



**MINUTES NRPC TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
4/21/04**

Members Present: Steve Williams, NRPC
Dave Szczublewski, DOT Planning
Roger Houston, City of Nashua Planning Dept.
John Whittaker, Nashua Transit System

Others Present: Camille Pattison, NRPC Transit Planner
Ryan Friedman, NRPC Transportation Planner GIS
Matt Waitkins, NRPC Transportation Planner
Mark Archambault, NRPC Circuit Rider for Hollis/Brookline
Betsy Hahn, NRPC Regional Planner

Meeting Opened and Review of Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Camille Pattison at 3:04 PM. Pattison asked the Committee if there were any corrections to the minutes from the 3/17/04 meeting. John Whittaker moved to accept the minutes and Dave Szczublewski seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Commuter Rail Update

Steve Williams briefed the Committee on the status of the Commuter Rail project and the recent New Hampshire Supreme Court ruling on the use of gas tax funds for the development of the commuter rail project. Williams stated that gas tax funds could not be used to fund the project. This is not a decision against the Lowell-Nashua Commuter Rail Extension. These funds were only expected to provide approximately \$15 million of the total \$70 million dollars. The project has essentially been on hold over the last 18 months awaiting this decision. The Environmental Assessment is nearing completion and public hearings will be scheduled in Nashua and the Lowell area this summer. The next step would be to complete the preliminary engineering and develop the final design. Land acquisition and construction is tentatively scheduled for 2005.

As a result of not using gas tax funds, the City of Nashua could now take the lead on the project instead of NHDOT. The ROW Commission and Governor and Council would no longer be involved. In the future, innovative financing options will be pursued as a method to obtain the local match.

Traffic Count Update

Ryan Friedman has developed a system for archiving the more than 1,100 counts performed by NRPC since 1994 on our website. Employing an interactive approach with maps and tables, users can now find count locations by community or by certain major routes in the region. In communities where the number of locations is particularly dense, maps are split into panels in order to achieve a more detailed view. Ryan used several different locations in the region to demonstrate the process. To view the online data, visit <http://www.nashuarpc.org/trafficcount/>.

Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update

Matt Waitkins presented the Behavioral Change Component, the second major component of the Plan, to the Committee. This component is broken down into three segments.

1. Education & Safety - This will be accomplished by developing a strategy for educating the public about safety issues by identifying programs and innovative ways to fund/sustain the programs that have been successful in other regions, states and countries.
2. Encouragement & Promotion - This will involve promoting biking and walking to a wide audience via effective use of the media and public outreach.
3. Enforcement - This will be accomplished by increasing public awareness and compliance by motorized and non-motorized roadway users about the rules that regulate bicycle usage, as well as motorist's responsibilities regarding bicycles.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Next Meeting, June 16 at 3 PM.

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