


APPROVED MINUTES
NRPC TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
03/13/13

Members Present:

Jeff Babel, Town of Hollis DPW
 Kyle Fox, Town of Merrimack
 Sarah Marchant, Town of Amherst
 Jeff Gowan, Town of Pelham
 John Cashell, Town of Hudson
 Bruce Berry, Town of Amherst
 Kathy Hersh, City of Nashua

Jeanne Walker, City of Nashua
 Joe Mendola, City of Nashua
 Steve Dookran, City of Nashua
 Bill Parker, Town of Milford

Others Present:

Paul Lockwood, NH DES
 Karla Kemp, NHDOT
 Leigh Levine, FHWA

STAFF PRESENT

Tim Roache, MPO Coordinator
 Julie Chizmas, Senior Transportation Planner
 Matt Waitkins, Field Data/Transportation Planner

Kerrie Diers, Executive Director
 Mark Connors, NRPC Intern

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Tim Roache opened the meeting at 12:08 with introductions.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 9, 2013 MEETING

Roache referred to the minutes of January 9, 2013 included in the agenda packet as Attachment 1 and asked for a motion to approve. Babel moved to approve the January 9, 2013 minutes with a second from Gowan. All were in favor.

2013-2016 S/TIP AMENDMENT # 1 (ACTION ITEM)

Chizmas summarized the proposed changes for the region included in the 2013-2016 S/TIP Amendment #1.

Boston Express: Manchester - Nashua ~ Amendment to add a new project with FTA 5307 Capital and Operating Program (Boston Urbanized area) funding.

Nashua Park and Ride: Construct Park and Ride and accessory facilities at up to two Nashua locations. Reintroduction of 2011-2014 TIP project into the 2013-2015 TIP with CMAQ funding.

Nashua East Hollis Street: Reconstruction of East Hollis Street from Main Street to Hudson town line to improve capacity proposing and advance and increase in the preliminary engineering and right-of-way funding from 2015 to 2013 and advance and increase in construction funding from years beyond the TIP to 2014.

Pelham – Main Street: Bridge replacement over Beaver Brook (both on red list). Updated project schedule delays construction to 2017.

Wilton-Milford-Amherst-Bedford NH 101: Safety improvements at various locations from Wilton to Wallace Road in Bedford as determined by the corridor study. 3 million removed from the project for child project for future safety improvements to 101 in Milford from Elm Street/101 intersection to Wilton Road and is expected to show as a minor revision in advertised for FY2016.

Various Statewide Projects

Chizmas informed the group that the projects in the Nashua region are primarily administrative in nature and are necessary to ensure that the TIP and STIP reflect the anticipated project schedule and maintain fiscal constraint requirements. She added that a legal notice was placed in the Nashua Telegraph and on the NRPC website and public comments were accepted through Wednesday, March 6th, 2013. NO comments were received. Additionally, there will be a public hearing on Wednesday, March 20, 2013 at the NRPC office at 7:00pm. Lastly, she said that action is required from the TTAC to recommend approval of the proposed Amendment #1 to the Nashua Regional Planning Commission. The changes made by S/TIP Amendment #1 trigger a new conformity

determination of the SE NH 8-hour Ozone Nonattainment Area and the City of Nashua Carbon Monoxide Maintenance Area and that the Nashua Metropolitan Area Air Quality Conformity Analysis (2013-2040), adopted October 17, 2012 continues to be valid. The Staff has reviewed the amendment with various State and US agencies, and representatives of the MPOs and recommends approving the proposed changes in the amendment. Chizmas asked if there were any questions. Hersh questioned the Boston Express project and asked if we could get the Boston Express to go to the Manchester Airport. There was discussion on whether Manchester Airport would want to have Boston Express come to the airport and there was comments that M. Brewer had spoken out in the past against this and had concerns that this could take business away from Manchester and bring it to Boston. Hersh commented that if it was as easy to get to Manchester Airport as it is to get to Boston, folks might fly out of Manchester more. Diers commented that this was not a new project. Cashell motioned to recommend approval of the proposed amendment to the NRPC Commission with a second from Dookran. There was no further discussion. The motion passed with all in favor.

2015-2024 TEN YEAR PLAN AND 2015-2040 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN: PROJECT SCORES AND DRAFT PRIORITIZATION (ACTION ITEM)

Roache summarized the process to date in regards to project prioritization and scoring. He informed the group that the in October 2012 NRPC kicked off the 2 year transportation planning cycle that updates the State Ten year Plan and Regional Metropolitan Transportation Plan by reviewing the vision for the region. Then, at the December 2012 TTAC meeting discussions were held regarding project scoring using seven evaluation categories and 20 criteria within those categories defined by NHDOT. An online survey was developed for committee members to weigh individual criteria and share with other town staff for additional input. The results were reviewed and approved by TTAC at the January 2013 meeting. Safety and State of Repair ranked top matching that of the DOT ranking process using Decision Lens software. A subcommittee was formed with members from Nashua, Merrimack, Hudson and Milford to score the existing regional projects from the current transportation plans. As part of the process, informational fact sheets pertinent to the categories and criteria were developed and reviewed by the subcommittee and additional guidance was developed. Objective criteria, such as those based on road classification and traffic volumes, were pre-scored by NRPC staff. The committee scored the remaining criteria, and then met again to review and discuss how they evaluated each of the projects to make sure everyone had the same understanding of the criteria and how to apply them. Each scorer was allowed to make revisions based on that second meeting. Final results were compiled and are presented below:

Roache asked the group to review the results and if they thought anything was out of whack. Chizmas showed examples of the fact sheets, scoring sheets, guidance documents, objective model information with real numbers that were used to score the projects. Roache elaborated some and informed the group that the final scores would be matched up with DOT's. He referred to the list and commented that it is hard to compare passenger rail with Right turn lanes on Rte. 3A in Hudson and that what becomes the regions priority is still open for discussion. Chizmas also referred to the 584 responses from the MTP Survey where 100 people chose 101A as one of the top 3 congested roads in the region and out of that, 64 said 101A in Nashua. Additionally, 25% of the intersections along 101A were listed as the most congested. Chizmas was still in process of evaluating the results from the MTP Surveys.

Dookran asked if there were any new projects. Roache said that the Milford/Brookline interchange and the Hudson 3A turning lanes were within the past 2 years and the newest. Dookran asked if there was any expectation to have any of the projects funded in the near term. Roache said he was not sure. The next step would be the Commission to make a recommendation to approve, then compile the results and align with DOT's Decision Lens process results where they will come out with a recommendation. He added that the DOT could override the results we pass along to them. He thought the final decision process would include the RPCs and asked Kemp for confirmation. Kemp said she thought the RPCs would be involved as it is part of the DOT's transparency initiative. A member asked if locally we could voice our opinion to move something higher. Roache said yes, but the projects will not be ranked for another 2 years and we don't want to flip flop for this round.

A member wondered if the recommendation could be held off due to concerns from the City of Nashua on the Park & Ride project, the E. Hollis Street project and how the NH 101A got where it is and the City not considering it to be a priority. Roache said he would need a recommendation for the March 20th Commission meeting for approval.

Fox, who was on the subcommittee representing Merrimack elaborated some informing the group that the subcommittee focused on the process and this is where things fell. He added that he did not necessarily agree with it all but he felt the process worked. Parker, who was also on the subcommittee representing Milford, asked if the Board could go before NRPC Commission. Roache said yes, maybe before the meeting. Cashell felt that political influence could maybe change things in the long run and not to worry because there were many more layers to go through. Roache added that this is a 2 year process that is repeated and that there is the likelihood that project candidates will be revisited regardless of the priorities. Roache also pointed out that this was an objective needs driven process when doing the prioritization, not funding. There was some further discussion and questions if the Exit 36S project would be funded. Roache felt that if it gets enough traction, turnpike dollars would pay for that project. Hersh asked what the chance was for some of the projects to get into the Ten Year Plan. Roache felt some would get in but he said you don't know where it is all going to end up. Levine asked for reconciliation of the priority list in regards to safety vs. system preservation. Chizmas explained the high percentage on crashes on 101A and Daniel Webster South and the higher the volume, the higher the scores you get. Cashell felt that rail was a longshot but Hersh did not agree said it made you think how you evaluated a project by using this process and criteria. Roache asked if anyone had any changes and if not, he needed a recommendation for the Commission. Gowan motioned to recommend approval 2015-2024 TYP and 2015-2040 MTP project scores and draft prioritization to the NRPC Commission with a second from Parker. The motion passed with all in favor.

Priority	Transportation Project	Avg	Std Dev	Priority	Transportation Project	Avg	Std Dev
1	Nashua: NH 101A Phase I Widening and Improvements	6.96	0.63	10	Merrimack: NH 101A Intersection Improvements and Calming	5.59	1.03
2	Nashua: NH 101A Phase II Widening and Improvements	6.90	0.59	11	Hudson: New Road (Connector NH 3A to NH 111)	5.49	0.37
3	Nashua-Tyngsborough, MA: Exit 36SB	6.50	0.36	12	Amherst: NH 101A/NH 101 EB Ramp Reconstruction	5.44	1.05
4	Nashua-Manchester-Concord: Passenger Rail	6.34	0.68	13	Hudson-Litchfield-Merrimack-Nashua: Third River Crossing	5.44	0.87
5	Hudson: NH 3A (Lowell Rd) Right Turn Lane to Sagamore Br.	6.25	0.73	14	Wilton-Milford-Amherst: NH 101 Safety Improvements	5.31	0.50
6	Nashua-Merrimack: Turnpike Widening	5.91	0.65	15	Nashua: Broad Street Reconstruction	5.27	0.55
7	Hudson: NH 3A (Lowell Rd) Sidewalks	5.83	0.40	16	Wilton-Milford-Amherst-(Bedford): NH 101 Widening	5.21	0.61
8	Hudson: NH 3A/102 (Derry Rd) Sidewalks	5.76	0.42	17	Brookline: NH 13 Left Turn Lane	5.06	0.82
9	Nashua: Main Street Reconstruction	5.75	0.46	18	Milford: NH 101 New Interchange	3.94	0.51



DRAFT FY2014-FY2015 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) ACTION ITEM

Roache explaining that the Metropolitan transportation planning activities performed with funds provided under title 23 U.S.C. and title 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53 shall be documented in a unified planning work program (UPWP). As the designated MPO, the NRPC has developed the draft FY 2014 -2015 UPWP

He added that the UPWP describes the planning process, the associated programs and activities to be performed by the MPO staff with the costs for each of the work elements and the funding source. It also serves as a guide to the MPO in developing and maintaining work elements including data collection and analysis, policy and plan development, project development, local assistance and integrating transportation and land use. He said it is the same as the last 2 years except for the Rideshare line item which is currently on the backburner with DOT. There is also an emphasis on performance measures in this year's report and it is included in this agenda packet for folks to know and read. Lockwood praised the NRPC UPWP saying that it is a high quality work program that hits all concerns, has clearly written tasks and shows a high quality work ethic.

STAFF AND PROJECT UPDATES

Roache informed the group of the Project Advertising Schedule updates included in the Agenda packet. Chizmas informed the group that it was not too late to register for the 2013 Northeast Transportation Safety Conference on April 3rd and 4th and that Gowan would be doing a presentation on Rural Roundabouts.

Motion to adjourn came from Babel with a second from Gowan. The meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.