



MINUTES

NRPC TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

5/18/05

Approved July 20, 2005

Members Present:

Camille Pattison, NRPC Senior Transportation Planner
Steve Williams, NRPC Executive Director
Bob Jeniski, Nashua Transit System
Roger Houston and Paul Newman, City of Nashua Planning Dept.
Bruce Berry, Town of Amherst
Bill Parker, Town of Milford
Sean Sullivan, Town of Hudson
Art LeBlanc, Town of Hollis
Wayne Husband, Jon LeBrun and Steve Dookran, Nashua Engineering Dept.
Walter Warren and Ed Chase, Town of Merrimack
Becky Ohler, Dept of Environmental Services
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
Steve Wagner, NRPC Litchfield/Wilton Circuit Rider
Kerrie Diers, NRPC Assistant Director

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 4/20/05 meeting. Roger Houston moved to accept the minutes and Bob Jeniski seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Transportation Enhancement (TE) Application Process

Camille Pattison passed out copies of the NHDOT selection process, the application for funding and a summary of past projects in the NRPC region. There is 3.7 million dollars available for FY05-06. Eligible projects and dates were discussed. Applications are due to NRPC on August 1, 2005 and communities needing assistance are urged to contact NRPC by June 30th.

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Application Process

Camille Pattison passed out copies of the NHDOT selection process, the application for funding and a summary of past projects in the NRPC region. There is 8.5 million dollars available for FY05-06. The towns of Wilton, Mont Vernon and Lyndeborough are not eligible for funding because they are in attainment for air quality. Eligible projects and dates were discussed. An air quality analysis is required for every project and is developed by NRPC. The analysis is very time consuming so potential projects must be submitted by June 30th.

TE Scoring Criteria

Camille stated that once the TE applications were received, the TTAC would score all applications. The current scoring criteria works well for sidewalks and trails. However, during the last round in 2002, two applications were received in other categories (viewsheds and historic transportation structures). The TTAC agreed that these were good applications but ranked very low using NRPC's ranking. These applications were submitted to the State because they were likely to be funded due to being in other project categories and were inexpensive to implement. Typically NRPC would only submit the top three ranked application. Camille asked the Committee if we should change the existing system to adequately reflect the merits of applications in other categories. Roger Houston stated that the TTAC spent a great deal of time to establish the criteria. Camille asked Dick Lemieux how other RPCs in the State handled the ranking. Dick said that in his experience projects



will rise to the top of the list on their merits alone. Each person ranks all the applications numerically. Walter Warren made the motion to remove the current numerical ranking system and vote on projects based on their merits. Bill Parker seconded the motion. The motion passed with Roger Houston voting nay.

Webster Street Traffic Modeling

Ryan Friedman presented a PowerPoint presentation on a traffic modeling study completed for the town of Hudson. Commuter traffic on NH 102 and NH 3A is at capacity approaching the Taylor's Falls Bridge. The study involved the opening of Webster Street at the bridge. The model predicts all of the routes drivers will use. The model indicated that this would not help the flow of commuter traffic over the bridge into Nashua.

Air Quality Analysis 8-Hour Rule

Becky Ohler presented a PowerPoint presentation of the Air Quality Analysis 8-Hour Rule that will become effective June 15, 2005. All of the communities are in non-attainment with the exception of Mont Vernon, Lyndeborough and Wilton. These communities have low population, growth and emissions. New Hampshire believes that using Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Areas (CMSA) is a poor way to define 8-hour ozone attainment areas. New Hampshire worked with EPA Region 1 to propose a significantly expanded area of non-attainment. A major factor of consideration the State used was geographic emission density. The State believes this area is the maximum extent supported by science. Voluntarily, the State examined airflow trajectories.

Next meeting is scheduled for June 15th, 2005 at 12 noon.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:25 PM.

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