



MINUTES
NASHUA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
March 21, 2001

Members Present:	Frank Bolmarcich, Vice-Chairman, Nashua Diane Nilsson, Treasurer, Wilton Martin Michaelis, Amherst John Eresian, Hollis Leonard Smith, Hudson Joe Wozniak, Hudson Doris Ducharme, Hudson Ann Seabury, Hudson Howard Dilworth, Jr.	Patricia Jewett, Litchfield Andy Prolman, Litchfield Jean Weston, Merrimack Lee Mayhew, Milford Roger Hawk, Nashua Becky Ohler, NH DES
Others Present:	Bill Watson, NH DOT	Mike Fitzgerald, NH DES
Staff Present:	Andrew Singelakis Ray Guarino Mark Archambault Koren Melfi Steve Wagner Mark Archambault Koren Melfi	Leigh Komornick Shirley Vance Steve Heuchert John Vogl Steve Heuchert John Vogl Steve Wagner

Marilyn Peterman could not be at tonight's meeting and Vice-Chairman Frank Bolmarcich called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Privilege of the Floor

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

Approval of Minutes – November 15, 2000

It was moved by Lee Mayhew, seconded by John Eresian:

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on November 15, 2000
be approved.

The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman's Report

The budget was discussed at the Executive Committee meeting. A small surplus is anticipated to be carried over to next year. It was suggested that the Commission write a letter of appreciation for Carol Murray who is Acting Commissioner of NH DOT. It was then moved by Lenny Smith, seconded by Pat Jewett:

THAT the Executive Director write a letter of appreciation for
Acting DOT Commissioner Carol Murray.

The motion carried unanimously.



STIP Amendments

Leigh Komornick explained the revisions to the STIP which included four projects for the Nashua Transit System. These were basically housekeeping issues allowing for: preventative maintenance for buses; replace of buses and vans; inclusion of the FTA Job Access Reverse Commute funds; and FTA Section 5307 Urban Transit Operating Funds. There are also two expedited projects: Highland Street Project in Hudson, and the Broad Street Parkway.

THAT the proposed STIP Amendment #3 be adopted conditional upon all comments received within the 30 day public comment period which closes on April 18, 2001.

The motion carried unanimously.

Air Quality Conformity Discussion

Becky Ohler, NH DES, introduced Mike Fitzgerald, also from DES, to discuss the MBTE issue. MBTE is an octane-enhancer additive used in gasoline. It has been found to be pervasive and increases contamination in drinking water. It is highly water soluble and highly mobile through the ground. The Clean Air Act of 1990 mandated the use of reformulated gas so that states could be in compliance with air quality conformity measures identified in the act. The Legislature is dealing with the issue. In 1991, the Governor opted in to the reformulated gas program. Some states have taken steps to ban MBTE. At this point, the only other option would be to replace it with ethanol, which also has similar groundwater contamination issues. Due to the law, it is very unlikely that the State could opt out of the program. After some discussion, the Chairman thanked Mike for his presentation.

Becky Ohler then discussed ground level ozone which is regulated by EPA. Southern NH is in a non-attainment area with the 1-hour (120 parts/billion) ozone standards. An 8-hour standard (80 parts/billion) was proposed and was not implemented because of litigation. On February 27, 2001 the Supreme Court ruled that: 1) cost cannot be considered when it comes to establishing health standards; 2) EPA did not overstep its boundary; and 3) EPA did not follow the proper policy for applying standards. The 1-hour standard is still in place.

Bill Watson, NH DOT, discussed the Airport Access Road. DOT is working with DES, the Audubon Society, the Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife, and Fish and Game to work on a compromise to allow for the nesting eagles. Other alternatives are being discussed, such as bridging the wetlands. There will be a minimum 4-6 month delay in the project, and costs are expected to increase by \$15,000,000.

Commissioners' Roundtable

A Commissioner's Roundtable was held.

Mark Archambault gave a brief update on the status of the Land and Community Heritage Program (LCHIP). The first round of grant requests was for \$20.5m with 136 communities submitting projects. In our region, the following communities submitted applications and are eligible for funding: Amherst, Brookline, Merrimack, Mont Vernon, Nashua, Pelham and Wilton. HB 537, which provides the funding legislation, was amended in Committee to provide an initial \$4m for LCHIP and \$4m for tourism promotion for the next year. For the following year, tourism and LCHIP will be funded based on the actual increased revenues received as a result of the additional tourism promotion funds. Final awards will be determined in late Spring.

Andrew noted that HB 358-FN relative to tolls in the Town of Merrimack, which was supported by NRPC and the region's communities, appears to have been killed in Committee.

The Town of Milford has approved funding in the amount \$25,000 to bring Citybus from Nashua to Milford.

It was then moved by Lee Mayhew, seconded by Jean Weston:

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:28 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Singelakis, Official Recorder