


NRPC APPROVED MINUTES
NRPC TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
03/08/17

Members Present:

Gordon Leedy, Town of Amherst	Dawn Tuomala, Town of Merrimack
Troy Brown, Town of Litchfield	Steve Dookran, City of Nashua
Tom Young, Town of Litchfield	Wayne Husband, City of Nashua
Tad Putney, Town of Brookline	Camille Pattison, NTS
Tom Bayrd, Town of Hollis	Jeff Gowan, Town of Pelham

Others Present

Lynn Cherry, Strafford Regional Planning Com	Liz Strachan, NHDES
Nancy O'Connor, Stafford Reg'l Planning Com	Suzanne Fournier, Brox Environmental Citizens/Milford
Tim Cummings, City of Nashua	Linda Dusenberry, NHDOT
James Vayo, Nashua Downtown Specialist	

STAFF PRESENT

Julie Chizmas, Senior Transportation Planner	Tim Roache, Executive Director
Matt Waitkins, Senior Transportation Planner	Jen Czysz, Assistant Director
Ryan Friedman, Senior Transportation Planner	Karen Baker, Program Assistant
Cassie Mullen, Regional Planner/Circuit Rider for Mason	Andrew Smeltz, GIS Specialist
Stephen Meno, Regional Planner II/Circuit Rider for Wilton	

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chizmas opened the meeting at 12:08pm with introductions.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 8, 2017

Chizmas referred to the minutes of February 8, 2017 included in the agenda packet as attachment 1. She asked if there were any corrections and if not, for a motion to approve. Gowan moved to approve the February 8, 2017 minutes with a second from Young. All were in favor with 1 abstention.

TIP/MTP AMENDMENT 1 *ACTION ITEM*****

Chizmas informed the TTAC about Amendment #1 to the adopted Nashua Metropolitan Area 2017 – 2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which was being amended to account for changes to Statewide projects and to maintain consistency with the Statewide TIP (STIP). Additionally, NRPC is also amending the 2017 – 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) project list and fiscal constraint analysis to maintain consistency with the amended TIP Project list. Chizmas noted that Amendment #1 included one regional project: Pelham's Main Street bridge replacement project which was being delayed so 2 other State Aide Bridge projects downstream could be completed first. She noted the other TIP projects in the Amendment were 3 statewide projects.

The proposed amendments to 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. She noted that NH DOT has confirmed that fiscal constraint has been maintained and all applicable conformity requirements under the conformity rule have been met.

Chizmas informed the TTAC that a legal notice was placed in the Nashua Telegraph and on the NRPC website. Public comments were accepted through March 3, 2017 with no comments received. A Public

Hearing will be held on Wednesday, March 15, 2017 at the Nashua Regional Planning Commission at 7:00 PM at the NRPC office, 9 Executive Park Drive, Suite 201, Merrimack, NH 03054.

Chizmas stated that action is required from the TTAC to recommend approval of the proposed Amendment #1 by the Nashua Regional Planning Commission. NRPC staff has reviewed this amendment in consultation with the NH DOT, NH DES, US EPA, FHWA, FTA and representatives of the MPOs, and recommend approving the proposed changes in this amendment. After further discussion, Gowan motioned with a second from Young:

To recommend approval of the proposed Amendment #1 by the Nashua Regional Planning Commission. All were in favor.

Roache informed the group that on the same night as the public hearing, there would be a presentation before the full Commission by Jason Schrieber, Principal with Nelson Nygaard on How Cities' Transportation Infrastructure Affects Their Economic Prosperity, Environmental Impact, and Overall Health.

GUEST PRESENTATION: SHRP2 PERFORMANCE BASED PLANNING PROJECT UPDATE, LYNN CHERRY, STRAFFORD REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION/MPO

Chizmas informed the TTAC that Strafford MPO received funds from the Federal Highways Administration Strategic Highway Research Program's (FHWA SHRP2) Implementation Assistance Program (IAP) to facilitate meaningful collaboration amongst MPOs, NHDOT, and other partners to develop a common framework for performance based transportation planning. A product of this project will be a common set of meaningful and SMART (smart, measurable, agreed upon, realistic, and timebound) inter-regional/inter-MPO and statewide baseline performance measures. This presentation will give an overview of the work that has been conducted thus far and next steps. She introduced Lynn Cherry, Regional Planning and Communications Assistant for the Strafford Regional Planning Commission who is the project lead for the SHRP2 project.

Cherry stated that they applied and received a grant for \$300,000 for this project which is a Collaborative MPO Approach to Performance Based Planning in NH. She would provide a brief overview of the project, work and accomplishments, and the next steps. She noted that this project came about from MAP-21 and the requirements of MPO's/RPC's to use Performance Based Planning and Programming (PBPP). Cherry summarized the framework of PBPP:

- Planning
- Strategic Direction: Where do we want to go?
- Analysis: How are we going to get there?
- Programming: What will it take?
- Implementation and Evaluation: How did we do?

Cherry explained that the project is about combining federal goals with regional goals to come up with a holistic approach. She noted the partners as the MPO's, NHDOT, the funder SHRP2, and the advisors: FTA, FHWA, NHDES and Southwest Regional Planning Commission to have a stakeholder at the table for the western part of the region. A workgroup was created with the MPO's & NHDOT. She reviewed the 5 phases of the project timeline pointing out that they have completed phases 1-3 in 1 year, condensed down from 18 months and even with a late start.

Cherry stated that collaboration and improved relationships is a big part of the program with an objective to improve overall health of the workgroup. Part of the process involved a measured evaluation process conducted by the workgroup where they narrowed down a list of 652 supplemental measures down to 24 and then separated that list of 24 into either a performance measure or indicator. Cherry passed around a list of supplemental indicators and supplemental measures noting that the workgroup conducted 2 rounds of stakeholder engagement to complete this phase. The evaluation process involved determining if the measure is feasible given current resources, what the data availability is, what the granularity of data is, and can MPOs affect this measure.

Cherry summarized the next steps which included Phase IV: Calculations and Trends and Phase V: Strategy Development and Target Setting which would include:

- Develop a long-term strategy
- Start drafting a System Performance Report
- Agree on update schedule
- Begin data collection where applicable & possible
- Finish documenting the process
- Create a visualization tool to convey project work

Cherry noted that the workgroup was also working on a website and one of their goals is to develop a process that can be replicated. Cherry reviewed information on the Federal Performance Measures, noting that the workgroup was on further guidance from the Feds for final performance measures. Lastly, Cherry concluded her presentation by informing the TTAC that the project end would be a colloquium to engage all stakeholders on Wednesday, June 7th from 9:30am – 2:30pm at the NHMA Complex in Concord. MPO TTAC and Commissioners would be invited. She asked if there were any questions.

Husband asked if the HPMS would be altered to work with this. Cherry said it is one of the data measures used in this process and that they were waiting for DOT to update the HPMS based on the federal regulations to match up everything. Husband asked if congestion management data will be used. Chizmas said yes, all this data would be used for the program. She added that the plans have to support these measures. Leedy asked if there was historic data on the criteria to measure the trends to get target future vs past. Chizmas said yes and they will have the ability to re-evaluate the targets. Leedy felt that the final 10% of the process could be extreme to complete and asked how this would factor in. Chizmas stated that on safety, there is a lot of bad data out there but as the data quality improves, they will have to go back and re-evaluate if the data effected change. There was discussion between Leedy and Chizmas on how the driverless cars may affect this in the future. Chizmas stated that measures and targets will constantly be re-evaluated. Cherry commented that this is an evolving and changing process. There was a question on education of policy makers and how the process will feed into this it is going to play a role on safety aspects so we can make our targets. Cherry stated that they will have data and trends to be able to show we are making progress and that this is a solid investment to show value. Chizmas added and to show consistency amongst RPC's with definitions.

PROJECT SOLICITATION UPDATES

Chizmas provided an update on the FFY 2019 MTP/TYP project solicitation process. She informed the group that to date she had received one submission from the Lower Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee for the Nashua Heritage Trail Extension to new Riverside Landing complex. There was also one pending application. She noted that the deadline to submit a project is March 10th. She passed around a handout showing which projects would be advancing and which ones would not because their last year of federal funding was prior to FFY2019 (i.e., they would be completed). She asked for input from the group on the

projects on whether they were still valid. Chizmas noted that all fields are required when submitting the online form. Husband asked what the process was for moving up an existing project. Chizmas said sending along letters of support and supporting documentation would be beneficial. She also noted that they would be ranking the projects in April.

Chizmas informed the TTAC of the March minor revisions which is on 3 Regional Projects: Bedford – Merrimack: Turnpike Open Road Tolling; Milford to Nashua: 101A PE & ROW and Nashua: East Hollis St intersection improvements. All are being revised to account for decrease in inflation. Dusenberry explained that per regulations there is a 3% increase every year automatically applied to estimates. Leedy commented that 3% was not reasonable to account for construction cost increases. Dusenberry noted that project managers are required to do project estimates every 3-6 months.

STAFF UPDATES

Chizmas provided info to the group on staff updates:

- MTP Workshop: Tomorrow in Nashua at Harbor Homes, 45 High St.
- Rumors of a CMAQ round and the types of projects that can be submitted.
- Waitkins summarized the recent FTA Grant Applications submitted for 5310 Purchase of Service and Formula Funds to support SVTC and a 5305e SPR application for a study the possible to expansion of transit in the Nashua Region.
- Chizmas showed the group the new NHDOT Traffic Count Website-on traffic counts conducted by the State and noted some of the features (hourly counts, average by day, trends, etc., all downloadable).
- Waitkins informed the group that the Traffic Counting season will begin in April in support of the HPMS thru NHDOT. Traffic counts can be done by request from municipalities. Bike and pedestrian counts can also be conducted.
- Waitkins summarized the Wilton SRTS planning project which is to encourage kids to safely bike and walk to school.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn came from Leedy with a second from Young. The meeting ended at 1:08pm.