


NRPC APPROVED MINUTES
NRPC TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
October 14, 2020

Members Present:

Natasha Kypfer, Town of Amherst Eric Hahn, Town of Amherst Tad Putney, Town of Brookline Mark Chamberlain, Town of Lyndeborough Kyle Fox, Town of Merrimack Dawn Tuomala, Town of Merrimack	Camille Pattison, City of Nashua – NTS Julie Chizmas, City of Nashua Pete Kohalmi, City of Nashua Matt Sullivan, City of Nashua Tim White, NH DES Leigh Levine, FHWA Linda Dusenberry, NH DOT
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Others Present

Jim Battis, Town of Hudson - Commissioner Paige Schaller Jason Plourde Jerry Bento	Heidi Jakoby Venu Rao Larisa Djuvelek-Ruggiero
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STAFF PRESENT

Gregg Lantos, MPO Coordinator Matt Waitkins, Senior Transportation Planner Mason Twombly, Regional-Environmental Planner	Jay Minkarah, Executive Director Derek Stahl, Transportation Planner
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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. It was determined that a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2020 MEETING

Lantos referred to the minutes from September 9th, 2020 included in the agenda packet as Attachment 1. Jim Battis stated that he and Ed Weber should be listed as commissioners not members.

Mark Chamberlain motioned for the approval of the minutes as amended with a second from Tim White. There were no other members that were opposed to approving the minutes or wished to abstain. The minutes were approved.

FY 2023-2032 TYP: REVIEW OF PROJECT SCORING AND BUDGET

Waitkins began the presentation with an overview of the TYP project solicitation that was competed by NRPC during this process. There were 6 applications that were received and discussed during the September 9th TTAC meeting. The projects submitted are in Brookline (2), Merrimack (1), Nashua (2), and Wilton (1). Waitkins also added that there is now an additional project, Kinsley St sidewalks in Nashua. This is currently in the 2021-2030 TYP and the unfunded balance leftover from the previous round will be added into this round. Waitkins then began an overview of the project scoring criteria/criterion with their corresponding weights. The results of the project scoring and budgeting are as follows:

Project	Rank	Score	Federal	Local	Total
Nashua DPW: Canal/Bridge St Complete Streets	1	6.6	\$1,360,000	\$340,000	\$1,700,000
Nashua: NTS Bus Shelter Improvements	2	5.8	\$445,600	\$111,400	\$557,000
Merrimack: Ped Bridge over Souhegan River	3	5.2	\$948,800	\$237,200	\$1,186,000
Wilton: Ped Bridge over Stony Brook	4	5.0	\$528,000	\$132,000	\$660,000
Brookline: NH 13/Mason Rd Intersection Improvements	5	2.9	\$145,000	\$0	\$145,000
Brookline: NH 13/Ruonala Rd Intersection Improvements	6	2.2	\$527,000	\$0	\$527,000
Nashua: Kinsley St Sidewalks			\$293,900	\$73,470	\$367,370
TOTAL			\$4,248,300	\$894,070	\$5,142,370

Waitkins referred to Table 2 in the agenda packet and began an overview of the project scoring details, explaining the criterion scoring system and ranking. Waitkins suggested that TTAC make a motion to recommend project submission to NH DOT.

Chizmas motioned with a second from Tuomala, to recommend submission to NH DOT for 2023-2032 TYP project ranking as discussed during today's (October 14th) TTAC meeting. Dusenberry abstained and all else were in favor. The motion passed.

Lantos began discussing the excess budget remaining for this round of TYP project funding. He recommended to add an additional Nashua project which is the Turnpike Exit 2 Off-Ramp to Dozer Rd. This could possibly be approved for 100% federal funding with toll credits but the project still needs to be approved by DOT. Minkarah added that at first, additional funding to 101 projects was looked into but there is not a mechanism in place to allow for that to happen and that if we don't use the remaining budget, that money will be lost. DOT recommended to look back at MTP to look for projects that match the remaining budget. Fox recommended to consider the Exit 12 NB ramps in Merrimack project for submission. Minkarah stated that the Exit 12 project would most likely be too expensive for the remaining budget. Chamberlain asked whether or not anyone followed up with Wilton to verify the funding for that project. Lantos answered that this will now be submitted to DOT for review and they will make adjustments to the budgeting as needed.

NRPC UPDATES

Lantos began the updates by discussing the **Nashua Interregional Transit Study**. Recently, NRPC has developed a ridership estimation for a shuttle bus between UMASS Lowell and Nashua. The procedure used, uses the same mode split model that we have previously used for passenger rail ridership estimation. It was found that if the University offered a free shuttle service, that there would be 67% auto use and 33% shuttle. Additionally, it was also found that if there was a fee associated with the Shuttle, that there would be 83% auto use and 17% shuttle use. Given the results, Lantos stated this service would be much more beneficial if it were offered through the university. Lantos began going through the **Transit Fiscal Constraints**, which has typically been done for only highway projects in the past. It's a two-step process which involves operations and maintenance costs then balancing the operating needs with anticipated FTA funding to result in available balances for purchase of capital equipment. In discussion with NTS, estimations on capital project expenditures were inputted as well as grant approximations. Lantos stated that in any given year there could be a negative value, but as long as there is leftover additional funding from the previous year that's fine. Lantos began giving an update on the 2010 CMP

document update. NRPC will look into changes in traffic, congestion conditions, transit on time performance, future traffic forecasts/congestion analysis, and project impacts relieving congestions and TDM programs. Lantos stated that there has been substantial increases to turnpike traffic in the Merrimack region and more moderate increases throughout Nashua. Rt 101 has seen a slight increase in traffic while Rt 101A has seen a significant reduction in traffic. US 3 can be seen to have a significant increase in the northern corridor and the same can be seen on NH 3A. NH 38 has a moderate increase throughout. Main St has seen significant decreases throughout the corridor and the same was found for Daniel Webster Highway. Waitkins began discussing the **Rt 101A Rail Trail Feasibility Study**. He stated that there is existing rail from downtown Nashua along Rt 101A all the way to Wilton and this project proposes to develop either a rail trail or rail with trail along this corridor. Previously a complete streets committee, now is seeking non-profit status as Friends of Souhegan Valley Rail Trail. This is an effort to position themselves in the future to identify projects and solicit funding. October 28th there will be an informational seminar and there will also be a presentation for the December TTAC.

NHDOT, NHDES, FHWA UPDATES

There were no municipal updates.

DOT – No Updates

DES – The new solicitation for the State Clean Diesel Program with Volkswagon and EPA funding equaling to about \$750K. If there is any additional funding left over it will immediately roll over into a second round of funding and all submissions are due by November 16th at 4pm. Any information regarding project submissions can be found on the website or can reach out to White.

FHWA – There was a continuing resolution signed by the president that is good through September 11th and a fast act extension through the end of federal fiscal year '21. Thanked Lantos and everyone involved in the Nashua Urbanized Area agreement and any additional comments would be provided by the end of the week but it should bring us into compliance.

ADJOURN

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

The meeting adjourned at 1:11 pm.