



APPROVED MINUTES
NRPC TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
09/19/07

Members Present: Glenn Davison, NH Department of Transportation
Becky Ohler, NH Department of Environmental Services
Roger Houston, City of Nashua
Steve Laurin, Town of Merrimack
Raymond Blethen, City of Nashua Transit System
Jean Marie Kennamer, City of Nashua

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

Meeting Opened and Review of Minutes: Tim Roache opened the meeting at 12:12. He started with introductions and moved onto approval of the minutes from the July 18th TTAC meeting. Becky Ohler moved to approve the minutes seconded by Roger Houston. The minutes were approved unanimously as submitted.

STIP Amendment 4

Tim gave a brief explanation of STIP Amendment 4 saying that it was an end of fiscal year bookkeeping type thing and passed the floor over to Matt Waitkins for a little more detail. Matt reviewed the projects on the memo included in the agenda packet. He pointed out that the Hudson Sidewalks Construction project was bumped one year at the request of the Town of Hudson. All the other projects were bumped at the request of NHDOT. He reminded the group that none of the changes outlined in this STIP Amendment would affect the air quality analysis and had documentation from all the other MPO's confirming this. Matt finished up by informing the group that a motion was required to accept STIP Amendment 4. Roger Houston made the motion with a second from Jean Marie Kennamer. Becky said that the motion should include a reference to statements from other MPO's in the non-attainment area that their air quality analysis has not been affected by STIP Amendment #4. With this request, Roger Houston re-motoned based on Becky's request. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ten Year Plan

Tim presented a summary of the proposed changes to the 2009-2018 Draft Ten Year Plan to the group by reviewing the spreadsheet included in the agenda packet. He explained that this update would be challenging due to the limited state and federal funds available for transportation improvement projects. Tim further explained that there was not enough money and there still is a billion dollar deficit and most projects have either been pushed out or reduced in scope. He referred to the GACIT (Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation) public hearings upcoming and the big splash that this issue has made in the media. The purpose of the hearings is to inform the public about details of the ten year Plan. The three public hearings for the region will start at 7:00 and are listed below:

District 5 - Councilor Debora Pignatelli **Tuesday, October 2nd - Nashua City Hall Auditorium**
Monday, October 15th - Milford Town Hall Banquet Room

District 4 - Councilor Ray Wiczorek **Monday, October 22nd - Hudson Community Center**



Jean Marie felt that the bridge collapse in Minnesota changed some of the focus on transportation projects. Tim said that the spreadsheet was basically informational and that information contained in it would probably change after the GACIT hearings. He stated that the meetings were open to the public and encouraged everyone to attend. If anyone wanted a complete list of all GACIT meetings scheduled for the entire state, Tim said that he could email them. Roger noted that the estimated cost of projects did not increase even if the projects were moved into the future. He expressed surprise given that inflation would surely increase the cost of a project over time. Steve Williams suggested that by not increasing the future cost of projects, NHDOT is in effect accounting for the projected decrease in funding. Tim said he would investigate the funding situation further.

Regional Safety Plan

Ryan Friedman reviewed preliminary Draft of the Regional Safety Plan. Ryan reminded them of the presentation from the last meeting and that most of that information was included in the draft they received in their agenda packets. He walked the group through the entire document. The goal he said was to hopefully get a complete draft to the group by October with a final at the December meeting for full adoption by the Commission.

Steve Wagner questioned some of the data for Brookline pointing out that they do not use road salt and there were no spikes in rain, sleet or snow. Ryan said that most of the report was reviewed at the last meeting and most of the Chapter 3 was just intersection crash data. Becky questioned if the speed data came from digital signs. Ryan answered that it came from tubes attached to boxes. Ryan also explained what sight distance is and pointed out some of the problem intersections. Listed below are some comments on problem areas discussed by the group:

- U-turns on Spit Brook and Daniel Webster Highway
- Main Dunstable and Conant Road by Maplewood high accident rate area
- Buckmeadow Road at Main Dunstable due to poor visibility
- Mammoth Road and Tallant Road in Pelham

Ryan moved onto Chapter 4, pointing out the worst intersections and then the safest intersections adding that out of 98 intersections, 6 of the safest ones were located on 101A. He explained that Chapter 5 would be the same kind of analysis for roads with data collected from the towns. Chapter 6 would be recommendations on how to make the data better in the future. Finally, Chapter 7 would be Further Study which would include State audits. Roger asked to see the new data for Main Dunstable once it is updated.

Regional Plan Transportation Forum

Kerrie Diers gave a brief update to the group regarding the Regional Plan Transportation Forum scheduled for October 25th. The TTAC would be invited as well as other key transportation advocates. She passed around brochures on the Regional Plan and reviewed the handout. She explained that the Transportation Forum would include focus groups brought together to get public input on the issues most important to the region. The forum would provide new technology for collecting this information using Instant Response Keypad technology. Kerrie informed the group that the goal would be to develop an implementation plan and then an action plan.

Great Streets

Kerrie moved on to the Great Streets Contest in which nominations are accepted from individuals of what they think is a great street (beauty, architecture, design, etc) in their community. This contest is being held in conjunction with Community Planning Month. Results of the winning Street would be a touring map. She added that only about half of the towns in the region had participated to date and she was hoping to get the word out in order to generate additional participation. She proceeded to pass around Great Streets nomination



forms to the group. Tim is preparing to mail out information on the GACIT hearings and said he would include Great Streets information in the mailing as well as information about the Regional Transportation Forum.

Motion to adjourn came from Roger Houston. The meeting adjourned at 1:07pm.

The next TTAC Meeting will be held on November 14th at Noon in the NRPC Conference Room.