



MINUTES-Draft

NRPC TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING 12/17/03

Members Present: Steve Williams, NRPC
Roger Houston, City of Nashua Community Development
Sean Sullivan, Town of Hudson
Becky Ohler, NH DES
Jay Minkareh, Town of Merrimack

Others Present: Betsy Hahn, NRPC Regional Planner
Camille Pattison, NRPC Transit Planner
Matt Waitkins, NRPC Transportation Planner

Meeting Opened and review of Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Steve Williams at 3:05 PM. Williams asked the Committee if there were any corrections to the minutes from the 11/19/03 meeting. Roger Houston moved to accept the minutes and Becky Ohler seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

GACIT Approved 10 Year Plan

Williams stated that at their meeting on December 3, 2003, the Governor's Advisory Council on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) recommended an updated 10-Year Transportation Plan to the Governor. In general, many projects have moved backwards from the adopted FY2003 to FY2012 10 Year Transportation Plan. However, there have also been some notable changes and additions for our region.

- Circumferential Highway was previously expected to begin construction in 2006. The version of the 10-Year Plan recommended by GACIT indicates that the Circumferential Highway will begin construction in 2014.
- FEE Turnpike north of Exit 11 in Merrimack has been proposed for widening to three lanes in each direction. This is a new project that was added in the course of the 10-Year Plan development process.
- The entire widening of NH 101 to four lanes from Bedford to Wilton that was recommended in the NH 101 Corridor Study has been added to the 10-Year Plan. Preliminary engineering is proposed for 2008 with construction to begin in 2013.
- The improvements to NH 101A identified in the NH 101A Corridor Master Plan have moved back from 2005 to 2008.

In addition to those identified above, there have been several small projects, primarily bridge improvements and railroad grade crossing improvements, that have been added in the region.

NRPC Commission to vote on STIP Amendment #7

Williams reported that the NRPC Commission could take action at their meeting that night.

NRPC Commission to vote to adopt Transit Plan

The Transit Plan will be considered by the NRPC Commission at their December 17th meeting.



Regional Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Policy Framework

Matt Waitkins walked the Committee through the policy plan. The intent of this plan is to provide guidance for the planning, development and implementation of safe, usable facilities for non-motorized transportation in the Nashua region. Essentially there are three main components as follows:

1. Physical Improvement Components

Physical traffic improvements that benefit the bicycle and pedestrian network include the engineering of roadway geometrics, traffic speed control and signal timing. Physical improvements also include the design of bike lanes, shared use paths, connections between residential developments and other landscaping elements such as shade trees and benches. The goal is to develop a continuous network that is as safe and comfortable as possible. This will include shaping land use and development patterns through zoning and subdivision regulations.

2. Behavior Improvement Components

In addition to providing safe, comfortable, convenient places to walk and bike, a comprehensive program to increase non-motorized travel should include efforts to change the attitudes and behavior of cyclists, pedestrians and drivers, as well as law enforcement. Education, encouragement and enforcement will remind or teach people how to bike and drive safely and encourage them to walk or bike to short distance destinations.

3. Implementation Components

The implementation strategy is the process by which the goals and objectives of the plan will be accomplished. This will include a schedule as well as recommendations for the management, coordination and evaluation effort that will be necessary to facilitate implementation.

Merrimack- FEE Turnpike Exit 12 Study

The summary of the study of the traffic impacts of adding ramps on the north side of Exit 12 half interchange will be presented at the February 18th TTAC meeting.

DES Air Quality Conformity and the 8-Hour Rule

Becky Ohler explained upcoming changes to the boundaries of the ground-level ozone serious non-attainment areas in southeastern New Hampshire. There are currently two serious non-attainment areas in southeastern New Hampshire. NHDES is proposing that those two areas be combined into one. Also, New Hampshire's attainment status is currently tied to air pollution conditions in Massachusetts, and under the NHDES proposal New Hampshire would stand-alone.

Becky noted that the proposed new boundaries would exclude the towns of Mont Vernon and Wilton.

NHDES expects formal designation by the EPA of a new 8-hour non-attainment area by April 15th 2004. Federal law has mandated that date. Also, within one year of the designation date, the 1-hour designation rule will most likely be rescinded.

These rule changes will effect the conformity process in the long run, but it is unclear at this time exactly how.

Next Meeting, January 21 at 3 PM.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:25 PM.

