



MINUTES

NRPC TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

08/20/08

APPROVED

**Members Present:**

- Louise Woodworth, Nashua Transit System
- Kristi Gillette, Nashua Transit System
- Steve Laurin, Town of Merrimack
- Bill Parker, Town of Milford
- Jeff Babel, Town of Hollis
- Mark Sousa, Nashua Transit System
- Roger Houston, City of Nashua Community Development
- Joe Mendola, City of Nashua Division of Public Works
- Jon LeBrun, City of Nashua - Engineering Office
- Bruce Berry, Town of Amherst
- Sean Sullivan, Town of Hudson
- John Cashell, Town of Hudson
- Jeff Gowan, Town of Pelham
- Nick Alexander, NH DOT

**Others Present:**

- Tim Roache, NRPC Principal Transportation Planner
- Matt Waitkins, NRPC Transportation Planner
- Steve Wagner, NRPC Regional Planner
- Karen M. Baker, NRPC Administrative Assistant

**MEETING OPENED AND REVIEW OF MINUTES**

Tim Roache opened the meeting at 12:11. He started with introductions and moved onto approval of the minutes from the June 25<sup>th</sup> TTAC meeting. Mark Sousa moved to approve the minutes seconded by Steve Laurin. All were in favor and the minutes were approved as submitted.

**APPROVAL OF 2007-2012 TIP AMENDMENT 8**

Tim reviewed the minor administrative oversight and the reason for the TIP amendment. The proposed amendment to the Hollis project requires a full amendment to the TIP under Federal Transportation Planning Rules because it adds a phase or phases to the project not previously identified in the TIP.

Project 13488, sidewalk construction on Ash Street in Hollis, originated as a Transportation Enhancements project in 2000. As this project has moved forward towards construction it was noted by the NHDOT and MPO that funding for Preliminary Engineering and Right of Way was not included in the TIP. Approval of the proposed amendment will allow the project to proceed as planned. Fiscal constraint of the STIP has been maintained by NHDOT. All of the projects proposed in STIP Amendment 8 are exempt from Air Quality Conformity requirements. Therefore a conformity determination is not required for this proposed amendment. Tim added that a full comment period was run and he received no comments. He asked the group for a recommendation. Jeff Gowan moved with Mark Sousa seconding the motion to recommend TIP Amendment 8 to the Executive Committee for approval. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**DRAFT 2009-2012 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

Tim explained that a comment period was open on August 15<sup>th</sup> for the Draft 2009-2012 Transportation Improvements Program and did receive some comments which he included on the Summary of Public Comment sheet which he passed around. He continued on informing the group that this was ongoing



effort and the 10 year plan process started in January of 2007. He added that changes done in the past are summarized on the memo included in the agenda packet. Tim briefly reviewed the changes pointing out that due to the State's 10 year plan process change which NRPC's TIP mirrors the following changes have been made:

- Project selection procedure page taken out
- Table format taken out of Microsoft Word and done in Excel
- Nashua Transit project year moved based on Mark Sousa's comments at last TTAC meeting
- Comments added by Tim himself
- State funded projects were added, but not required
- Numbers for State funded projects are inflated based on the year construction will begin
- Numbers are based on fiscal constraint of the statewide program

Tim reminded the group that the comment period would run from August 16<sup>th</sup> through September 18<sup>th</sup> and asked if there were any questions, comments or projects that were not reflected in the TIP.

A TTAC member informed Tim that Mellendy Road project (#13353) correct spelling should have 2 "L's". There were comments from Nick Alexander from DOT included in the summary of comments handout. There was a question on the North Bridge that was proposed earlier in the year and at the last minute was halted by the legislative process. Another member asked if the TIP was on the NRPC website and responded that it was. Nick thanked NRPC for doing a very good public notice and having all the documents together and ready.

#### **DRAFT 2009-2035 AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY ANALYSIS**

Tim explained the air quality process which is done for the non-attainment area in Southern New Hampshire and shared with the other 4 MPO's in the State. He added that to show that we meet air quality standards; all MPO's have to do their part and send in proper documentation to the DOT for summarization. There are certain numbers which can not be exceeded (shown by blue dash on the Summary of Conformity Tests handout included in the agenda packet) or funding would cease until the air quality issue was resolved. Matt explained a little more about pollutant improvement, models, and calculations. Tim added that they made it by the skin of their teeth this year and they should be okay from now on. Tim asked if there were any questions. Steve Laurin asked why it is going down. Tim said there were some improvements in area projects and cars have become more efficient with less bad emissions out of the tailpipe. He added that the single largest impact is large trucks and they have gotten stricter then ever. Tim also said the DOT has been using the NRPC mode as an input.

Steve Laurin asked what would happen if we went over the limit. Tim said they would have to find funding for projects and year. Nick added that you would have to look for a new CMAQ projects. He added that transportation projects can be good or a detriment. Tim concluded by saying that today's meeting was part of the public process and that the group would have to meet one more time to take action on this.

#### **MINOR UPDATE TO 2009-2035 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

Tim explained that the Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) maintains the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) for the Nashua Metropolitan Planning area. The LRTP includes long- and short-range strategies for the development of an inter-modal, efficient transportation system and addresses a 20-year planning horizon all due to requirements set by SAFETY-LU. He added that to avoid having a lapse if waiting until 2010 to update the LRTP, it was changed to 2035 to allow for a 4 year cycle. NRPC recently completed a minor update to the LRTP to bring it in line with federal transportation



planning and air quality requirements. This memo summarizes the changes made to the LRTP. The most significant changes to the LRTP were made in Chapters 10 and 11. Some of the changes are as follows:

- The project list was changed to fit with the air quality analysis and the financial plan projections.
- The Circumferential Highway project was taken out.
- An update on cost using a 4-7% anticipated inflation funding rate flat through 2018
- Fiscal constraint would be needed based on project listing in LRTP
- Significant rewrite planned for 2010

Tim asked if there were any questions specifically about the four corners project in the LRTP for the town of Hollis. Jeff Babel said that the town wanted to be active in this but nothing has been discussed recently.

Matt added that the LRTP is supposed to be policy. Tim added that the Commission is going through a Regional Plan process currently and are hoping to have it mirror the LRTP for easy of read. Tim then asked the group if there were any updates.

Jeff Gowan said the Fire Station relocation for Pelham was shot down in 2008 and is currently NOT listed on the ballot for 2009. He also added that there are two options for a roundabout which will be followed by a final public hearing process. In addition, the Town Center project went through a CSS process with DOT and they did an outstanding job. Jeff said that the solution that they came up with though makes the Fire Station inoperable and that currently they are near 100% in earmarked funds, but the price keeps rising and the longer it gets delayed through town politics, there is the possibility it could eventually disappear.

Joe Mendola talked about the NH101 A Widening from Somerset Plaza to Celina Drive in Nashua and the Public Hearing on August 18<sup>th</sup> held by the Special Committee. He added that once all comments have come in, there will be a report to the Mayor.

Mark Sousa informed the group of Nashua Transit's successful meeting with Souhegan Valley and the towns of Milford, Amherst, Hollis, and Brookline for non emergency medical transportation needs. He said that starting October 1<sup>st</sup> on Tues, Wednesday's, & Thursdays, they will be running as a pilot program from 8:00am to 4:00pm providing trips in those towns. He added that it took 3 ½ years, but it finally has happen saying that is was in big part to a grass routes effort set forth by Granite State Organizing Project (GSOP) who got money on their own to get this started.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Tim informed the group that they would need to get together at some point for approval of the documents discussed today. He also informed the group that NRPC was moving to Merrimack sometime in mid-September and that his hope was to get together sometime between September and October 15<sup>th</sup> for approval on the documents.

Steve Laurin informed the group that Merrimack was looking at early September to hopefully get a decision on the Chelsea Mall Outlet.

The meeting adjourned at **12:55pm**.