



MINUTES
NASHUA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
December 14, 2005

Members Present:

John Eresian, Chair, Hollis	Nelson, Disco, Merrimack
Marilyn Peterman, Amherst	Karin Elmer, Merrimack
Bradley Vear, Amherst (A)	Richard Roulx, Merrimack
Jay Hennessey, Amherst	Bill Parker, Milford
Helen Fenske, Brookline	Mike Fimbel, Mont Vernon
Linda Saari, Brookline	Kathy Hersh, Nashua
Robert Kostecki, Hudson (A)	Steve Farkas, Nashua
Ray Peeples, Litchfield	Jean-Guy Bergeron, Pelham
Tom Koenig, Merrimack	Tom Collins, Pelham
Donald Wunderlich, Merrimack	Leo Thibeault, Pelham

Staff Present:

Steve Williams, Executive Director	Steve Schaffer, GIS Manager
Kerrie Diers, Assistant Director	Shirley Vance, Executive Assistant
Steve Schaffer, GIS Manager	

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Privilege of the Floor

There were no members of the public in attendance who wished to speak.

Approval of Minutes - September 21, 2005

It was moved by Don Wunderlich, seconded by Richard Roulx:

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on September 21, 2005
be approved.

The motion carried with 2 abstentions.

STIP Amendment #6

Steve Williams reported that NRPC has recently received amendment #6 to the adopted 2005-2007 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) from NH DOT. The amendments were included in the mailing. This amendment includes three lists of projects: 1) Informational changes; 2) Full Amendments; and 3) Expedited Procedure Amendments. Information changes do not require any action; however the full amendments and expedited procedure amendments require MPO approval. One full amendment project, the widening of NH101A between Celina Avenue Intersection and Somerset Parkway to a consistent 6 lane cross-section affects the air quality analysis. A conformity determination has been done. A summary of the air quality results were distributed. Both the STIP amendment and the air quality analysis need to be approved. The Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) recommended approval. On the Expedited Procedures list, there were small financial changes made. After discussion, it was moved by Nelson Disco, seconded by Tom Collins:

THAT STIP amendment #6 be approved.

After further discussion the motion was carried unanimously.

It was the moved by Kathy Hersh, seconded by Tom Koenig:

THAT the Air Quality Conformity Determination as
presented be approved.

The motion carried unanimously.



Nashua-Boston Commuter Bus Proposal

CMAQ funding has been requested by NH DOT to allow Concord Trailways to develop commuter bus service from Nashua to Boston. The service would provide 9 round trips each weekday. The service will be from Exit 8 and Exit 6 in Nashua to Boston-South Station and Logan Airport. The funding will be used to purchase 4 new coaches and to provide 3 years of operating expenses. NH DOT Commissioner Carol Murray attended the TTAC meeting and made it clear that the project will not divert any funds from the Lowell-Nashua Commuter Rail project. An air quality conformity analysis was provided to the Commission which shows impressive reductions in emissions as the result of this project. The TTAC recommended the project for approval. After further discussion, it was moved by Brad Vear, seconded by Nelson Disco:

THAT the Nashua to Boston Commuter Bus Proposal as submitted be approved.

The motion carried unanimously.

FY06 Midyear Budget Report

Upon reviewing the budget and midyear income and expenses, the Executive Committee determined that variation from the adopted budget was so minor that an amendment was not necessary at this time. A midyear budget report showing the current status relative to the adopted budget was discussed.

FY05 Audit Report

The Audit Committee consisting of Brad Vear, Bill Parker and Tad Luszey had met with Paul Mercier from the Mercier Group. He told them the agency was very strong financially. One minor correction noted regarded the defined contribution pension plan. The Chairman thanked the Committee for their work.

Program Reports

Land Use and Environmental Programs: Kerrie Diers discussed the on-going land use projects including the City of Nashua Land Use Ordinance Update, Planner Training, Greater Nashua Public Health Network, Town of Pelham Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and the Innovative Land Use Handbook. The on-going environmental programs include the Regional Environmental Planning Program (REPP), Pennichuck Brook Water Quality Monitoring Program, NH Office of Emergency Management Hazard Mitigation Planning, NH DES Mutual Aid Study, Lower Merrimack River Corridor Public Outreach and Education Program, Souhegan River Watershed Management Plan, Household Hazardous Waste Program, and the Brownfields Assessment Program.

Transportation: Steve Williams gave an update on the Commuter Rail Project which has been making rapid progress recently. He further discussed the NH 13 - Corridor Access Management Plan, the Wilton Sidewalk System, the Pelham Intersection Analysis and the Widening of NH 101A in Nashua.

GIS: Steve Schaffer reported on the new NRPC website which went live in November. He also discussed the Internal Network update which switches our network to a server/client network versus a peer-to-peer network. Staff has been involved with extensive data gathering in the field on projects such as hazard mitigation plans, and the NH Route 13 Corridor Study. Staff continued to work on improving the quality of data maintained by NRPC. Final adjustments were made to the Buildout Impact Analysis. It is posted on our website.



Steve Williams noted that the annual Legislative Forum is scheduled for Thursday, February 9, 2006 at the Anheuser-Busch facility in Merrimack. It had been decided to try something different this year which will consist of 4 facilitated groups to discuss the pressing issues in our region: transportation, land use, environment and municipal issues.

Commissioner's Roundtable

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Williams, Official Recorder.

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