



MINUTES

NRPC TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING 09/20/06

Members Present:

Camille Pattison, NRPC Senior Transportation Planner
Steve Laurin, Town of Merrimack
Sean Sullivan, Town of Hudson
Bill Parker, Town of Milford Planning Director
Bob Jeniski, Nashua Transit System, General Manager
Roger Houston, City of Nashua Community Development
Jeff Gowan, Pelham Planning Department
Steve DuBois, NHDOT
Jean Marie Kennamer, City of Nashua
Jon Lebrun, City of Nashua
Joe Mendola, City of Nashua

Others Present:

Matt Waitkins, NRPC Transportation Planner
Steve Wagner, NRPC Litchfield/Wilton Circuit Rider
Bernie Yacobucci, NRPC Transportation Planner
Karen M. Baker, Administrative Assistant
Stephen Williams, NRPC Executive Director

Meeting Opened and Review of Minutes: Meeting called to order at 12:08 pm by Camille Pattison. She introduced Steve Williams to make announcements to the group regarding upcoming additions to the NRPC staff. He started with recognizing Camille as the new iTRaC Program Manager and gave a brief explanation of what the program was and what it involved. He went on letting the group know that this meeting would be Camille's last transportation task. The 2nd change would be the return of Angela Vincent, working on the same type of iTRaC related programs, with Camille overseeing her. Lastly was the hiring of Tim Roache, formerly from the Strafford Regional Planning Commission, who would be starting the first week in October to pick up Camille's transportation related responsibilities. Tim would be heading up the November TTAC meeting.

General introductions around the table followed along with review and approval of the meeting minutes from June 21st TTAC meeting. There were no changes to the minutes. Motion to accept the minutes of June 21, 2006 came from Roger Houston, seconded by Jeff Gowan. All were in favor and the motion was passed.

Administrative Adjustments, STIP Amendments, and TIP/Air Quality Analysis/LRTP Plan Updates: Next Camille went over an administrative change regarding the City of Nashua Bus Garage (Handout including City of Nashua letter to NRPC, letter to S. Dubois re administrative adjustment, and Page 24 of the TIP highlighting change). She explained and passed around a handout with the adjustment and asked for a motion to accept. Motion to accept the administrative adjustment for the Nashua City Bus Garage came from Roger Houston and seconded by Bill Parker. All were in favor and the motion was passed.

Camille then went on to #4 of the agenda (see copy of advertised Public Notice re STIP Amendment #12 along with report handout). She explained that all 4 of the MPO's in the state have to advertise whenever there is a change in their region because we are all in 1 non-attainment area. She said there are no changes in the Nashua MPO. The STIP Amendment affects projects in the Southern New Hampshire MPO and the Salem/Plaistow/Windham MPO and that there should be no comments coming to us, maybe just statewide.

STIP AMENDMENT #12

Motion to approve STIP Amendment #12 and associated Air Quality Conformity Analysis contingent upon no adverse air quality impacts at the end of the statewide comment period.



Motion for approval of STIP Amendment #12 came from Bill Parker, seconded by Sean Sullivan. All were in favor and the motion was passed.

Camille briefly went over #5 of the agenda explaining that Matt would review the Air Quality changes done, Bernie would go over changes to the TIP, and Camille would review the changes to the LRTP. She also let the group know that the only comments for the Air Quality came from Becky Ohler (who did not anticipate any other comments other than hers), and those comments were incorporated into the plan by Matt Waitkins. Steve DuBois let the group know that the State comment period starts at the end of the month. Below is a brief synopsis of the changes incorporated into the three plans.

Air Quality Analysis

- Identified all projects from all MPO's TIP;
- Distinguish non-exempt and exempt projects;
- Analyze projects to identify whether conformity analysis necessary;
- Totaled emissions from all MPO's to make sure beneath budget set by EPA;
- Reconciled tables; and,
- Addressed Becky Ohler's comments.

TIP

- Inclusion of all projects from old TIP into new one;
- Identified 2 new features for Safety-lu compliance;
- Identified new TE, CMAQ, and earmarked projects;
- Added an annual listing of projects;
- Added a short-term program list; and
- Larger tables for easier viewing.

Roger Houston asked for removal of the word "to" from Rail Acquisition Trail area and Jeff Gowan questioned where "Common Street" was in Pelham when referring to the Main Street/Nashua Street project. Steve Williams explained that it was the one way diagonal.

LRTP

- Made plan SAFETEA-LU compliant;
- Added fair amount of language;
- Planning factors added to Chapter 1;
- Added section under Chapter 4, page 4-14;
- Added annual listing of projects;
- Added ITS information to Chapter 8;
- Added a summary table in Chapter 9; and
- Added CMAQ projects for Hudson, 101A, and Pelham in Chapter 9.

There were no questions and Camille proceeded to ask the group for 2 motions regarding STIP Amendment #12 and the Air Quality Analysis, TIP, and LRTP (see copy of wording below from Motion Language handout).

AIR QUALITY ANALYSIS/TIP/LRTP

Motion to recommend approval to the Commission at tonight's meeting of the draft 2007-2016 Transportation Improvement Program, associated Air Quality Conformity Analysis and the 2007-2026 Long Range Transportation Plan, contingent upon addressing the comments received from DES and concurrence of the Federal Highway Administration with the demonstration of conformity for the Southeast NH 8 Hour Ozone Non-attainment area that is currently open for public comment.



Motion to recommend for approval to the Commission came from Roger Houston (exactly as written), seconded by Jean Marie Kenamer. All were in favor and the motion was passed.

Camille went on to #6 of the agenda, the iTRaC Program, which she gave a brief explanation of the what the programs is, what we are trying to do, how it works, and how it is beneficial to the towns in the region (see iTRaC Program Overview handout). Steve Laurin questioned how the Village Outlet Shops could be incorporated into the program. Steve Williams explained that we were not looking into doing development review, but if there was an issue with an ordinance on how retail can be structured in community regarding growth, that is where it could fit in. Jeff Gowan wanted to know realistically when the program would be launched, since he was unable to attend the iTRaC meeting. Camille replied that it was ready to go and it could be tomorrow and she would be happy to sit down with him to go over the details of the program.

Jean Marie Kenamer was particularly interested in the Traffic Calming Techniques which was listed on the iTRaC Overview sheet and referred to a spot on Ledge Street where Nashua had just installed componenst of traffic calming. Roger brought up the fact that in the years to come, cameras will be coming and that it is a very effective way in Britain currently for dealing with such issues. He added that they just started using the cameras in California. Jean Marie felt it gave a false sense of security. Sean Sullivan, Roger, and Jean Marie discussed the new Rotary near the Rivier College how it was the appropriate size roundabout for what was a 3 way intersection.

Jeff asked where the funding was coming from for the iTRaC program and if it was just a one time thing. Steve Williams responded that 80% of it was coming from the New Hampshire Department of Transportation and 20% was coming from the New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning and that he hoped it would be an ongoing thing. He added that the DOT and OEP where happy about the program. In addition, there is only about \$150,000 allocated for this program, so it is geared more towards the smaller projects (3,000 to 7,000).

Camille expressed to the group how much she had enjoyed working with them and thanked everyone. Roger thanked her for a job well done.

Roger wanted to know if there were any updates on the I-93 construction. Steve Williams referred to the EIS lawsuit that had been filed, that it had gone to litigation with a mediator. Until the EIS lawsuit preliminary stuff gets done, the project can't go forward with construction. Roger was concerned about Route 3 traffic prior to and once I-93 construction starts.

Camille asked if there were any other questions and there were none. Meeting adjourned at 1:11 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 15th, 2006 at 12:00 PM in the NRPC Conference Room.