



MINUTES 11/29/05

**NRPC TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
APPROVED**

Members Present: Camille Pattison, NRPC Senior Transportation Planner
Steve Williams, NRPC Executive Director
Roger Houston, City of Nashua Planning Department
Steve Dookran and Amy Gill, City of Nashua Engineering Department
Steve Laurin, Town of Merrimack
Bill Parker, Town of Milford
Paul Newman, Nashua Transit System
Becky Ohler, NH Department of Environmental Services
Sean Sullivan and John Cashell, Town of Hudson
Jeff Gowan, Town of Pelham

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 12:04 PM. Camille asked the Committee if there were any corrections to the minutes from the 9/21/05 meeting. Roger Houston moved to accept the minutes and Bill Parker seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) and State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP)

Camille Pattison asked the TTAC to vote on an administrative adjustment concerning increased funding allocated in FY2006 for the purchase and associated improvements of a new bus garage facility. The increase in funds will be accommodated by carry over funds and will not affect the overall funding constraints of the TIP and STIP. Roger Houston made a motion to approve the administrative amendment and Steve Laurin seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) Amendment #6

Camille Pattison stated that the proposed changes to Amendment #6 of the adopted 2005-2007 STIP were included in the TTAC's meeting packet. NRPC has placed a legal notice and is accepting public comment through December 12th, 2005. Camille asked the TTAC if there were any comments. Becky Ohler stated that the change in dates of the NH 101A widening project would put construction in 2010 and may trigger a change in need to demonstrate conformity under Federal Highway Standards with NH DES. Sean Sullivan made a motion to adopt the expedited procedures and full amendments to the STIP. Roger Houston seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

The second change in Amendment #6 involves the exclusion of FHWA general planning (PL) funds in the STIP. Steve Williams asked the TTAC to vote to include \$356,000 per year for 2006-2008 in the STIP. These funds are appropriated by Congress and have no fiscal impact on NH DOT. Sean Sullivan made a motion to include the PL funding in Amendment #6 of the STIP and Steve Laurin seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Proposed Bus Service Using CMAQ Funds

Steve Williams stated that three Senators were approached by Henry Blunt, owner of Concord Trailways, about using CMAQ funds to establish a bridge bus service in Nashua. It is the responsibility of the MPO to review CMAQ projects and make recommendations. NRPC has not received a specific proposal. The only information that NRPC has received is that funding allocated for the purchase of equipment for commuter rail service will be used in 2006 and the funding replaced at a later date. Williams stated that

we have two options at the moment. The TTAC could elect to not recommend the project to the State CMAQ Committee based on the following three issues:

- The project is not in the funding cycle;
- The project is not being proposed by a community within the MPO; and
- The project is not in the Long Range Transportation Plan.

The second option is to hold a special meeting and review the proposal or any additional information prior to the NRPC Executive Committee on December 14th, 2005. The TTAC agreed to meet on December 14th to review the project proposal and vote on recommending the project to the NRPC Executive Committee.

Special Planning and Research (SPR) NH 13 Corridor Study

Bernie Yacobucci, NRPC Transportation Planner, presented a PowerPoint presentation of the NH 13 Corridor Study. The study focuses on traffic volume, vehicle turning movements and land use in Mont Vernon and Brookline. After modeling the collected data, NRPC will hold public meetings and recommend access management techniques in each of the communities.

NH 130 Corridor Study in Brookline

Matt Waitkins gave an overview of the public meeting in Brookline. NRPC staff used an informal approach where the public could view the study findings on a series of posters and ask staff questions. Five alternative traffic routes and improvements were discussed and the public had the opportunity to select the option they preferred the best. Over 50 people attended the public meeting.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM.