


**NRPC APPROVED MINUTES**  
**NRPC TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**03/9/11**

**Members Present:**

John Cashell, Town of Hudson  
 Jeff Babel, Town of Hollis  
 Leon Kenison, City of Nashua DPW  
 Wayne Husband, Nashua Traffic

John St.Pierre, Town of Amherst  
 Nick Alexander, NHDOT  
 Jeff Gowan, Town of Pelham  
 Bill Parker, Town of Milford

**Staff Present**

Tim Roache, MPO Coordinator  
 Kerrie Diers, Executive Director  
 Julie Chizmas, Transportation Planner

Karen M. Baker, Administrative Assistant  
 Matt Waitkins, Transportation Planner  
 Steve Wagner, Regional Planner and circuit rider for towns of Mason, Wilton and Litchfield

**Others Present**

Diane Sheehan, City of Nashua

**CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Tim Roache opened the meeting at 12:12 with introductions

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 9TH 2011 MEETING**

Roache referred to the minutes of February 9, 2011 included in the agenda packet as Attachment 1 and asked for a motion to approve. Gowan moved to approve the February 9, 2011 minutes with a second from Parker. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**2011 - 2014 S/TIP AMENDMENT #1**

Chizmas passed around a revised STIP Amendment sheet and explained that a new project was added to the amendment and pointed out the Nashua Park n' Ride. She further explained that while this was a CMAQ project, there was no air quality benefit taken and therefore no change was required to the air quality analysis. Chizmas continued to review the remaining projects in the amendment. Gowan said that he presented STIP Amendment 1 to the Pelham Selectmen on March 1<sup>st</sup> and they were in full support. Roache asked the group for a motion to recommend to the full Commission for approval of STIP Amendment 1 barring any substantial comment. Gowan moved with a second from Babel. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Husband questioned if Dookran was aware of the PE reduction. Roache explained that it was more of an advance of funds but he did have a conversation with Dookran regarding it.

**NH DOT TEN YEAR PLAN SUMMIT FOLLOW-UP**

Roache passed around a map and project list which identified Potential Impacts to Ten Year Plan projects in the Nashua region due to budget shortfalls. Roache and Chizmas provided a presentation to give them a better feel of the potential impacts. Roache pointed out that STIP Amendment 1 was not reflected in the presentation. A map in the presentation provided a look at the projects from the 2011 - 2020 Ten Year Plan in the Nashua Region which included projects delayed from previous TYP and new TE/CMAQ projects. He stressed the importance of finding a way to fund transportation in the State and referred to HB2 Chapter 144:291 which established a committee to study future sustainable revenue sources for funding improvements to state and municipal highways and bridges with findings that resulted in the 2011-2020 Ten Year Transportation Plan being under funded by 1.2 million (*Final Report of the Commission to Study Future Sustainable Revenue sources for Funding Improvements to State and Municipal Highways and Bridges*, November 2010 <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/statstudcomm/reports/1989.pdf>). Diers informed the

group that David Campbell would be at the full Commission meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup> to present the findings of a Transportation Budget report.

Diers also stressed the need to find a sustainable source for transportation. Potential threats and the impacts of SB78 are listed below:

- In addition, Senate Bill 78 eliminates the motor vehicle registration fee increases enacted in 2009 and currently set to expire on June 30, 2011, effective upon passage of the bill
- Fiscal Impact of SB78: Assuming the proposed legislation would be passed on May 1, 2011, the Department of Safety has stated that this bill will decrease state highway fund revenue by \$6,595,926 in FY 2011, and decrease state highway fund expenditures and local revenue by \$791,511 in FY 2012
- Regardless of SB78, if the motor vehicle registration fees sunset on June 30, 2011 as set in law, and based on a FY 2010 monthly revenue average of \$3,297,963 from those fees, NHDOT's budget could be reduced by \$90 million over the biennium if no new revenue sources are identified

Roache provided a scenario of the impacts to projects currently in the Ten Year Plan if there was a budget fall due and SB78 sunsets. If the "Chopping Block" and "At Risk" projects were cut there would be no major transportation improvements programmed in the Nashua Region beyond FY2012. Diers informed the group that SB78 was being voted on that day and would move onto the House.

Parker asked if the Commissioners would be taking a stand on SB78 and made a motion on behalf of the TTAC to recommend that the full Commission oppose SB78 and work towards finding a sustainable funding source. Gowen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Alexander said the need far outweighs the funds provided and that it is clearly illustrated in HB2.

#### **STAFF PRESENTATION: THE NRPC LONG RANGE METROPOLITAN PLAN UPDATE PROCESS**

Roache started off by saying that even though the transportation funding issue is looking grim, they need to be ready and have projects in place and on the radar. He provided a Power Point presentation. He added that the presentation would also be used for discussion and eventually presented to towns and put out to the cable access channels. Listed below are the key points:

#### **PLAN PURPOSE:**

- Required by Federal regulations
- Transportation Policy Statement for the metropolitan region
- Maintains a 25-year planning horizon
- Updated concurrently with NH DOT's biennial update to the Ten Year Plan
- Source from which specific projects are identified, prioritized and selected for funding

#### **GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE**

- The MTP includes all NRPC Member Communities

#### **THE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP) MECHANISMS**

- Promotes intermodal connectivity and efficiency in the movement of people and goods
- Promotes a vision that will enhance and maintain quality of life in NRPC communities

- Includes all transportation modes
- Provides latest available data and projections
- Includes local, regional and state plans
- Considers public input gained through meetings and workshops
- Involves coordination with state and federal agencies and other MPOs in both NH and Massachusetts
- Developed under direction of Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC)

**PURPOSE OF UPDATES**

- Incorporate updated Census data
- Incorporate changes in federal regulations
- Add new projects and update information for existing projects
- Update air quality conformity analysis based on new projects/information

Roache added that part of the goal is to take the MTP goals and strategies and put them through the process with the TTAC with an emphasis put on alternative modes. He briefly reviewed the process to date and the schedule going forward:

<b>2011</b>	
<b>January</b>	Published Notice of Intent to Update MTP TTAC reviewed existing projects in outer years of MTP
<b>February</b>	TTAC reviewed existing projects in outer years of TYP Began project solicitation with distribution of guidance document, criteria and form
<b>March</b>	Hold meetings with communities on MTP and TYP update processes
<b>April</b>	TTAC review of new MTP projects submitted through solicitation process, Confirm TYP priorities based on previous meetings, and provide NH DOT with regional TYP priorities
<b>May-August</b>	Hold public meetings to gather input on regional goals and objectives, review census data releases, and update MTP chapters
<b>August</b>	August: prepare project profiles for GACIT hearings
<b>September - October</b>	GACIT Hearings
<b>December</b>	Draft TYP to Governor
<b>2012</b>	
<b>January - June</b>	January: Draft TYP to Legislature
<b>February - June</b>	Legislative hearings on Draft TYP, New TE and CMAQ rounds open - <b>Date Not Confirmed</b>
<b>July - August</b>	Approved TYP used to develop MTP, TIP, and AQA
<b>September</b>	Public hearings on Draft MTP, TIP and AQA

There were some questions regarding the Rail Transit Authority repeal and whether the Governor had veto privileges. Sheehan said the bill was veto proof. Cashell felt there were several ways to still complete the rail study. Diers said the FTA money was still on the table and DOT was moving forward. There was a question on what would happen with the FRA due to the budget issues and what congress decides to do with the existing funds. Sheehan asked if a rail authority of coop could be formed on the City or Town

level. Diers was unsure of this but felt it should be looked into. She added that whatever happens, it was not the end of the rail discussion. Sheehan wanted to have a Plan B in place.

#### **STAFF AND PROJECT UPDATES**

Chizmas informed the group of:

- Commute Green NH – May 16-20th a partnership with the State this year with more info to come later
- Project Advertising Schedule Updates (handed out) with new projects indicated with an asterisk
- NEW – Census 2010 Factsheet (handout)

Diers commented that the Executive Committee found the Project Advertising Schedule very useful and that it should be available on the website.

Husband informed the group the City's Traffic Signal CMAQ project which an RFP went out for that resulted in a shortlist of 7. They selected VHB and are currently in negotiations and that the project would be starting any day now. Chizmas asked that when available to email her the locations of the specific signals being upgraded.

Babel motioned to adjourn with a second from Parker. The meeting adjourned at **12:59pm**.