



MINUTES

NRPC TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

05/17/06

APPROVED

Members Present: Camille Pattison, NRPC Senior Transportation Planner
Steve Laurin, Town of Merrimack
Dennis Fowler, NHDOT
Becky Ohler, NHDES
Jean Marie Kennamer – City of Nashua Traffic Department
Bill Parker, Town of Milford Planning Director
Mark Sousa, City of Nashua Transit
Bob Jeniski, Nashua Transit System, General Manager
Roger Houston, City of Nashua Community Development

Others Present: Ryan Friedman, NRPC Transportation Planner, GIS
Matt Waitkins, NRPC Transportation Planner
Brendan O'Shaughnessy, NRPC Field Planner
Tali Kritzer, NRPC Hollis/Brookline Circuit Rider
Steve Wagner, NRPC Litchfield/Wilton Circuit Rider
Bernie Yacobucci, NRPC Transportation Planner

Meeting Opened and Review of Minutes

Meeting called to order at 12:07pm. Camille introduced Brendan as new NRPC Field Planner. Camille described what his duties would be. Camille also introduced Mark Sousa. Mark took over Nashua transit planning duties when Paul Newman retired. General introductions around the table followed.

Roger Houston made a motion to accept the 3/15/06 minutes and Bob Jeniski seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was passed.

TIP and STIP Administrative Adjustment:

Camille discussed two administrative adjustments to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The first adjustment is for an increase in funding for the City of Nashua Bus Garage and the second is for an increase in funding for improvements along Daniel Webster Highway in South Nashua. The City of Nashua bus garage funding has increased to a total of \$4,617,300 in FY 2006. The increase in funding for the Daniel Webster Highway project was approved by the State of New Hampshire CMAQ committee in April of 2005 and has already been amended in the STIP. Project funding has been increased from \$1,125,000 to \$2,035,000.

Roger Houston made a motion to accept both administrative adjustments and Bill Parker seconded the motion. All were in favor and none opposed.

Intelligent Transportation Systems Plan: Camille reviewed the history of the project to date. Camille and Ryan have been working on the draft document along with a consulting firm (Edwards and Kelcey) and the steering committee. Camille distributed copies of Chapters 2-5 and noted that there are 4 more chapters to come. All of the draft chapters will be available for the May 24th ITS steering committee meeting. The draft plan will then be distributed to Board's of Selectmen, Police, Fire, Transit and Public Works Departments for comment. Comments from the TTAC are due by June 7th.

The time line is to have the draft document approved at June 21st Commission meeting. The ITS must be approved at the next NRPC Commission meeting in order for the City of Nashua D. W. Highway improvement project to receive federal funding. Steve Williams described what the ITS plan is about. He noted that MPO's must have an ITS plan in place as a condition for receiving federal funding for any ITS project. This plan doesn't bind communities to anything. It does mean that in the future our member communities can use the



plan to apply for Federal funding for their own projects. Steve reviewed the drafts of chapters 2 - 5 and noted that there are four additional chapters to follow.

Comments: Steve Wagner asked how communities would use this document. Would planning boards find it useful? Steve Williams said the document would be more likely to apply to public works, fire and police departments, and it would not make sense to look for input from planning boards on the development of this document. Steve Wagner asked if the recommendations in the plan could be used to encourage developers to pay for some of the recommended projects. Williams said that this plan will only apply to federally funded projects.

Jean Marie commented that ITS makes sense. She mentioned that there is a planned Regional Traffic Management Center for NH 28 corridor in Salem which is a busy corridor similar to D. W. Highway in south Nashua. She noted that this system will have various traffic management features and it will not only improve existing congestion along the corridor but also help mitigate the impacts of the proposed I-93 expansion. Roger Houston concurred, noting that the Everett Turnpike expansion has caused significant volumes of traffic to re-route through downtown Nashua.

The draft document will be sent to Boards of Selectman/Alderman/ Police/Fire/Transit/Public Works Departments. It was reiterated that this plan does not require communities to do anything; it is just the groundwork for future ITS projects. Camille requested that all comments should be returned to NRPC by May 24th.

Regional Turning Movement Counts: Staff has proposed a new program geared toward developing a regional data base of Turning Movement Count (TMC) information. TMC's are performed at key intersections during the AM and PM peak periods and the data is then used for calculating Level of Service (LOS) for that intersection. TMC data is also used for signal warrant analysis and other traffic studies.

Staff described the goals of this program and presented a map of the region that indicated intersections with potential for being included in this program. Members of the TTAC were then asked if they saw merit in this program and the mood was generally in favor. Members were also asked to identify intersections in their communities that should be included in the program.

Update of the Transportation Enhancement (TE) and Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ) Application Process. Staff noted that NRPC and its communities were successful in procuring four TE projects and two CMAQ projects.

The TE projects included:

- Amherst: Town Hall Beautification and Safety
- Litchfield: Albuquerque Avenue Trail Completion
- Nashua: Main Street to East Hollis Street Rail Trail acquisition
- Milford: South Street improvement Project

The CMAQ projects include:

- Hudson: Implement signal coordination at five intensely congested intersections in the town center.
- Nashua: Increase transit services on City bus routes 2 and 6.

Steve Williams noted that there was discussion at the recent GACIT meeting regarding the perceived fairness of the TE process. He said that there will be a review of the process between now and the Fall of 2006. The TE process is on hold until that review is completed.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 21st, 2006 at 12:00 PM.