


**Approved MINUTES**  
**NRPC TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Members Present:**

Todd Croteau, Town of Hollis	Julie Chizmas, City of Nashua
Elvis Dhima, Town of Hudson	Wayne Husband, City of Nashua
Brian Groth, Town of Hudson	Peter Kohalmi, City of Nashua
Mark Chamberlain, Town of Lyndeborough	Camille Pattison, City of Nashua – NTS
Dawn Tuomala, Town of Merrimack	John Savage, City of Nashua – NTS
Lincoln Daley, Town of Milford	Jeff Gowan, Town of Pelham

**Others Present**

Karin Elmer, Commissioner – Town of Merrimack	Linda Dusenberry, NH DOT
Tim White, NH DES	Leigh Levine, FHWA

**STAFF PRESENT**

Gregg Lantos, MPO Coordinator	Jay Minkarah, Executive Director
Matt Waitkins, Senior Transportation Planner	Derek Stahl, Planning Technician

**CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Lantos called the meeting to order at 12:08 pm with a round of introductions.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2019 MEETING**

Lantos referred to the minutes of November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019 included in the agenda packet as Attachment 1. White noted that his and Dusenberry's names were listed twice in the attendance section.

***Dhima motioned with a second from Chamberlain to approve the minutes from the November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting. All were in favor and the motion passed.***

**FY 2019 – 2022 TIP AMENDMENT 3**

Waitkins presented TIP Amendment 3, which does not result in changes to project scopes. Projects being amended are:

- Milford, Osgood Road/Armory Rd Sidewalks and Bicycle Lane (42883) –
- Milford, Rte 101A/Nashua St Sidewalks (42887) –
- Nashua, Canal St/Franklin St/Main St Intersection and Roadway Improvements (42882) –
- Statewide, Upgrades to 10 Locations with Flashing Yellow Arrow/Optimized Timing (42878)–
- Program, Funds transferred from CMAQ to FTA (CMAQ-FTA) –
- Program, Capital, Mobility Mgmt, and Operating for Seniors/Individuals w/ Disabilities (FTA5310) –
- Program, Capital Bus and Bus Facilities for Statewide Public Transit (FTA5339) -

Lincoln stated that warrant articles were voted not to be put on Milford projects and that there was a possibility to delay the projects for funding. Lantos discussed the potential for signal improvements but was unsure which intersections would be selected due to the addition of lanes. Chizmas asked whether the cost of Milford projects changed due to the modifications. Levine added that the non-exempt status of the Milford project may change with amendments.

**2020 SAFETY PERFORMANCE TARGETS**

Lantos presented the safety performance targets for 2020. The targets deal with five safety measures which are the number of fatalities, rate of fatalities, number of serious injuries, rate of serious injuries, and the number of non-motorized fatalities and non-motorized serious injuries. The data for these measures is obtained through the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), State Motor Vehicle Crash Database, and the Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS). Future targets are established by using a five-year moving average if the rates are trending downwards. If the rates are trending upwards, then the future target is capped at the average of the most recent year.

The safety targets for 2020 saw an overall decrease from the 2019 targets. The 2020 targets are:

Fatality Total: 11.8

Fatality Rate: 0.710

Serious Injury Total: 59.0

Serious Injury Rate: 3.50

Non-Motorized Fatal/Serious Injuries: 7.2

Minkarah asked why the use of current trends are used to establish future targets. Lantos responded that they are used because they create realistic targets for the future. Levine stated that if the state doesn't achieve targets than the state would not be allowed to flex safety money even though New Hampshire does not currently flex safety budget. More discussion on the debate of whether targets should be zero or derived using the current method continued and Groth asked if it would make more sense to call them predictions rather than targets. White asked what methods other MPO's are using and Lantos responded they are adopting Statewide targets. Chizmas added that ultimately you strive for zero fatalities and serious injuries however the current process gives you a mathematical and more realistic target.

***Chamberlain motioned with a second from Gowan to accept the safety targets. All were in favor and the motion passed.***

**NASHUA INTER-REGIONAL TRANSIT EXPANSION STUDY PROJECT PROPOSAL**

Waitkins stated that the project will evaluate the feasibility of expanding transit service beyond the Nashua Region to provide vital connections to major transit hubs, employment centers, medical and educational institutions and other key destinations in Massachusetts' Middlesex County not currently served by the Boston Express. The study would include surveys of existing commuter and large area employers, analysis of origin and destination data, evaluation of alternative commuter shuttle service models, ridership estimates by route and destination, cost estimates and evaluation of funding alternatives, including the possibility of creating a 501(c)6 or similar non-profit TMA to access private funding. Minkarah added that in many ways this project is a precursor to establishing rail in Nashua. Minkarah also added that the Middlesex 3 would serve as a model and that Gallagher terminal in Lowell would be a focus as an important location for the service.

Lantos and Waitkins asked for any immediate input about the project and encouraged feedback in the future. Levine asked whether there would be any cross-border coordination between MPO's and Lantos responded that there would be. Chizmas stated that Rory from UMASS Lowell had reached out and had interest in the Nashua shuttle to the university and recommended to contact him.

### ***Merrimack FEE Turnpike Exit 12 Ramp Study***

Lantos stated that this will be an update to the Exit 12 Ramp Study conducted in 2004, which evaluated the need for and impacts of construction of FEE Turnpike ramps to and from the north at Exit 12. However, the 2020 update will extend the study area to the US 3 interchange with Wieczorek Drive in Bedford and evaluate the impacts that new connection has had on Merrimack roadways and DW Hwy, in particular. This will include new data collection through the use of ATRs and Turning Movement Counts and also referencing the 2004 study which identified impacts on land use, the environment and quality of life and any new impacts will be identified and evaluated.

Elmer asked whether the project would consider the possible FEE Turnpike widening project and Lantos and Minkarah responded saying that it would. Chizmas asked if there would be a cost change if the Turnpike was widened and Lantos said there would be. Husbands questioned when the DW Hwy count was done last year and suggested to check it because one lane of the bridge was out and may have impacted the accuracy of the count.

### **NRPC STAFF UPDATES**

#### **NHDOT, NHDES, FHWA UPDATES**

Dusenberry – Had no updates but stated that the Ten-Year plan is still at the governor’s office and waiting to hear back.

Levine – Full funding for the Obligational Authority should be coming soon.

White – There may be leftover funding for a second round of funding for the DERA program. Also stated that proposals for the Direct Current Fast Charging Infrastructure were due by January 24<sup>th</sup>. Pattison asked about additional VW funding and White responded that there is nothing on the horizon but there would be in the future.

### **ADJOURN**

***Chamberlain motioned with a second from Dhima to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 1:12 pm.***