


DRAFT MINUTES
NRPC TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
February 10th, 2021

Members Present:

Natasha Kypfer, Town of Amherst	Camille Pattison, NTS
Joan Cudworth, Town of Hollis	John Savage, NTS
Mark Chamberlain, Town of Lyndeborough	Daniel Hudson, City of Nashua
Dawn Tuomala, Town of Merrimack	Wayne Husband, City of Nashua
Jeff Gowan, Town of Pelham	Julie Chizmas, City of Nashua
Jenn Beaugard, Town of Pelham	Matt Sullivan, City of Nashua
Caleb Cheng, Town of Hudson – NRPC	Peter Howd, Town of Wilton
Brian Groth, Town of Hudson	William Rose, NH DOT
Cassie Mullen, Town of Mason – NRPC	Tim White, NH DES
Jay Minkarah, Town of Litchfield - NRPC	Leigh Levine, FHWA

Others Present

Wendy Hunt, GMSV Chamber	
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STAFF PRESENT

Gregg Lantos, MPO Coordinator	Derek Stahl, Transportation Planner
Matt Waitkins, Senior Transportation Planner	Mason Twombly, Regional-Environmental Planner

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Lantos called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm and went the roll call of attendees by community/organization. The protocol for participation in the virtual meeting was presented.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 18TH, 2021 MEETING

Lantos referred to the minutes from November 18th, 2020 included in the agenda packet as Attachment 1. Chamberlain stated that “State Clean Diesel Program” should be added to the DES updates.

Howd and Rose abstained and all else were in favor. The minutes were approved as amended.

REVIEW OF FY 2021-2045 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN MINOR UPDATE AND REVIEW OF THE DRAFT FY 2021-2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Lantos began by reviewing the MTP update. He stated that it is essentially a master plan which includes a complete list of projects that utilize state and federal funds. It is updated every four years to revisit goals, update performance measures, analysis of future travel demand and impacts on the transportation network, a recommended list of projects to meet future travel needs, and a financial plan to assure adequate resources are available for future projects. The last major update was completed in December of 2018 so the next one will be by the end of 2022. Whenever the TIP is updated, a minor update to the MTP is done which includes an updated project list with revised cost estimates and revised fiscal constraint analysis. A transit fiscal constraint analysis on the operational and maintenance needs of the transit system has been added this year. The CMAC projects from 2019 have been added which included the Nashua Downtown Circulation and quality improvements, 101A and Ponemah Rd sidewalk improvements in Milford, and sidewalks and bike lanes on Osgood/Melendy/Armory Rd in Milford. The second list of projects added are the projects included in the 2023-

2032 TYP which include the NTS bus shelter improvements, the replacement of the pedestrian bridge over Souhegan river in Merrimack, pedestrian bridge in Wilton over Stony Brook, intersection improvements to NH 13 and Mason Rd intersection in Brookline, reconstruction of the NH 13 and Ruonala Rd intersection in Brookline, and a regional state highway and traffic signal improvements. TAP projects will be added to the MTP priorities once applications are submitted and projects/cost estimates have been selected and finalized. Lantos began going through the fiscal constraint analysis and stated any projects not included in the TYP that may utilize state and federal funds are not included in this analysis. The cumulative balance is zeroed out through 2030 with the projects included in TYP. Beginning in 2031, there is a theoretical allocation that is equal to 12.31% of funds available statewide. This is calculated by a formula agreed on by the state and MPO's based on 50% population and 50% lane miles. The remaining balance through 2045 is \$34,451,692 although there are certain projects that are not fiscally constrained that are not included so the balance is unlikely to remain that high.

Lantos stated that this is a list of all the federally funded transportation projects and programs in the Nashua region as well as non-federally funded projects that are considered regionally significant for a four-year period. This does not include non-federally funded and non-regionally significant projects. The document provides an introduction to the TIP process. The current 2021-2030 projects rankings can be found on page 10 and the status of the projects from the previous TIP is found on page 11. For air quality conformity, only planning level determination is required it is shown that all planning assumptions are up to date. Regarding the TIP system performance, a new performance measure was added which is the public transit safety performance measure. The TAM target was updated as well per the new data provided by NTS. There was a change in the toll credits soft match amount which allows projects to be federally funded with a 20% match and it shows how this applies to each phase of the projects.

Lantos stated that we are looking for a motion to recommend the adoption of the TIP and the MTP update which would include any update to project costs and anything that may come up during the public comment period.

Gowan motioned with a second from Chamberlain to recommend the adoption of the TIP and the MTP update. All were in favor, the motion passed.

TEN YEAR PLAN PROJECT UPDATE – SUMMARY OF NHDOT ENGINEERING REVIEW OF PROJECT SUBMISSIONS

Lantos began giving the TYP project update and summary of NHDOT engineering review of project submissions. The priority one project was the Canal and Bridge St improvements in Nashua. The cost of the project came back 38% higher than what was submitted. It was submitted at \$1.36 million and is now at \$1.88 million of federal dollars. The second priority project was the NTS Bus shelter improvements. The third project was the replacement of the pedestrian bridge in Merrimack. The major concern with the project is that NHDOT would not allow the bridge to be lowered off the side of the turnpike. Tuomala stated that lowering the bridge off the turnpike was how it was originally installed and to do it any other way would be cost prohibitive. She stressed the importance of this bridge to their trail network. She also stated that they have already submitted a project into the TAP program and if it were possible to change the project that was submitted and if they can sit down and talk this through with the committee. Rose responded that they weren't sure if that's what Merrimack was planning to do but had concerns that it might be the case. The biggest change since the bridge was originally installed in 2010 is that there was an old bridge in place then and now the new Merrill's Marauders Bridge in place and that DOT wouldn't consider staging cranes on a new structure like that even for one of their own projects. He stated that they can get them in touch with someone to talk this through but after initial review of the projects that was a concern. Tuomala replied that she would like to meet with someone to discuss this. Rose answered that he would set something up with Merrimack and NRPC. Tuomala asked if they should

consider moving it to TAP. Lantos responded that there are already 7 TAP projects submitted and that it would be highly competitive and would recommend to leave it in the TYP. The next project is the pedestrian bridge over Stony Brook in Wilton. DOT was unclear if the town has acquired easements as it appears that the bridge would begin and end on private property which would require ROW acquisitions and easements and whether this includes a sidewalk addition on Forest Rd. The cost estimate is also 38% higher than what had been originally submitted. The fourth project is the state highway traffic signal improvements. The \$1.9 million that had originally been submitted was not a cost estimate but was meant to use the remaining budget so the cost will change respective to the changes in other projects costs. The next project is the NH 13/Mason Rd intersection which would raise the Mason Rd approach to improve visibility. DOT commented that it is unclear how much elevation would be needed and the how long of a section would need to be adjusted. DOT also commented that the guardrail would need to be adjusted as well, however, it has been stated that the guardrail is part of the visibility issue so Lantos raised the question of whether or not this was just a guardrail reconstruction project. The cost estimate came out to \$2.1 million whereas the original estimate was \$145,000 which creates a major funding issue. Minkarah stated that he has had contact with Brookline and that they intend to pull the project and resubmit it in the next round. The final project is the reconstruction of NH 13 and Ruonala Rd intersection in Brookline. The comments included if Ruonala Rd is relocated that it is necessary to relocate Millbrook Rd. They noted that grade is an issue and that Ruonala Rd increases in grade traveling away from the intersection. Reconstructing the intersection to a 90-degree angle would move the intersection north and would likely need ROW acquisition and a public hearing. Even with the removal of the NH 13/Mason Rd intersection project, we are still currently over budget but can reduce the traffic signal improvements project to resolve the issue.

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM – SUMMARY OF LETTERS OF INTENT FOR PROJECT SUBMISSIONS

Waitkins stated that 7 letters of interest were submitted from the region which equals \$4.68M in funding. The project list includes:

- (Amherst) Amherst Pedestrian/Bikeway which is an initiative to create two multi-modal districts with enhanced bike ped facilities with multi use path to connect them.
 - o Federal: \$768,000 / Local: \$192,000 / Total: \$960,000
- (Hollis) Crosswalk upgrades at 4 intersections; Depot Rd (2), Ash St (1), and Main St (1) which include pedestrian crossing light systems.
 - o Federal: \$320,000 / Local: \$80,000 / Total: \$400,000
- (Litchfield) Extend existing sidewalk on Pinecrest Rd to connect with Albuquerque Ave.
 - o Federal: \$419,697 / Local: \$104,924 / Total: \$524,621
- (Merrimack) Paved sidewalk on DW Highway between Chamberlain Bridge and 360 DW Highway.
 - o Federal: \$1M / Local: \$250,000 / Total: \$1.25M
- (Nashua) W Hollis St bike route from Mine Falls Park to Southwest Park and Nashua River Rail Trail.
 - o Federal: \$800,000 / Local: \$200,000 / Total: \$1M
- (Pelham) Extend sidewalks on Old Bridge St and install pedestrian bridge across Beaver Brook.
 - o Federal: \$772,800 / Local: \$193,200 / Total: \$966,000
- (Wilton) Stony Brook Riverwalk Bridge spanning Stony Brook from Wilton Police Station parking lot to 7 Burns Hill Rd.
 - o Federal: \$600,000 / Local: \$150,000 / Total: \$750,000

The next steps include attendance at a mandatory pre-application informational meeting and submission of TAP applications. The NRPC will score and rank projects and would also include additional members from non-competing towns to assist in the ranking. The rankings will then be submitted to NHDOT for their final approval. Minkarah stated that he thought the schedule was going to be more aggressive this year and if the timeline Waitkins went through was reasonably accurate. Rose stated that what Waitkins provided was reasonably accurate and that the letters of interest were submitted first so that the program can be more targeted as far as

planning and communication. Rose also noted now that the letters of interest have been submitted, more information will soon follow as far as next steps. Chizmas pointed out the demand for more funding and asked Minkarah if in his meeting with Chris Pappas if this would be a topic of discussion. Minkarah stated that this is high on his list and it will be discussed. He noted the fact that there is \$4.68M in projects submitted just in our region compared to the \$5.2M available statewide is striking and will be a main point of discussion.

NHDOT, NHDES, FHWA UPDATES

Municipal - No Updates

DOT – Updates have been discussed today, the TAP application and TYP process have started. Work has started on creating the draft for the 2023-2032 TYP and the STIP is also in process.

DES – A notice was sent out on Wednesday for this round of funding for the State Clean Diesel Program and the proposals are due by 4pm on Monday, March 8th. There is a possibility for a couple additional rounds of funding depending on the availability of money left after this round. Additional information can be found on DES website and if you have a project you wish to pursue you can contact Jessica Wilcox or Tim White with specific project questions.

FHWA – Still waiting to hear about stimulus funds and have no additional updates.

ADJOURN

Chamberlain motioned with a second from Chizmas to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 pm.