



APPROVED MINUTES
NRPC TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
05/16/07

Members Present: Steve Dubois, NH Department of Transportation
Becky Ohler, NH Department of Environmental Services
Leigh Levine, FHWA
Roger Houston, City of Nashua
Steve Laurin, Town of Merrimack
Jeff Gowan, Town of Pelham
Bill Parker, Town of Milford
Sean Sullivan, Town of Hudson
Joe Mendola, City of Nashua
Steve Dookran, City of Nashua
Bruce Berry, Town of Amherst
Heather Seitz, Town of Amherst

Others Present: Tim Roache, NRPC Principal Transportation Planner
Ryan Friedman, GIS Planner
Matt Waitkins, NRPC Transportation Planner
Karen M. Baker, Administrative Assistant
Steve Wagner, NRPC Regional Planner
Stephen Williams, NRPC Executive Director

Meeting Opened and Review of Minutes: Tim Roache opened the meeting at 12:10. He started with introductions and moved onto approval of the minutes from the March 21st TTAC meeting. Becky Ohler moved to approve the minutes with the change regarding the EPA Bus Emissions (pg. 3, last paragraph starting with the 2nd sentence) to read "She referred to the Clean School Bus USA and EPA Grant Program Act which provides funding to retrofit equipment for busses to help with emissions. One option is a Diesel Oxidation Catalyst which is a muffler replacement which carries a 5 year warrantee, with a cost of about \$900", and Roger Houston seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed and the motion was passed.

Agenda item #3

Tim explained item #3 of the agenda regarding 2007-2010 TIP Amendment for the Hudson CMAQ project. He further explained that this was an amendment to advance the \$100,000 in the CMAQ construction funds from 2010 to 2007. He added that the Air Quality credit was already taken in 2007 referencing the handout and that the only issue would be the fiscal constraint (see "Financial Constraint FHWA projects 2007-2010 STIP" included in 5/16/07 TTAC Meeting Agenda Packet). He concluded saying that this should be noticed as a full TIP Amendment and would need approval or recommendation pending no public comment by June 4th. Roger Houston felt this would improve traffic through Hudson. Sean Sullivan pointed out that local funding was mostly used for the project and motioned to approve the amendment seconded by Jeff Gowan. All were in favor, none opposed and the motion was passed.

Agenda item #4

Tim proceeded to agenda item #4 referring to a proposed amendment to the 2006-2007 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). He explained that NTS (Nashua Transit Systems) applied for funds for planning activities to support fixed route and demand response services through evaluation of fleet distribution. NRPC was unaware of this, therefore, it is not listed in the 2006-2007 UPWP as required under 23 CFR part 450. The proposed amendment to the UPWP would need to be listed in the 2006-2007 UPWP in order to get the funds released to NTS (See the May 7, 2007 "2006-2007 UPWP Amendment" memo for more detailed information [included in agenda packet]). Tim added that funds were being spent in a different manner and that they were **not** additional funds. Tim asked if there were any questions before asking for a motion to approve the proposed



amendment. Bill Parker questioned what the Locally Coordinated Transportation Plan (LCTP) was under # 1 of Proposed Activities. Tim explained what the LCTP was (for more detailed information on the LCTP go to http://www.nashuarpc.org/transportation/transproj_lctp.htm). Roger Houston motioned to approve the proposed 2006-2007 UPWP Amendment and Sean Sullivan seconded. All were in favor, none opposed and the motion was passed.

Agenda item #5

Tim proceeded to agenda item #5. Tim gave a brief summary of the Draft FY 2008-2009 UPWP. Listed below are highlights of the new planning goals:

- Implementing Morning and afternoon Peak Hour Models
- Updated Streets and Roadways Plan for the region
- Development of a Regional Freight Plan
- Implementation of information obtained from meetings to develop the Regional Plan
- Focus on meeting SAFETEA-LU requirements regarding fiscal constraints for the TIP and LRTP
- Continual expansion of the iTRaC program over the next 2 years
- Ongoing efforts to achieve goals outlined in the LCTP (biggest effort)
- Inclusion of a listing of other federally funded planning studies not funded through the MPO process

Tim added that NRPC would be listing all UPWP funds by work element and non UPWP funds by project (see last 2 pgs of "FY 2008-2009 UPWP", included in agenda packet). Leigh Levine commented that we had done a good job at being SAFETEA-LU compliant; for example, by including studies in the plan. Leigh asked when comments needed to be in. Tim responded "by 2:00 pm today". Jeff Gowan questioned whether the CTAP \$185,000 listed on pg. 25 was for May 07/08 or the entire program. The reply was "just for this year". Tim relayed to the group that he was looking for a motion to recommend the draft FY 2008-2009 UPWP to the Executive Committee for approval. Jeff Gowan motioned and Roger Houston seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed and the motion was passed.

Agenda item #6

Steve Williams presented this item. He informed the group that at the April meeting, the Executive Committee decided to consider whether NRPC would take a position on HB 582 which is currently being held in committee by House Public Works and Highways Committee (a copy of the legislation is included in this agenda packet). This legislation would require the NH DOT to develop a new bridge across the Merrimack River and approach roads connecting NH 102 and NH 3a in Litchfield with US 3 (Daniel Webster Highway) in South Merrimack.

What NRPC staff is asking the TTAC is to consider the proposed legislation and provide input to the Executive Committee to assist in the development of a NRPC position on HB 582. NRPC staff has conducted Traffic modeling analysis and a Toll analysis to assist in the consideration. To give a feel of how traffic would be affected in the Nashua region in 2027 with and w/out the proposed bridge, Steve reviewed the 11x 17 map included in agenda packet. For more detailed information on the toll analysis and the traffic impacts associated with this bill, see the 5/10/07 "Background Data for Consideration of HB 582" memo (included in this agenda packet). Steve added that NRPC thinks there are better locations for the bridge than the proposed Circumferential Highway bridge location and felt the language should be changed to reflect that. He asked the group for their input. Below is a list of points/issues/questions and comments brought forth:

- A 2 lane slower speed would be less money.
- The type of bridge should be restudied.
- Alternative Analysis should be done.
- Dangerous precedent to be set between legislature and RPC's.



- NRPC's 10 year plan and LRTP both include a bridge project north of town.
- Would bill include a mitigation of traffic problems?
- As proposed, serious work would need to be done to Manchester Street (need to be rebuilt).
- Include funding for mitigation impacts.

Sean Sullivan said he would support the bill as written to date and was open to amendments. Becky Ohler did not want to support the bill as written with Legislature introducing it rather than the MPO's and felt it was not a good precedent.

Steve Dookran motioned with Jeff Gowan seconding the motion to support the HB 582 through a letter from NRPC with amendments to include mitigation funding and an alternatives analysis in addition to adding that legislation should not make bids for recommendation to MPO's. All were in favor, non opposed and the motion was passed.

Sean Sullivan informed the group of some news regarding the River Place Project. WS Development who was the developer for the project was pulling out of Hudson and joining forces with Packard Development. The Frail family would be going before the board on the 23rd and the golf course would eventually be history.

Steve Laurin informed the group that Merrimack was moving forward with Chelsea Development on the Outlet Shops. There was not application form yet and regulations had to be established.

Motion to adjourn came from Roger Houston, seconded by Jeff Gowan. The meeting adjourned at 1:12 pm.

Steve Dookran questioned the bad publicity regarding the rail project. Steve Williams explained briefly he was communicating actual facts to the legislature and the developer had some good alternative sites they were working on with us.

The meeting adjourned at 1:11pm.

Next TTAC Meeting is scheduled for July 18th in the NRPC Conference Room.