

 **NRPC APPROVED MINUTES**
NRPC TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
11/18/09

Members Present:

Mark Sousa, City of Nashua
Steve Dookran, City of Nashua
Tad Putney, Town of Brookline
Lucy St. John, City of Nashua
Dave Lent, Town of Merrimack
Marc Dixon, FHWA

Nick Alexander, NH DOT
Skip Skoglund, Greenman-Pedersen
Bill Parker, Town of Milford
Kristi Gillette, Nashua Transit
Jean Marie Kennamer, City of Nashua
Leigh Levine, FHWA

Others Present

Tim Roache, Assistant Director
Julie Chizmas, Transportation Planner
Matt Waitkins, Transportation Planner
Karen M. Baker, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Tim Roache opened the meeting at 12:09 and proceeded with introductions around the table.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 21TH 2009 MEETING

Roache referred to the minutes of October 21, 2009 included in the agenda packet as Attachment 1 and asked for a motion to approve. Dookran moved to approve the October 21, 2009 minutes with a second from Sousa. All were in favor and the motion passed.

2009-2010 CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY (CMAQ) PROGRAM UPDATE

Roache informed that the RPC's received the draft CMAQ application for comments and NH DOT and NH DES addressed the extensive comments received by the RPC's and resubmitted the guidance. Roache had Alexander with DOT explain further. Alexander said the next CMAQ round should be announced by the end of the week. There will be a 4 week timeframe for letters of intent which will require just basic information (project cost, time, cost, etc). Next will be mandatory workshops even if attended previously. Alexander pointed out that the CMAQ applications will focus on project planning, readiness and good for air quality projects with short time frames for implementation. He added all projects must help demonstrate the air quality benefit. Roache said that NRPC would do the air quality benefit portion of the applications. Alexander continued saying that once the MPO evaluation of the application is done, it will be sent to DOT to do a statewide evaluation involving hearings and then recommendations. Projects should start beginning in October of 2010. Alexander also explained that any current CMAQ project out there not yet completed would require an explanation of why the project has not moved forward. Sousa asked what the match was. Alexander said the match was 80% FHWA/20% elsewhere and that cash or soft matches would need to be documented. Dookran asked when they would be awarding projects. Alexander said it would be about 6 months out. In response to Dookran's question regarding emissions, Alexander explained that DES and EPA would be reviewing the air quality standard and that it may be reduced, but the requirements will be more stringent. Levine said that if you go more than 3 years without any designations, you can go for attainment.

TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT (TE) APPLICATION SCORES AND RANKS

Roache informed the group that all TE applications had been scored and referred to the Summary of Scores and Ranks provided in the TTAC Agenda packet. Before handing the floor over to Chizmas Roache said he would be looking for a motion to recommend to DOT to use Ranking C when approving TE applications. Sousa motioned to approve this with a second from Lent. All were in favor and the motion passed. There were additional comments from the group. Dookran had some issues regarding the 2 projects in the top group that involved sidewalks saying that it was indicated in a previous meeting that sidewalk projects were not good TE projects. St. John questioned the scoring of the Heritage Trail project vs. the Brookline project scoring. She felt that the percentage of population in Nashua should have been a factor in scoring and was disappointed. Roache responded that they were not using population as a criterion when scoring the projects because of the wide-range across the region. He also said he would be happy to debrief with anyone and the group that did the scoring. Dookran was hoping to advocate for a project not in the top 3 at the state level and to perhaps get 100,000 for say right-of-way. Dookran also questioned if cost on projects was the reason for ranking. Tim said it should have not been reason or impact. Chizmas indicated that she talked with the scorers about keeping this in mind when scoring. Roache asked if TE applicants would be able to do presentations. Alexander was not sure of this yet. Alexander informed that there would be an explicit cost benefit ratio for CMAQ, unlike TE and it would be very important and would also reflect in the guidance.

OTHER

Roache handed out an informational memo on the Regional Coordinating Council (RCC). He reviewed the memo and the process that had taken place over the last couple of years and how the RCC was formed in coordination with the Statewide Coordinating Council (SCC). Roache informed the group that all RPC's were asked to bring the RCC into their respective planning commissions. The goal would be to make the RCC a subcommittee of the TTAC where it is primarily transportation based. This would also address any liability issues that arise because they would be covered under the NRPC umbrella. Sousa questioned if the NRPC Bylaws would need to be changed in the future when the decision is made to form the Regional Transportation Coordinator (RTC). Roache said it could eventually become a full fledged member of TTAC. Roache explained a little further what the RTC was. Roache concluded that he would be talking with the Executive Committee that evening about making the RCC a subcommittee of the TTAC if he got a consensus from the TTAC. Sousa motioned with a second from Parker to recommend to the Executive Committee that the RCC become a subcommittee of the TTAC. All were in favor and the motion passed. Waitkins informed the group that the SCC was created through legislation that in turn recognized the RCC.

Roache reminded the group of the Broad Street Parkway information session being held at the Exit 6 Welcome center on Thursday, November 19th from 6:00 to 8:00pm.

Parker asked what happens at the state level with TE. Roache said he was hoping to be able to make his case to State with presentations but did not know yet. Alexander said the DOT would be ranking all projects using all point to score and the top 3 in each region will get the bonus points. Once this is done, they would present the rankings to the statewide committee to review and endorse.

Sousa motioned to adjourn with a second from Parker. The meeting adjourned at **12:50pm**.