



MINUTES

NRPC TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

3/17/04

Members Present: Steve Williams, NRPC
Dave Szczublewski, DOT Planning
Sean Sullivan, Town of Hudson
Becky Ohler, NH DES
Bill Parker, Town of Milford
Paul Newman, City of Nashua
John Whittaker, Nashua Transit System

Others Present: Lou Barker, NH DOT
Terry Johnson, NH Celebrates Wellness
Debra Samaha, Capitol Region Health Care
Bernie Cameron, Greater Nashua Healthy Community Collaborative
Camille Pattison, NRPC Transit Planner
Ryan Friedman, NRPC Transportation Planner GIS
Matt Waitkins, NRPC Transportation Planner
Mark Archambault, NRPC Circuit Rider for Hollis/Brookline
Steve Wagner, NRPC Circuit Rider for Wilton/Litchfield

Meeting Opened and review of Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Camille Pattison at 3:07 PM. Pattison asked the Committee if there were any corrections to the minutes from the 2/18/04 meeting. Dave Szczublewski noted that Lou Barker's name should be added to the list of members present. Steve Williams moved to accept the minutes with that correction. Sean Sullivan seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Safe Routes to School

Debra Samaha was on hand to deliver a presentation on the Safe Routes to School program. The program evolved from the National Safe Kids Organization and the "Safe Kids Walk this Way" initiatives. Hospital data has shown traffic-related incidents to be a major cause of pedestrian injury and death, especially among young children.

Samaha used the Dame School in Concord as an example of where the program has already been implemented. Walkability surveys are handed out to students, and data is collected from local police. The program involves not only the marked paths and sidewalks themselves, but also education in the classroom. The Committee viewed a short video that is used for this purpose. Samaha talked about what is done to promote the program, including brochures, cable television notices, and signs. In the future, the program is looking to add a school bus safety component.

Steve Wagner asked about websites where this information might be found. Samaha mentioned *safekids.org*, *walktoschool.org* and *nhtsa.dot.gov*, and also said that the brochures she handed out contain a lot of this information.

Livable, Walkable Communities

Terry Johnson gave a presentation introducing the Livable, Walkable Communities (LWC) program. The program, which is part of New Hampshire Celebrates Wellness, aims to help communities become more pedestrian-friendly. Johnson said the "Tree Streets" project in downtown Nashua will be the first full project taken on by the program. LWC's usually have three characteristics:



1. They support and promote physical activity.
2. They have an extensive network of sidewalks, multi-use paths and trails.
3. They offer greenspace and a parks and recreation program.

Having these characteristics can impact all sectors of a community, such as its economic health, environmental health, and human and community interaction. With current development trends tending to separate residential areas from commercial and cultural centers, people are becoming more and more reliant on motorized transportation.

Johnson covered the LWC Community Toolkit components, which include:

1. Slideshow
2. Community Scorecard
3. Mapping of Existing Facilities
4. Action Planning
5. Implementation & Support

Circumferential Highway Update

Steve Williams briefed the Committee on the status of the Circumferential Highway. As the Committee had recommended last winter, Williams took the question to the affected communities of whether to continue to pursue the project as planned, to drop the project altogether or to begin an analysis of alternatives to the project. Williams reported that Hudson supports the "full-build" project but advocates the need for an alternative study to be done. Litchfield only supports the continuation of the full-build project and Merrimack supports the full-build as well, but only if the project would not include tolls. At the time of the meeting, he had not yet met with Nashua on this matter. Williams' opinion is that the full-build project carries a price tag which is too high for it to ever be approved and that there are possible alternatives which could still ease the traffic problems which the full-build would attempt to solve.

Sean Sullivan moved to recommend the alternative study to the full Commission. Bill Parker seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting, April 21 at 3 PM.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:17 PM.

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