



MINUTES
NASHUA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
June 20, 2001

Members Present:	Marilyn Peterman, Chairman, Amherst Martin Michaelis, Amherst Paul Wenger, Amherst John Eresian, Hollis Leonard Smith, Hudson Ann Seabury, Hudson Howard Dilworth, Jr., Hudson Becky Ohler, NH DES	Pat Jewett, Litchfield Jean Weston, Merrimack Tony Holevas, Merrimack Nelson Disco, Merrimack Duncan Morrill, Merrimack Richard D'Amato, Milford Vicky Arico, Mont Vernon Mike Fimbel, Mont Vernon
Others Present:	Carol Murray, Commissioner, NH DOT	Joan McKibben, Litchfield Cons. Com. and Planning Board
Staff Present:	Andrew Singelakis Julie Cummings Koren Melfi Matt Waitkins	Mark Archambault Shirley Vance John Vogl Angie Rapp

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Privilege of the Floor

There were no members of the public in attendance who wished to speak.

Introduction of New Members

The Chairman introduced three new Commissioners: Mike Fimbel and Vicky Arico (Alternate) from Mont Vernon; and Nelson Disco, Merrimack Planning Board Chairman. The Commission welcomed the new members and looked forward to their participation. Marilyn then introduced Joan McKibben, Litchfield Planning Board Secretary and member of the Litchfield Conservation Commission.

Guest Speaker: Carol Murray, Commissioner, NH Department of Transportation

The Chairman introduced our guest speaker for the evening, Carol Murray, newly confirmed Commissioner of the NH Department of Transportation. Carol noted that this was her first public duty as Commissioner, as she had just been confirmed by Governor and Council earlier in the day. Carol gave a brief presentation on her vision of transportation. She stated that it is a system, not just highways. This includes rails, trails, bicycles, pedestrians, etc. She spoke of two new systems being implemented. The first is called RADIS. It is an intelligent computerized transportation system, on which one will be able to access maps on-line, see incident reports such as a tree down in the road, lane closures, etc. The second is called FORTEL which is a 30-hour weather forecasting system. The Department is quite excited about these systems. She suggested that the consultant for the RADIS system, Castle Rock, attend a future meeting of the NRPC to demonstrate how the project works. The Department has also appointed a point person on access management. He is Steve Dubois, and he will be scheduling a conference on access management in the fall.

Carol then reported on several transportation projects in the region.

Airport Access Road: In order to protect the nesting eagles, the road has been moved over 700' from the area. This has set the project back 6 months-1 year, but it is the right thing to do. **Circumferential Highway:** The transportation model has been re-worked and it's now felt that it is a good working model. **Commuter Rail:** The Consultant, DOT, and NRPC have met with residents of a neighborhood who are upset that a station may be located in their area. Several other options for the location of a station

are being looked at. This is also the number one rail project in the State. Andrew noted that he had received word today from Congressman Bass' office that the House has approved an additional \$3m for this project.

Carol then responded to specific questions raised by Commissioners.

Carol then spoke of Dan Burden, who will be in Nashua for the day on June 29. He is a nationally recognized expert on planning and designing pedestrian and bicycle friendly communities. He will actually be in the state for over week, visiting all the regions. Julie Cummings added that the day will begin (June 29) at 8:30 AM at Nashua City Hall, and a walking audit will be held on East Hollis Street. Lunch will be at noon with a presentation for local businesses. At 1:30 will be traffic calming in various neighborhoods, with a question and answer session at the NRPC at 3:30. The evening session will begin at 6:30 PM at the Hunt Memorial Building, with a presentation on Walkable Communities. Carol urged everyone to attend. Dan has received several national awards for his innovative ideas, and is thought-provoking and motivating.

Marilyn then thanked Carol for her informative presentation and again congratulated her on her appointment as Commissioner. Carol added that in the future, policy level people will be coming out to meet with the Commission on a regular basis.

Approval of Minutes - March 21, 2001

It was moved by John Eresian, seconded by Lenny Smith:

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on March 21, 2001
be approved.

The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman's Report

The Executive Committee had discussed both the FY 02 Proposed Work Program and Budget, which will be dealt with later on the agenda. There is also a vacancy on staff for a transportation senior planner. They are discussing the re-structuring of the position to be part senior planner and part deputy director to be able to assist Andrew.

Nominating Committee Slate

The following have been recommended by the Nominating Committee to serve as officers of the Nashua Regional Planning Commission:

Marilyn Peterman, Amherst, Chair
Frank Bolmarcich, Nashua, Vice Chair
Dianne Nilsson, Wilton, Treasurer

Reaffirmation of Current Members:

Lee Mayhew, Milford, Alternate
Roger Hawk, Nashua, Alternate
Jean Weston, Merrimack
John Eresian, Hollis

New Members:

Andrew Prolman, Litchfield

The immediate past chairman, Joe Wozniak, and the Executive Director are automatically members of the Executive Committee pursuant to our bylaws. It was moved by Tony Holevas, seconded by Duncan Morrill:

THAT the slate of officers and the Executive Committee members as presented be approved.

The motion carried unanimously.

FY 2002 Work Program and Budget

The proposed budget of approximately \$1.3 million dollars shows a continued increase in resources. This is due primarily to the fact that several projects (Route 101A, Commuter Rail) are being held over into the next fiscal year. In addition, we anticipate entering into a new contract with the NHDOT for work associated with Route 101. Regarding Route 101, the Town of Bedford originally obtained a grant to study the highway, and the NHDOT has agreed to allow NRPC to represent the Towns of Amherst, Milford and Wilton in this process. The funding in our budget will primarily be for the consultant's work. Wallace-Floyd, Inc. with VHB has been selected. In addition to this, the budget also reflects an SPR grant from NHDOT that will enable NRPC to perform a Hudson-Litchfield Traffic Study.

The budget and work program has been reviewed and recommended by the Executive Committee at their previous meeting. It was moved by Jean Weston, seconded by Lenny Smith:

THAT the FY 2002 Work Program be approved.

The motion carried unanimously.

It was further moved by Joe Wozniak, seconded by John Eresian:

THAT the FY 2002 Annual Budget be approved.

John Eresian added that Andrew has done a great job of "growing" the Commission.

The motion then carried unanimously.

Setting of FY 2003 Local Dues

Dues are set one year ahead of the budget so that communities may program funds into their budgetary processes. Therefore, this year we must set the dues for the FY 2003. Dues are set based upon a formula that is half based upon the population of a community, with the other half based upon the total assessed property value in that community. Currently the total amount raised for dues is \$125,000, which is divided among the communities. The Executive Committee recommends that this figure be increased to \$127,000 for FY 2003. It was moved by Duncan Morrill, seconded by Tony Holevas:

THAT the total amount raised for dues for FY 2003 be set at \$127,000.

The motion carried unanimously.

Annual Grant and Contract Authorization

On an annual basis, the full Commission must affirm that the Executive Director is authorized to file applications, sign contracts, and implement the annual work program. It was moved by Joe Wozniak, seconded by Nelson Disco:

THAT the Executive Director be authorized to file applications with federal, state and local governmental units and agencies to implement the FY 2002 work program of the Commission, and to execute agreements to receive funds for such purposes.

The motion carried unanimously.

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

The UPWP is the NRPC's transportation planning work program for the two-year period encompassing July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2003, which is required of all Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs). The document outlines work activities for the agency for our general highway planning and transit planning contracts. The document was endorsed by the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) during their May meeting. A copy of the document is enclosed for your review and we can answer any questions that you may have at the meeting.

THAT the Commission approve the UPWP for FY 2002 and FY 2003 as presented.

Joe Wozniak questioned the Safety Management and Environmental Justice sections of the Program, such as handicapped access to the buses. Andrew stated that we provide only planning assistance on the safety management issue. With regard to environmental justice, all parties are brought in during the early planning stages to discuss these issues.

The motion then carried unanimously.

Becky Ohler, NH DES, gave a brief report on air quality standards for our region. The ozone season begins in May and ends in September. Both the 1 and 8 hour limits were exceeded on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 19 and 20. She distributed hand-outs including the breakdown of actual concentrations, a map of New England depicting the peak values, an air quality guide for ozone, and several brochures on carpooling, transit, etc. She also noted that the NH public transit providers have agreed to offer free transportation on air quality action days.

Commissioners' Roundtable

A Commissioner's Roundtable was held. The next full Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 19th.

It was then moved by Joe Wozniak, seconded by John Eresian:

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:50 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Singelakis, Official Recorder