



MINUTES

NRPC TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

7/20/05

Adopted September 21, 2005

Members Present:

Camille Pattison, NRPC Senior Transportation Planner
Steve Williams, NRPC Executive Director
Roger Houston, City of Nashua Planning Dept.
Bruce Berry, Town of Amherst
Wayne Husband, Kathie Conti and Steve Dookran, Nashua Eng. Dept.
Diane Hardy and Steve Laurin, Town of Merrimack
Dick Lemieux, Federal Highway Admin.
Steve Dubois, NH DOT

Others Present:

Ryan Friedman, NRPC Transportation Planner, GIS
Matt Waitkins, NRPC Transportation Planner
Betsy Hahn, NRPC Regional Planner
Bernie Yacobucci, NRPC Transportation Planner
Steve Wagner, NRPC Litchfield/Wilton Circuit Rider

Meeting Opened and Review of Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Camille Pattison at 12:06 PM. Members introduced themselves since there were several new members. Camille asked the Committee if there were any corrections to the minutes from the 5/18/05 meeting. Roger Houston moved to accept the minutes and Steve Dookran seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

State Transportation Improvement Plan

Steve Williams stated that the TTAC needed to vote on two administrative amendments today. Williams passed out the most recent Commuter Rail Fact Sheet and Task Status Report that describes in greater detail the proposed approach to the project. The Status Report is broken down into seven tracks. The first administrative adjustment involves entering into a contract with the City of Nashua to use FTA 5307 funds for commuter rail planning and project management. The City must execute a funding agreement with FTA. Prior to the execution of that funding agreement, the FTA must have evidence that the project has the support of NRPC as the metropolitan planning organization. Roger Houston made the motion to approve an amendment to the TIP and request an amendment to the STIP by NH DOT. Diane Hardy seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed. Roger made the motion to recommend to the NRPC Executive Committee that the UPWP be amended to include this project. Bruce Berry seconded, all were in favor and the motion passed.

The second administrative amendment is to accommodate the change in federal and local funding for ADA demand response service at an 80% federal and 20% local funding rather than the current 50-50% allocation. The second part of the amendment to the TIP is to remove JARC funding since funding was not received for FY 05-07. These changes do not affect levels of service, only funding allocations. Roger made the motion to make these administrative amendments to the TIP. Steve Dookran seconded, all were in favor and the motion passed.

Transportation Enhancement (TE) Application Process

Camille Pattison stated that the FY05-06 applications would be presented and ranked by the TTAC during the August meeting. Each member will rank all the applications numerically and vote on projects based on their merits. Applications would then be forwarded to NHDOT in September. Projects will be presented to the State Committee in the winter of 2006. The funding for projects selected by the State Committee would be available in 2008-2009.



Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Application Process

Camille Pattison urged the Committee to contact NRPC if they have a CMAQ project so the required air quality analysis can be completed prior to the August 1 deadline. The CMAQ applications will follow the same time-frame as the TE projects.

.NH 130 Corridor Study in Brookline

Matt Waitkins stated that the town requested a traffic study on NH 130 because of safety concerns throughout town, especially near the Richard Maghakian Memorial School and the park. The study area includes the NH 130 corridor from the Brookline-Hollis town line, westward through the downtown area and continuing to the intersection of NH 130 and NH 13. Meetinghouse Hill Road, Bond Street, Cross Street and South Main Streets were included in the study because they are popular cross-town connections to NH 130 and NH 13. NRPC staff conducted 24-hour volume counts at 14 locations specifically for this project. Eleven of the counts recorded total volume of traffic only. The other three were classification counts that register volume of traffic, vehicle type, vehicle speed and time of day. NRPC staff grouped vehicles into three types. Type 1 vehicles include motorcycles, cars, pickup trucks, vans and delivery trucks similar to those used by the United Parcel Service. Type 2 vehicles include busses, and vehicles similar to dump trucks and cement mixer trucks. Type 3 vehicles include trailer trucks and larger vehicles. Referring to maps, Waitkins summarized the traffic counts and discussed the possible alternative routes. The sight distance analysis, sidewalk inventory, future traffic forecast and recommendations were also presented. An informal public input meeting will be held in August.

Next meeting is scheduled for August 17th, 2005 at 12 noon.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:12 PM.