


NRPC APPROVED MINUTES
NRPC TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
01/13/16

Members Present:

John Cashell, Town of Hudson
 Kyle Fox, Town of Merrimack
 Lincoln Daley, Town of Milford
 Wayne Husband, City of Nashua

Sarah Marchant, City of Nashua
 Joe Mendola, City of Nashua
 Jeff Gowan, Town of Pelham

Others Present:

Carol Macuch, NHDOT

STAFF PRESENT

Tim Roache, Executive Director
 Jen Czysz, Assistant Director
 Ryan Friedman, Senior GIS Planner
 Cassie Mullen, NRPC Intern

Julie Chizmas, Senior Transportation Planner
 Camille Pattison, Planning Manager
 Karen Baker, Program Assistant

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Czysz opened the meeting at 12:12pm with introductions.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 18, 2015

Czysz referred to the minutes of November 18, 2015 included in the agenda packet as Attachment 1. She asked for a motion to approve. Fox moved to approve the November 18, 2015 minutes with a second from Husband. All were in favor with one abstention.

S/TIP AMENDMENT 2 – ACTION REQUIRED

Chizmas informed the group of S/TIP Amendment 2 which was received in December and was advertised for public comment in the Telegraph and comments were accepted through January 8th. She noted that comments were received from Nashua Transit System, Department of Transportation and NRPC had comments as well. She reviewed the comments with the group:

Nashua Transit System Comments

- NASHUA (14815) - NTS CNG Bus Purchase: This project should be removed from the S/TIP; bus purchase included in Nashua-5 Fleet Replacement project.
- NASHUA-1a (40786) - Operating Assistance, Preventative Maintenance & ADA Operations: Funding should reflect NTS budget projection numbers (provided in spreadsheet attached to public comment email) for Non-Operating Assistance projects (80/20 split) and should not include Operating Assistance (50/50 split).
- NASHUA-1 (6080) - Planning Assistance: Add project to Amendment - This project should be included in NASHUA-1A, which consolidates Non-Operating Assistance projects with 80/20 funding.
- NASHUA-2 (6090) - Operating Assistance: Operating Assistance is funded 50/50 and therefore, this project should not be included in consolidated project NASHUA-1a. Funding should reflect NTS budget projection numbers (provided in spreadsheet attached to public comment).
- NASHUA-5 (6099) - Fleet Replacement: Funding should include FTA 5310 and FTA 5339 funding as shown on attached spreadsheet. Also, CNG fleet being purchased is eligible for federal match of 85%, so split should be 85/7.5/7.5.
- NASHUA-6 (3797) - Capital Equip: This project should be removed from the S/TIP.
- NASHUA (16314) - East Hollis St: Can we change “Roundabout” to Traffic Improvements? Also, we are looking to enlarge the scope of the study area for this project as recently discussed with Hudson and Mr. Grandmaison from DOT. The study area would need to include the entryway into Hudson

on the east, and all the way back to Armory/Temple on the west, with the inclusion of Crown St for the future rail station.

- NASHUA (10136A & 10136B) - NH 101A Widening: Nashua 10136A and B – the timeframes between ROW and construction seem very long, and we would support them being shorter however we are in support of the project.

NRPC MPO Comments

- Milford (14492) - Improvements in the Oval Area: Add project to Amendment, Add FY2016 PE phase to expedite project delivery.

NHDOT Comments

- Roxbury –Sullivan (10439) - Not an NRPC MPO Project: Project removed from Amendment 2 resulting in updated fiscal constraint analysis.

Chizmas proceeded by summarizing the MPO Summary of changes requested through S/TIP Amendment which included updates specific to the Nashua Metropolitan Planning.

Macuch questioned the NRPC comment & change for the Milford project. Roache explained that the town would be ready sooner than later this would avoid waiting for amendment 3 which may not be until April or May. After further discussion, Gowan motioned with a second from Fox to recommend approval of S/TIP Amendment #2 by the Executive Committee at the public hearing being held on January 20, 2016. All were in favor.

NRPC STAFF PRESENTATION: HUDSON FIRE RESPONSE TIME ANALYSIS

Friedman provided a presentation on the Analysis completed for Hudson Fire Response Times per the request of the Hudson Fire Department. He explained how the project came about stating that the Town of Hudson approved a new fire station for the southern district in 2015 and the Hudson Fire Department requested an analysis to compare response times, geographic reach, and customers served between the new approved proposed fire station location on Lowell Road and the existing Burns Hill fire station location. This analysis was conducted using TransCad modeling software. The modeling process included inputs on station locations, complete street network, preferred response travel speeds, and analysis options included travel bands, network partitioning, and facility optimization. Friedman provided the analysis results showing side by side maps with town-wide estimated response times in minutes from the Burns Hill station location and the proposed Lowell Road location. He showed comparisons of travel time in the south district using response times for both stations from 1 to 5 minutes & 10 minutes, number of parcels served and the number of household served in each of the minute increments. Friedman then showed a combined comparison using the same criteria for all stations. In this town-wide comparison, analysis results detected a new problem related to the actual call density. Friedman noted that they used weighting system by mapping all Burns Hill response calls from 4mths in 2015 to come up with another comparison. He concluded his presentation informing the group that NRPC can help any municipality and that this is a repeatable process that can be used throughout the region using parcel & occupancy data and speed limits. He asked if there were any questions.

Cashell felt it was important to note that the points shown on the town-wide comparisons were not all fires and included medical and accidents. Gowan asked if there was any mutual aid data plugged into the model. Friedman said no, as it did not come up, but that it could be included. Gowan referred to a large development happening in Pelham that would be close to the Hudson station and how it could have helped when Pelham built their new fire station.

PROJECT UPDATES AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Locally Coordinated Transportation Plan (LCTP) Update

Pattison provided a brief history of the LCTP stating that it was originally developed in 2006 with a minor update in 2008. It was based on the Nelson Nyggard report to pool transportation resources. She stated that this report for the Nashua region is much smaller and any Nelson Nyggard related information has been removed from this update. Pattison pointed out the updated graphics throughout the plan as well as information from the Regional Plan adopted in December of 2014, information on the Nashua Community Health Assessment as shown on page 23, and input from the RCC. She referred to the accomplishments section specifically mentioning the Souhegan Valley Transportation Collaborative (SVTC), the towns served, currently serving 6 towns to the west via NTS and the demand that continues to grow. Pattison referred to the amended project list on page 32 stating that once she received information from the Statewide Coordinating Council (SCC) and their request for proposal (RFP), another update would be done. She added that this is a statutory requirement for the NRPC. Pattison noted that the need to provide mobility management is included in the version online. Lastly, she talked about the comprehensive NTS Plan that NRPC is currently working on and that information from this plan will also be included in the updates to the LCTP. She asked if there were any questions and also said she would not mind a motion from the group to recommend approval by the Executive Committee. After further discussion, Cashell made a motion with a second from Gowan that the TTAC recommend adoption of the Draft Update to the Locally Coordinated Transportation Plan for the Greater Nashua and Milford Region by the Executive Committee. All were in favor.

Ten Year Plan Update

Czys provided an update on where the Ten Year Plan process was. She noted that GACIT has adopted the Draft 2017-2026 Ten Year Plan and submitted that document to the Governor for her review and input. A schedule of legislative hearings will be held prior to approval from the legislature and then the governor will sign it during the summer of 2016. Czys commented that there were no real changes to this version of the TYP and stated the best next step would be to provide your testimony at the committee hearings. She added that unfunded capitol corridor projects are not included in the plan. Chizmas asked how to keep those projects on the radar and where to they go. Macuch said they are pushed out to when they think they will have money to do them. She added that they are listed on the DOT website.

Czys informed the group of the letter sent from GACIT to the Governor provides an explanation of the major changes that have occurred since the last time the TYP was discussed at TTAC, Executive Committee and Commission meetings. The highlights for the NRPC region are:

- Increased federal funding to NH for the next 5 years allowing greater numbers of projects to be constructed due to Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act program. NHDOT anticipates a 5.1% increase in funding for FY16 and 2% per year after that resulting in an additional \$65 million for projects.
- Unfunded Capital Corridor and future turnpike priorities are not included in the draft plan as GACIT voted to only include funded projects.
- The two NRPC priority projects that were added to the draft this fall remain included in the document:
 - Brookline NH 13 Construct SB left turn lane onto Old Milford Rd (page 27 of 217)
 - Nashua East Hollis St improvements from Main St to Bridge St (page 111 of 217)

FFY 15 Obligated Projects Listing

Chizmas noted the federal requirement that the NRPC post the FFY 15 Obligated Projects Listing each year and informed the group that it was available on the NRPC website. Roache elaborated some on the process and how federal funding works, stating that he planned to hold a training and also have Putney from

Brookline come in to talk about the LPA process from a small town perspective, referring to a project that he got done quickly.

Chizmas informed the group that some projects have not been in the TIP in 2 to 3 rounds due to the system change at DOT. She added that once she gets a better feel, the list will be cleaned up per all federal requirements. Roache added it will be a good tool to bring to communities as message tool.

TTAC in 2016

Community Representatives/Appointments

Chizmas provided a list of all current members of TTAC and also showed a list of appointments from a letter sent to municipalities in 2010.

Roache informed the group that the TTAC meeting packet info was sent to Commissioners for this meeting and will be sent going forward to information purposes.

Potential Change in Meeting Time

Roache talked about the possibility of doing morning meetings instead of the lunchtime meetings of which participation has dropped since DOT would not reimburse for lunch anymore. He suggested a 9:00am morning meeting with bagels still on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. He asked the group for their opinion. Gowan felt that an early meeting could be challenging for him as well as others. Cashell commented on a past experience and the success of breakfast meetings.

Gowan asked if Roache needed a letter indicating representatives for TTAC. Roache said letters would be sent out again for appointments/confirmations on/for current TTAC members similar to the 2010 appointment letters.

STAFF UPDATES

Chizmas informed the group of the STIP Revision procedures that were updated by NH DOT and were available online. She said there were no big changes that would impact the current TIP or Amendment.

Motion to adjourn came from Gowan with a second from Fox. The meeting ended at 1:12 pm.