

 **APPROVED MINUTES**  
**NRPC TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**09/12/12**

**Members Present:**

Jeff Babel, Town of Hollis DPW  
Tad Putney, Brookline Town Administrator  
Bill Parker, Town of Milford  
Sarah Marchant, Town of Amherst  
Jeff Gowan, Town of Pelham  
John Cashell, Town of Hudson  
Kyle Fox, Town of Merrimack DPW

Joe Mendola, City of Nashua  
Wayne Husband, City of Nashua

**Others Present:**

William Rose, NH DOT  
Paul Lockwood, NH DES  
Leigh Levine, FHWA

**STAFF PRESENT**

Kerrie Diers, Executive Director  
Tim Roache, MPO Coordinator  
Julie Chizmas, Transportation Planner

Matt Waitkins, Field Data/Transportation Planner  
Karen M. Baker, Program Assistant  
Ryan Friedman, Senior GIS Planner

**CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Tim Roache opened the meeting at 12:11 with introductions.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 8TH MEETING**

Roache referred to the minutes of August 8<sup>th</sup>, included in the agenda packet as Attachment 1 and asked for a motion to approve. Babel moved to approve the August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012 minutes with a second from Fox. All were in favor with Gowan abstaining.

**REVIEW OF KEY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING DOCUMENTS FOR THE NASHUA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

***DRAFT 2013 – 2016 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM***

Roache referred to the Draft 2013 – 2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), included in the agenda packet explaining that it was developed through the Ten Year Plan process and is a fiscally constrained document that NRPC started updating in 2011. He added that Chizmas has done a good job with the cleanup and update. He continued by summarizing the TIP process and briefly reviewing some of the sections. Roache also reviewed the AQ process and noted the regions non-attainment to attainment status. He also talked a little bit about fiscal constraint. Roache referred to page 21, NRPC MPO Self-Certification Resolution which has to be done even with our new status as a large TMA. Levine elaborated some regarding the process saying it would be a little more of a detailed day to day and a half review. In addition, we will have to be certified within four years of the date of TMA designation with public meetings as part of the review. Rockingham would be first, with Strafford next and NRPC after that.

Roache moved onto the project list in Appendix A and emphasized its importance. He mentioned that there were a few more projects that were moved back into the Ten Year Plan due to the MAP 21 funding and said that if more funding becomes available, we may see more projects progress or move up. He proceeded by reviewing some the following projects that were included on the list:

- **Bedford/Merrimack** project – Improvement or relocation of the Bedford Tolls to institute open road tolling which would include a toll increase and has to be approved by GACIT and no change to the existing Merrimack tolls. Deemed inconclusive during the toll study. Fox asked why Merrimack was in the title if the open road tolling was going to stay in Bedford. Roache said he did not get an answer from the Turnpike Administrator on this but felt that due to the toll evasion that it would not stay in Bedford. Roache said if there was interest in having Turnpikes come in and talk about this, he would get in touch with someone to do so. Fox said he would mention it the Town Administrator.

- **Brookline** project – NH 130 ~ Construct sidewalks in town locations. Roache asked if the amendment for Brookline was a factor of inflation because the construction cost was a little lower. Chizmas was going to check into this but added that in the TIP, overall is for the life of the project.
- **2 Hudson** projects – NH 111/Library Street ~ Upgrade three sets of traffic lights at NH 111, NH 102 & 3A intersection. Will be advertised as Library Street Project for FY 2013. Cashell said that the Town engineer was handling this. The other being the Train Depot relocation and restoration which Roache said has gone on for too long.
- **Milford** project ~ 101A PE and ROW outside of TIP and C (construction) was back in the advertising schedule.
- **Pelham** project ~ Main Street Bridge replacement over Beaver Brook (red listed). Gowan commented that he was happy to see it was on the list, but the years keep changing. He would like to see it in 2015.
- Pelham project - Roundabout was advertised for July 25 but is not listed in the TIP. Gowan commented that it is moving along swimmingly.

#### ***DRAFT 2013 – 2040 AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY ANALYSIS***

Roache informed the group that we were below the criteria for pollutants for the Air Quality Analysis years in VOCs, NOX and Carbon Monoxide and it may be the last time we see this for a while.

#### ***2013 – 2040 DRAFT METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP) UPDATE***

Roache summarized the draft MTP and briefly reviewed the project list. He said that a public comment period would be opening by the end of the week so no action was necessary at this time. Roache added that it would be on the agenda for the October meeting.

#### **SIDEWALK AND TRAILS INVENTORY**

Waitkins provided a power point to the group on the current sidewalks and trails inventory that NRPC has and would like to enhance upon. He informed the group that he and the NRPC intern added to the existing database they had for Brookline by GPSing areas not currently in the database. He added that the objective is to flush out and improve on the existing trails. Waitkins said that formalizing trails and bike routes would be good in relation to TE as well. It also ties in well when looking at the long range plan due to conversations discussed over time about a bike lane along 101A. Lastly, by enhancing on the current database, it will establish what is already out there and help identify and add what is not included in the database from input from the towns. He asked that TTAC members please pass the information along to their towns and have them call with any new information.

#### **STAFF AND PROJECT UPDATES**

Diers informed the group about the GPS training Friedman/NRPC would be holding on Friday using Garmins and iPads. Volunteers would be assisting in the Broadband Rural Addressing project and as part of being a volunteer, they would have free use of the iPads and/or Garmins for any projects they may have in the future.

A member asked if snowmobile trails would be GPS'd. Waitkins said there was talk about doing that based on a request from a Brookline conservation member. Friedman mentioned that a resident of Pelham sent in her own GPS data to include certain trails in the town. Cashell said that they had an intern working on their trails in Hudson and would pass that info along to NRPC when complete. New trails in Hollis would also be GPS'd. Friedman said they would be checking the degrees of accuracy on information provided to NRPC and that the iPads had pretty good accuracy for the most part and that the only issue in some cases is tree cover. He added that pictures can also be taken with the iPads. Roache referred to the Merrimac Valley Planning Commission in Haverhill that has all their trails mapped and available on their website. Waitkins added that they were trying to collect all this data with the possibility of connecting bus stops as well. Friedman said we do get calls from the general public who are looking for maps. Gowan suggested talking to the snowmobile clubs that do the building and maintenance of trails and go beyond what conservation does.

Levine encouraged doing a Bike and Pedestrian plan and felt it would help with future funding and could only benefit by having those connections. Roache said it would be good as long as it was done in a reasonable time frame. The main goal at this time was to complete a more comprehensive MTP and long range plan. Additionally, this will tie in with the Regional Plan.

Chizmas referred to the updated NH DOT Project Advertising Schedule link provided on the TTAC agenda. She said she would have an update to hand out at the next meeting.

Exit 36 Update

Roache informed the group that he did receive the notice to proceed (NTP) and the steering committee was getting underway.

MAP 21

Roache said there was factsheets available on the FHWA website, but no real guidance yet.

Diers informed the group of the full Commission meeting being held in Milford on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September in which Ansel Sanborn would be there to do a presentation on a customer satisfaction survey. She added that there would be a meet and greet from 6:30-7:00pm.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Roache said that if anyone had any projects or issues relating to transportation or stormwater going on in their towns that could be shared with the group, please let him know and he would add it to the agenda for upcoming TTAC meetings. Cashell said they are revamping their driveway laws in Hudson relative to the new state statutes and he would send that information along to Roache. There was also mention of the new state law regarding fire departments and 2 family homes.

Motion to adjourn came from Babel with a second from Cashell. The meeting adjourned at 1:23 pm.