


DRAFT MINUTES
NRPC TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
November 13, 2019

Members Present:

Tim White, NHDES Linda Dusenberry, NHDOT Tim White, NHDES Linda Dusenberry, NHDOT	Julie Chizmas, City of Nashua Peter Kohalmi, City of Nashua John Savage, City of Nashua – NTS Leigh Levine, FHWA
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Others Present

Jim Battis, Commissioner	
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STAFF PRESENT

Gregg Lantos, MPO Coordinator Matt Waitkins, Senior Transportation Planner	Jay Minkarah, Executive Director Sabrina Pedersen, Community Relations Coordinator
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CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Lantos called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm with a round of introductions.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 9TH, 2019 MEETING

Lantos referred to the minutes of October 9th, 2019 included in the agenda packet as Attachment 1. Dusenberry noticed a name mistake between her name and St. John's. There was not a quorum present so there was not an official motion to approve the minutes as amended.

FY 2019 – 2022 TIP AMENDMENT 2/MTP MINOR UPDATE

Waitkins presented TIP Amendment 2, which does not result in changes to project scopes. Projects being amended are:

- Brookline, NH 12/Old Milford Road intersection (40662) – Funds in PE are shifted from FY20 to FY21. PE increased in FY21 and ROW increases in FY23. The Amendment accommodates the fiscal constraint.
- Nashua-Merrimack, FEE Turnpike Widening (13761) – Construction funds are shifted to child projects with 2.8% inflation added. Child projects 13761A (widen from Exit 8 to Exit 10) and 13761D (widen from Exit 13 to I-293 interchange) are added.
- Wilton-Milford-Amherst-Bedford (13692D) – PE added for FY21, Construction moved from FY21 to FY22.
- Statewide Program BRDG-HIB-M&P – PE and Construction in FY19 are reduced, resulting in TIP funding reduction of \$2.342 million. Additional construction funds occur in the TIP out years of FY29 and FY30.
- Statewide Program PAVE-T2-REHAB – PE and ROW phases added for FY20 through FY22. Construction yearly funds are decreased by the amount added for PE and ROW to result in no net program funding change.
- Statewide (41756), Evaluate/Modify 61+ Traffic Signal Controls – Project phasing is changed from PE/CON to OTHER. Funding changed from FY 2019-2020 to FY 2020-2022.

TIP A2 is currently in a 30-day public comment period as prescribed by the PIP. NRPC is concurrently amending the MTP project list to be consistent with the Amendment. The public comment period continues until Tuesday the 19th, followed by a Public Hearing at the Executive Committee MPO Meeting on November 20th. Lacking a quorum, a vote was not taken to officially recommend adoption of the TIP Amendment by the MPO; however, there were no comments of concern over the proposed Amendment.

GACIT PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY

Minkarah presented the highlights of the two public hearings in Nashua, which were positive discussions. He had learned that the Bedford meeting was well attended by persons from Merrimack. His sense was NHDOT was approachable about the changes which were suggested, particularly regarding eliminating the Turnpike tolls at Exit 11. A recommendation from GACIT will be made by January 1, 2020 and seems likely to be adopted.

Chizmas asked if Merrimack has to assume responsibility for Continental Blvd? Minkarah replied that it would not. Other significant development was a request from Merrimack for a corridor study (Merrimack – Bedford for congestion relief). Our region was responsive, Minkarah concluded. Lantos presented about the NHDOT recommended changes to the 10 Year Plan per GACIT hearing comments.

Chizmas had concerns since they do not know how the right-of-way will change.

HUDSON TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS SYSTEM

Dhima presented the traffic signal operations management system in Hudson. The system is proceeding towards 100% GridSmart (cameras). Upgrades are made every 4 to 6 months, resulting in some difficulties with the new system. The system measures speed, the numbers that go through green, run red lights, and more. They notice a lot of delays due to people using their phones. After Version 19.10 is released, the current version will be free from GridSmart – efficient and safe. He noted there is not major traffic on Lowell Road from bicyclists, so this mode is not incorporated into the system. Minkarah asked how it would make bicycles safer. Dhima explained that the green light gets extended when programmed to see the bicyclists at intersections.

McCain Transparency (controllers in one platform) is used for traffic timing adjustments. Remote access helps with staff, consultants, and contractors not needing to travel around. It is a cloud-set up so timing is traced through time and can be brought up any time.

Success stories were discussed at the number of vehicles passing as Green Arrivals.

TRANSIT EXPANSION FEASIBILITY STUDY – PRESENTATION OF RIDERSHIP ESTIMATES AND OPERATIONAL COST/REVENUE ANALYSIS FOR ROUTES TO MILFORD, MERRIMACK AND HUDSON

Lantos presented about the ridership estimates and operational cost.

1. Daniel Webster Highway Route to Merrimack/Bedford Line
2. Continental Boulevard and Industrial Drive Route. Fidelity and Merrimack Premium Outlets were excluded from the future transit service area. Fidelity is somewhat remotely located and unlikely to attract transit ridership. The Outlets management has stated it does not want buses servicing their property, so the shops fall outside of the walkable distance to the transit route.
3. NH 101A Route to Merrimack, Amherst, and Milford
4. NH 13 adjunct route to NH 101 Interchange, Milford
5. Hudson 3A Route

The operational/financial analysis of route extensions was presented, with the conclusion that formula federal funding is currently inadequate to support new routes.

White asked if they would need to include ADA Paratransit. Lantos said complementary paratransit service is required within $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of fixed routes. Chizmas added that SVTC takes care of much of the extended service area and City Lift is provided in areas for on-demand. The extended service area appears to be sufficiently covered by paratransit at present. Minkarah said that there was strong employer support for fixed route extensions. Minkarah asked about the fare being assumed as \$2.00 and Lantos said that the assumed full adult fare for new service areas was \$2.50 (same as the existing service extension to Amherst).

NRPC STAFF UPDATES

Waitkins reported on the November TIP Minor Revision, which provides for FTA funding for NTS service to WalMart in Amherst through FY 2022.

NHDOT, NHDES, FHWA UPDATES

Dusenberry – November 25th is last GACIT Hearing before the Ten Year Plan is sent to the Governor.

Levine – The TMA Certification Review was done by the federal agencies and a report is in progress. The draft report should be ready by the end of the year.

White – Yesterday was the deadline for submitting grant applications for the DERA program. About 8-9 applications were submitted, which will be followed by project scoring. In addition, there may be additional rounds of funding. White said that he will check on which communities from the region submitted.

ADJOURN

Meeting was adjourned at 1:20.