

 **APPROVED MINUTES**  
**NRPC TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**08/08/12**

**Members Present:**

Jeff Babel, Town of Hollis DPW  
Tad Putney, Brookline Town Administrator  
Bill Parker, Town of Milford  
Sarah Marchant, Town of Amherst  
Bruce Berry, Town of Amherst DPW  
Jason Hoch, Litchfield Town Administrator  
John Cashell, Town of Hudson  
Kyle Fox, Town of Merrimack DPW

Steve Dookran, City of Nashua  
Wayne Husband, City of Nashua  
Tom Galligani, City of Nashua

**Others Present:**

Bill Hoke, NH DOT  
Paul Lockwood, NH DES  
Stuart Thompson, NH DOT

**STAFF PRESENT**

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

Matt Waitkins, Field Data/Transportation Planner  
Jennifer DiNovo, Regional Planner

**CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Tim Roache opened the meeting at 12:10 with introductions.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 13TH MEETING**

Roache referred to the minutes of June 13<sup>th</sup>, included in the agenda packet as Attachment 1 and asked for a motion to approve. Fox moved to approve the June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012 minutes with a second from Cashell. All were in favor.

**DRAFT 2013 – 2016 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

Roache provided a summary of projects advancing into the Draft 2013 – 2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), following Attachment 2 in the agenda packet. Projects advancing into the 2013 – 2016 TIP, listed on Page 1 of Attachment 2, were reviewed and the status of each was confirmed with the appropriate community representative in attendance at the meeting. Two projects not yet included on the NH DOT Draft list but which should be due to revisions made in June and July will be discussed at an Interagency Call to be held on Thursday, August 9<sup>th</sup>. And the status of projects with no additional funding programmed beyond FY2012 were also discussed, with Roache asking whether any projects should have FY2013 funding based on anticipated schedules:

- The Hollis Ash Street sidewalk project is complete and does not require inclusion in the FY2013 – 2016 TIP.
- Two projects in Hudson (signal improvements and Train Depot relocation) are scheduled to be advertised in October 2013 (FY2013), according to the NHDOT Project Advertising Schedule for Fiscal Years 2012 – 2014 dated July 26, 2012.
- Milford Oval improvements are likely to be completed in the 2014 – 2016 timeframe.
- The City of Nashua Broad Street Parkway chimney stabilization project is scheduled to advertise in FY 12
- The City is close to securing the required matching dollars for the NTS project to purchase two new CNG buses, but will not have the total match before the end of FY2012.
- Roache asked Hoke to look into if/when the funds for the NRPC's Exit 36 SB Planning study were obligated and whether those funds could be used in FY2013 to complete the study.
- The City of Nashua project to expand the closed loop traffic signal system is anticipated to go to construction this fall, but the City is seeking additional funds for the project.
- Pelham was not at the TTAC meeting, but as it does not appear as though the dual roundabout project has broken ground, it is anticipated that this project may require funds beyond FY2012.

Roache concluded the TIP discussion by noting the removal of projects associated with the Capitol Corridor project from the draft 2013 – 2016 S/TIP, noting that the project would remain in the NRPC's Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

**PRESENTATION BY STUART THOMPSON, NHDOT STATE HIGHWAY SAFETY ENGINEER**

Thompson gave a presentation on the state's Driving Toward Zero program, which aims to create a safety culture where even one roadway fatality is too many. Thomson answered questions regarding the strategies to achieve zero fatalities, which are detailed in the New Hampshire Strategic Highway Safety Plan 2012 – 2016 (<http://www.nhdtz.com/resources/download/18>) More information about the program is available at [www.nhdtz.com](http://www.nhdtz.com).

Thompson also discussed the Highway Safety Improvement Program, a core federal aid program for reducing traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads through the implementation of infrastructure-related highway safety programs. Thompson provided information on how these funds are programmed in New Hampshire and how communities can apply for those funds through the Road Safety Audit program.

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

Roache handed out a draft list of long range projects in the Nashua region to be included in the MTP, asking committee members to please review the project scopes and estimated costs, and report any revisions back to NRPC in the next few weeks. The TTAC will be asked to recommend that the full commission adopt the project list at the September 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**MAP-21 – WHAT'S IT MEAN TO YOU?**

Roache handed out the FHWA's Summary of Highway Provisions in Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act (MAP-21) (<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/summaryinfo.cfm>). He called out programs which might be of local interest, such as the HSIP program discussed by Stuart Thompson earlier in the meeting, the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program which is currently funding several projects in the Nashua region, and the Emergency Relief program which provides funding to repair damage to Federal-aid highways caused by events such as the Mother's Day Floods of 2006.

Roache also mentioned that the Nashua Urbanized Area (UZA) is officially a Transportation Management Area (TMA) as the population within the UZA has exceeded 200,000. Under MAP-21, a new program known as Transportation Alternatives was established and essentially consolidates the Transportation Enhancements, Safe Routes to Schools, Scenic Byways, and Recreations Trails programs. According to the summary document:

“Fifty percent of TA funds are distributed to areas based on population (suballocated), similar to the STP. States and MPOs for urbanized areas with more than 200,000 people will conduct a competitive application process for use of the suballocated funds; eligible applicants include tribal governments, local governments, transit agencies, and school districts. Options are included to allow States flexibility in use of these funds.”

With the new TMA designation, there is potential for the NRPC to have more programming authority over the Surface Transportation Funds (STP) received by the state, however it is not known at this time how all that will shake out with the NH DOT.

Roache also noted that after meeting with NRPC and City of Nashua officials, the New Hampshire delegation was successful in getting language in the bill to assist smaller transit operators with operating assistance as follows:

Special Rule.—The Secretary may make grants under this section to finance the operating cost of equipment and facilities for use in public transportation, excluding rail fixed



guideway, in an urbanized area with a population of not fewer than 200,000 individuals, as determined by the Bureau of the Census—

(A) for public transportation systems that operate 75 or fewer buses in fixed route service during peak service hours, in an amount not to exceed 75 percent of the share of the apportionment which is attributable to such systems within the urbanized area, as measured by vehicle revenue hours; and

(B) for public transportation systems that operate a minimum of 76 buses and a maximum of 100 buses in fixed route service during peak service hours, in an amount not to exceed 50 percent of the share of the apportionment which is attributable to such systems within the urbanized area, as measured by vehicle revenue hours.

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

##### NH DOT Project Advertising Schedule Updates

Roache passed around the Advertising Schedule summary sheet.

##### Exit 36 Update

Roache stated that NRPC recently received a notice to proceed for the project and will begin work in late August or early September. The contract is for two years but the hope is to finish ahead of schedule.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Roache asked if anyone had anything they wanted to share with the group for events happening in their City or Town. The room fell silent.

Motion to adjourn came from Babel with a second from Cashell. The meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.