


NRPC APPROVED MINUTES
NRPC TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
October 9th, 2019

Members Present:

Julie Chizmas, City of Nashua
 Kyle Fox, Town of Merrimack
 Dawn Tuomala, Town of Merrimack
 Mark Chamberlain, Town of Lyndeborough
 Wayne Husband, City of Nashua

Camille Pattison, City of Nashua – NTS
 Peter Kohalmi, City of Nashua
 Jeff Gowan, Town of Pelham
 Lincoln Daley, Town of Milford

Others Present

Linda Dusenberry, NHDOT
 Lee Baronas, NHDOT
 Lucy St. John, NHDOT

Leigh Levine, FHWA
 Elizabeth Strachan, NHDES

Staff Present

Gregg Lantos, MPO Coordinator
 Matt Waitkins, Senior Transportation Planner

Jay Minkarah, Executive Director
 Sabrina Pedersen, Community Relations Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Lantos called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm with a round of introductions.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2019 MEETING

Lantos referred to the minutes of September 11th, 2019 included in the agenda packet as Attachment 1.

Gowan motioned with a second from Kohalmi to approve the minutes from the September 11th, 2019 meeting. All approved unanimously with abstentions from Tuomala and Gowan.

BRIEFING ON THE OCT 23 – 24 TMA CERTIFICATION REVIEW, LEIGH LEVINE, FHWA

Levine presented about the TMA certification review. It is expected that no less than one review is required for every four years. The next is scheduled for October 23rd – 24th, 2019. A public hearing will be held on October 23rd at 6:00 pm at NRPC. A report is issued approximately 90 days after the certification review. After summarizing the review procedures, Levine asked for any further questions. After no response, Lantos welcomed members to add any other groups to the mailing list.

GACIT PUBLIC HEARING SUMMARY

Lantos reviewed the GACIT public hearing and project additions to the 10-Year Plan, including changes due to construction schedules. Fox asked about a change in schedule for the Merrimack Multiuse Trail project, which is a TAP project set to be constructed next year. Chizmas added that one of Nashua's projects was pushed back to 2026 without an explanation. Dusenberry concluded that public comments about these projects should be written to Bill Watson by November 12th for the GACIT documents. Chizmas continued explaining her concern about

Chizmas added that the city sent comments on the MOU to the project manager at DOT about the 101A project. She wondered if any other communities, west of Nashua, are getting concerned. Fox supported that Nashua is prioritizing this project. Gowan is concerned about the Pelham Bridge and Main Street Bridge happening in the same time frame. He is advocating for the Pelham Old Street Bridge to remain for 2022.

Lantos summarized the two hearings held in our region for GACIT. Then he shared a series of public comments.

CMAQ PROJECTS & AIR QUALITY ANALYSIS PRESENTATIONS

Baronas presented about signal improvements using flashing yellow arrow as a proposal for CMAQ funding. In summary, a flashing yellow arrow would imply a left turn after yielding to oncoming traffic. The project is seeking \$500,000 with a target of approximately 10 intersections throughout the state. Changes would only include the signals. One intersection in Milford and three in Pelham have been identified as targets.

Lantos asked if all the intersections, or green balls? Baronas said they are looking at the ones with green ball/green arrow or ones without, want to open times in the day to permissibly turn. Baronas explained that they would not eliminate the protected phase during periods when they are necessary. They would be a combination of protected and permitted left turns. Off-peak hours would have a yellow flashing arrow. After a longer delay, they would get a protected phase if there was heavy traffic during off-peak hours. Level of applications are close to available funding, less of a need to prioritize projects, evaluating whether they meet the criteria.

Gowan observed a need to educate the communities. Specifically, red lights and yellow flashing turns would need clarification, such a temporary electronic sign. Baronas stated that no outreach was completed for the past intersection projects, showing that the signal change was received as intuitive by the public. Baronas shared that he would consider outreach for future projects.

Husband shared that the City of Nashua has completed four signal changes. The public has positively responded to the changes. He added that it is not always necessary for a protected left turn. He thought that a yielding sign would be beneficial too. Baronas explained that NHDOT does not put the yielding sign up for two reasons most likely; first, NHDOT would have to maintain more signs and second, there may be no universal sign. Husband observed that the yielding arrow can apply to two lanes when he was under the impression that it could only apply to one lane of oncoming traffic. Baronas confirmed that it is not much of an issue to apply the change for two lanes. Baronas clarified that these signal changes will be applied to non-state ones.

Chizmas presented about Nashua's project. Lantos commented whether they needed a signal at Lowell and Lock. Chizmas responded that the engineering study will hopefully show that no signal is needed. No further questions were asked about the project.

Daley presented about Milford's projects. The Osgood, Lemendy, and Armory Road project was ranked as a priority over the Milford Pedestrian Sidewalk Improvement project. The first project prioritizes mobility of students walking to and from the high school and middle school. In addition, Osgood Pond is being dredged for fishing and recreational opportunities. In the latter project, Daley explained that a signal was removed after reviewing the air quality results provided by Lantos.

Lantos then discussed the process for project selection. Due to sufficient funding, all projects will receive funding if they meet the required criteria. NRPC's air quality analysis will decide whether the projects will receive funding. Daley asked about a roundabout as an alternative to a signal intersection. He is interested in pursuing further research on it. Gowan added that air quality results are greater in a roundabout.

Lantos asked St. John if the level of detail is enough for air quality analysis. Uncertain, St. John said that she would follow up with William Rose.

TRANSIT EXTENSION FEASIBILITY STUDY

This item was moved to next month's agenda.

NRPC, NHDOT, NHDES, FHWA UPDATES

Waitkins shared that NRPC will begin road safety audits by December 1st, 2019. In addition, NRPC has completed the required traffic counts for NHDOT and other local counts. Waitkins expressed that NRPC can accommodate for more counting if a community needs the assistance.

Dusenberry shared that NHDOT will be holding 5 more GACIT public hearings throughout the state. Chizmas asked about the trigger that causes a project to be removed due to fiscal constraint.

Strachan shared that the DERA proposal is available online now.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

ADJOURN

Lantos motioned with a second from Chizmas to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:10 pm.