



MINUTES

NRPC TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

2/18/04

Members Present: Steve Williams, NRPC
Dave Szczublewski, DOT Planning
Lou Barker, NH DOT
Roger Houston, City of Nashua Community Development
John Cashell, Town of Hudson
Becky Ohler, NH DES
Bill Parker, Town of Milford
Mark Archambault, NRPC Circuit Rider for Hollis/Brookline
Steve Wagner, NRPC Circuit Rider for Wilton/Litchfield
Will D'Andrea, Town of Pelham

Others Present: Betsy Hahn, NRPC Regional Planner
Camille Pattison, NRPC Transit Planner
Ryan Friedman, Transportation Planner GIS
Matt Waitkins, NRPC Transportation Planner

Meeting opened and review of Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Camille Pattison at 3:05 PM. Pattison asked the Committee if there were any corrections to the minutes from the 12/17/03 meeting. Roger Houston moved to accept the minutes and Steve Williams seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Commuter Rail

Williams and Pattison attended the Supreme Court hearing and found the process enlightening. The State presented the argument that historically (1938) the State of New Hampshire viewed the term "highways and roads" as applying to commuter rail. A decision will be issued in approximately six weeks. The commuter rail project will not necessarily be terminated if state highway funds are denied. Local funds will have to be raised by other methods.

10 Year Transportation Plan

Williams stated that Governor Benson submitted a substantially different and reduced 2005 to 2014 Ten Year Plan (HB 2004) to the Legislature. The NRPC region would lose \$262,726,600 with the Governor's proposed plan. The Governor's reduction is accomplished by moving construction funding for a number of high priority regional projects into the "Future Considerations" category of the plan. This includes projects from the following towns: Hollis (2), Hudson (1), Litchfield (3), Merrimack (1), Nashua (1) and 3 from the region. The House Public Works Committee (PWC) held three public hearings on the plan. There was a good showing from the MPOs during the hearings. The PWC voted 13-3 to forward the Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) to the House unchanged.

Tri-State Safety Conference

Lou Barker stated that Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont have been continuously expanding their conference agenda over the years to appeal to a broader audience. He gave a summary of workshops that have been organized to date for the 4th Annual Tri-State Conference. The conference will be held on April 21-22 in Concord. The registration packets should be mailed mid to late March. National Bicycle Week is May 17-21 and people are encouraged to participate in the 2nd Annual Walk or Bike to Work Day on May 21st.



Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Policy Framework

Matt Waitkins presented a Power Point presentation to the Committee on the physical improvement component of the policy plan. The physical component section included the following:

- Bicycle and Pedestrian Friendly Region
- Designated Bike Routes
- Land Use Planning that encourages Biking and Walking

Physical traffic improvements that benefit the bicycle and pedestrian network include the engineering of roadway geometrics, traffic speed control and signal timing. Improvements also include the design of bike lanes, shared use paths and connections between residential developments. Other landscaping elements such as shade trees and benches are aesthetically appealing and convenient. The goal is to develop a continuous network that is as safe and comfortable as possible. This will include shaping land use and development patterns through zoning and subdivision regulations. The intent of this plan is to provide guidance for the planning, development and implementation of safe, usable facilities for non-motorized transportation in the Nashua region.

Next Meeting, March 17 at 3 PM.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:05 PM.

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