meeting, March 19, 2003 at 3:00 PM.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:05 PM.

