



MINUTES
NASHUA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
September 17, 2003
[as amended 12/17/03]

Members Present:	Frank Bolmarcich, Chairman, Nashua	Karin Elmer, Merrimack
	Martin Michaelis, Amherst	Donald Wunderlich, Merrimack
	Frank Ballou, Hollis	Vicki Arico, Mont Vernon
	John Eresian, Hollis	Mike Fimbel, Mont Vernon
	Howard Dilworth, Jr., Hudson	Steve Farkas, Nashua
	Thaddeus Luszey, Hudson	Brian McCarthy
	Richard Maddox, Hudson	Jean-Guy Bergeron, Pelham
	Ann Seabury, Hudson	Tom Collins, Pelham
	Suellen Seabury Quinlan, Hudson	Leo Thibeault, Pelham
	Pat Jewett, Litchfield	Hal Melcher, Wilton
	Nelson Disco, Merrimack	Becky Ohler, NH DES
Staff Present:	Andrew Singelakis	Camille Pattison
	Ryan Friedman	Angie Rapp
	Carolyn Griffin	Matt Waitkins
	Ray Guarino	Steve Williams
	Betsy Hahn	John Vogl
	Koren Melfi	

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

New members to the Commission were welcomed: Jean-Guy Bergeron, Tom Collins, and Leo Thibeault, all of Pelham.

Approval of Minutes - June 18, 2003

It was then moved by John Eresian, seconded by Nelson Disco:

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on June 18, 2003
be approved.

The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman's Report

Treasurer's Report

Howard Dilworth, Jr. gave a brief description of his duties. He signs all checks in excess of \$1000 and the checks for Andrew Singelakis. All others are signed by Andrew. Howard is working on a format for future reports. He is currently waiting for the auditor's report.

Ten Year Transportation Plan

Andrew Singelakis stated that the NH Department of Transportation, along with the Governor's Council on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) is currently in the process of developing the State's Ten Year Transportation Plan. There will be two hearings in the region: September 29, 2003 at 7:00 PM at the Milford Banquet Hall and October 15, 2003 at the Hudson Town Hall also at 7:00 PM.

He presented a list of specific items that constituted the NRPC's comments, as stated in a memo dated September 10, 2003. On a more general level, the comments included the need to bond for I-93 and to suballocate funds so that small projects do not need to compete with major projects.

It was moved by John Eresian, seconded by Donald Wunderlich:

THAT the NRPC Commissioners formally endorse the comments by the Executive Director dated September 10, 2003 for submission to the Governor's Advisory Council on Intermodal Transportation.

The motion carried unanimously.

Circumferential Highway

Andrew Singelakis stated that there were several issues with the Circumferential Highway that warrant its reevaluation by NRPC. NRPC is not clear as to where the communities currently are in their support of the plan. They are as follows:

- Funding constraints. The Turnpike system is more fiscally constrained than the rest of the system in NH.
- Permitting processes. The permitting process, which has been ongoing since 1993, is not resulting in closure.
- Political support. It is unclear as to who actually still supports the project, and how strong this support is.
- Traffic congestion. Traffic congestion in central Hudson and downtown Nashua continues to worsen, and relief is needed.
- Pennichuck Watershed. Opposition to construction within the Pennichuck Watershed for the portion connecting Daniel Webster Highway in Merrimack to the Everett Turnpike is much more organized now than it has been in the past.
- Local Planning. The affected communities have all preserved the right-of-way for the highway through the development review process.

Steve Williams gave a presentation on technical issues associated with staff's review of the project.

Andrew cautioned not to get the alternatives confused with the policy issues. There seem to be 3 possible steps: 1). re-affirm support of the North Partial Build. 2). request the NH DOT to drop the Circumferential Highway project, and 3). ask the NHDOT to provide new alternatives.

Discussion then took regarding the Circumferential Highway and various issues to be considered. Howard Dilworth addressed the group saying that it was inappropriate to address this issue now. referring to more local concerns in Hudson such as accidents and enforcing the 2 lane concerns. Andrew said treating the matter at a later time was not a solution.

It was then moved by Frank Bolmarcich, seconded by Steve Farkas:

THAT the NRPC Commissioners support the recommendation of the Executive Committee to ask the communities to reaffirm their support for the partial build of the Circumferential Highway, or if a different alternative should be pursued.

The motion carried with three opposing.



Those who voted against the motion felt that this action was outside of the normal process for evaluating highway projects, and that it is not possible to evaluate alternatives without knowing what those costs will be.

Regional Roundtable

A Regional Roundtable was held.

It was then moved by, John Eresian, seconded by Don Wunderlich:

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:55 PM.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Singelakis, Official Recorder