

 **NRPC APPROVED MINUTES**
NRPC TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
12/16/09

Members Present:

Jeff Babel, Town of Hollis
Joe Mendola, City of Nashua
Jean Marie Kennamer, City of Nashua
Bruce Berry, Town of Amherst
Dave Lent, Town of Merrimack
Marc Dixon, FHWA
Leigh Levine, FHWA

Nick Alexander, NH DOT
Skip Skoglund, Greenman-Pedersen
Bill Parker, Town of Milford
Diane Sheehan, City of Nashua Alderman Elect
Roger Houston, City of Nashua
Jeff Gowan, Town of Pelham

Others Present

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

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Tim Roache opened the meeting at 12:07 and proceeded with introductions around the table.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 18TH 2009 MEETING

Roache referred to the minutes of November 18, 2009 included in the agenda packet as Attachment 1 and asked for a motion to approve. Kennamer moved to approve the November 18, 2009 minutes with a second from Parker. All were in favor and the motion passed.

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

Chizmas referred to the 2009-2010 Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ) memo sent out via email on November 25th and proceeded provide detail as well as information pertaining to the links provided in the memo. She explained the first step as being a letter of intent or interest which gives DOT a heads up as well as NRPC for support. Letters of intent are due by 12:00pm on January 8, 2010. In addition and like TE, there will be mandatory workshops in February. She pointed out the importance of the Air Quality Fact Sheet link and the necessity of gathering data to show the air quality benefit of the project you are submitting. She added that there was a cost benefit portion that would be a big part of the point allocation (\$ per kilogram on NO_x and VOCs). Chizmas referred to FHWA's FY2000 detailed project listing by state and estimated benefits of projects submitted. Roache added that substantial reductions would be a benefit. Chizmas also informed the group that any existing CMAQ projects that had not moved forward would need to be explained and that there was 10 million statewide for CMAQ projects. Roache asked if anyone had any ideas for projects, or had questions and referred to the Amherst intersection project that Berry would be submitting an application for. Kennamer said there would be some transit projects that Nashua would apply for but said they most likely would need to explain some of the existing CMAQ projects that had not moved forward first. Alexander referred to some big projects that DOT would be applying for such as a Park and Ride and Rail/Track Improvements.

TEN YEAR PLAN UPDATE

Roache briefed that group on the Ten Year Plan Process to date. He informed the group that the GACIT process was finishing up; the September 11th draft of the Ten Year Plan went through public hearings and a December 9th draft was submitted to the Governor which included the priorities that the Commissioner felt were important. The next step involved the Governor making any changes, then submitting the Plan with any amendments to the Legislature for approval. Chizmas did a comparison of the September and December drafts and noticed a couple of things. Chizmas identified these below:

- New to the plan – 2 Merrimack bridge projects added (Roache believed these were Astate Aide Bridge projects)
- Change in cost to the 101A Widening project showing an 11 million cost due to a funding shortfall (Roache said this would reflect in the TIP when it is amended).
- New – 2 Capital Corridor projects (Roache indicated that there was no definitive source of funding yet but the State and Commissioner want it to move forward)
- New – Red-listed bridge projects in Pelham and Wilton

Mendola clarified that the latest estimate on the 101A Widening project is about 11.7 million with a shortfall of about 5.3 million (this was with the project completed at full build). He informed that he had a meeting with the Mayor on this on Thursday.

Roache tried to give an example of the difference between the Ten Year Plan (TYP) and the (Transportation Improvements Program (TIP). The TYP is a statewide law with a list of projects associated with it and the TIP is a Federal document that NRPC is responsible for maintaining in cooperation with the NHDOT and FHWA which is fiscally constrained.

Chizmas concluded asking if there were any questions or comments and informed group of the wealth of information provided on the DOT website.

Roache passed around the Ten Year Plan Process spreadsheet and explained the process, where we were in the process, fiscal constraint, the Air Quality component, standards, TIP, draft documents, final documents, public input process & hearings, TIP, and finally Commission approval.

Levine explained that all required documents now had a 4 year process or deadline. Roache said he would be finalizing all projects for next TIP and completing the Air Quality and said he would prefer to finalize the LRTP after reauthorization of the next 2 year cycle. He added that at the end of the 2010 process, it starts all over again with adding new projects, prioritization with a new submittal to DOT in 2011 with GACIT hearings to follow (runs every two years). Houston asked if every other row could be shaded on the spreadsheet for ease of reading. Roache said it was a good idea and would be done.

OTHER

Roache asked Alexander to remind him what he needs to do for the minor revision to the TIP regarding the NTS changes. Alexander said NRPC would need to send a letter to DOT stating that we are changing our TIP due to an NTS minor revision and what the change is (cost, transfer of funds, etc).

Roache mentioned to the group changing the TTAC meeting schedule for 2010 to the 2nd Wednesday of the month as opposed to its current 3rd Wednesday of the month schedule. This would make it easier for addressing public comments received and would give a buffer before having to go to Commission for approval.

Chizmas informed that she received a list of scenic roads or byways for funding and did not see any in the Nashua region and wanted to make sure no one was left out inadvertently.

Parker asked what the schedule was for TE. Alexander said they were meeting next month to discuss how new projects should be dealt with. Roache added that he submitted all TE projects to DOT and how he pleaded the case for the Nashua Rail Trail Conversion project due to the potential loss of R.O.W if the project does not get completed. Chizmas informed the group of the February TEAC meeting. Roache suggested that the top 5 TE projects try and plead their cases or to do a project presentation.

Gowan motioned to adjourn with a second from Kennamer. The meeting adjourned at **12:53pm**.