


**APPROVED MINUTES**  
**NRPC TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**03/14/12**

**Members Present:**

Kyle Fox, Town of Merrimack  
 John Cashell, Town of Hudson  
 Jeff Babel, Town of Hollis  
 Kathy Hersh, City of Nashua  
 Lisa Fauteux, City of Nashua  
 Tom Galligani, City of Nashua  
 Louise Woodworth, NTS

Mark Sousa, NTS  
 Jeff Gowan, Town of Pelham  
 Gary Webster, Town of Hudson

**Others Present:**

Bill Hoke, NH DOT  
 Leigh Levine, FHWA

**Staff Present**

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

Jen Czysz, Senior Regional Planner  
 Jennifer DiNovo, Regional Planner  
 Matt Waitkins, Field Data/Transportation Planner

**CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Tim Roache opened the meeting at 12:05 with introductions and review of the agenda.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 11<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**

Roache referred to the minutes of January 11<sup>th</sup>, included in the agenda packet as Attachment 1 and asked for a motion to approve. Sousa moved to approve January 11, 2011 minutes with a second from Babel. All were in favor with 1 abstention from Gowan.

**US 3 EXIT 36 SOUTHBOUND PLANNING STUDY**

Roache provided an overview of the US 3 Exit 36 Southbound Planning Study. Brief highlights are provided below:

- NH Executive Council voted not to accept rail feasibility study grant money
- More focus on Exit 36 due to interest of Nashua & Tyngsborough
- Transportation System Community Grant awarded with funds to be released January
- Primary goal to preserve cap on existing system
- Pressure on Exit 1 without off ramp
- Relieves traffic on Spitbrook
- Goal – Benefits from transportation, economic development, land use opportunities, and enhancement of overall economic growth

The Draft Scope will include the following:

- Task 1 – Steering Committee
- Task 2 – Public Outreach (workshop format) less formal meetings welcoming ideas
- Task 3 – Analysis by NRPC because dollars not funded as part of the plan (will work with NMCOG)

Galligani added:

- Discussion on Nashua Development Park
- Capacity of Spit Brook Road
- 1.5 million of growth; Dell, Oracle (businesses in area)
- Suggestion to bring commuter rail for younger interns/20 something's

Discussion and input from Task 5 are below:

- Hersh suggested including location in study as it is critically important to future development. Roache said that would be an enhancement of Task 5.
- Sousa commented on Express Service which is dedicated service which would continue to southern, middle, and northern parts of the City and to coordinate convenient schedules.
- Roache talked about connecting Nashua & Lowell Transit
- Sousa said they would need FTA approval to cross the border and that he has worked with Lowell and FTA on this. FTA has no problem as long as they go through the State process.

Task 6 – Develop a Conceptual Layout and Planning Level Cost Estimates. Discussion and input listed below:

- VHB – Tyngsborough Bridge currently under contract; suggestion to perform similar analysis
- Need accurate cost figure for how much Exit 36 will cost
- Leads to discussion with Massachusetts on who will pay for what, etc.?
- Levine questioned land use to the South of the mall
- Roache said there is redevelopment opportunity for a “restaurant alley”
- Hersh added that Tyngsborough has approached Nashua for additional Waste Water Capacity
- FTA funds out there for a Lowell to Nashua rail study of \$267 but matching funds are needed (\$60+) to use the federal funds
- Hersh mentioned a vote to match funds from Tyngsborough but no amount mentioned

#### **METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE**

##### Draft Transportation Needs Survey

- Will be available through Survey Monkey
- DES provided feedback
- Hersh suggested replacing “road” with “transportation” in first section to cover whole system and to remove section titles; also suggested rearranging order of questions to separate transportation system question from specific road/intersection questions
- Roache informed that data was provided by Lori at NTS on transit use (buses) and that we know that peak time is heavily occupied
- Roache suggested tying in question about influence with the \$4 gallon gas
- Sousa said he would pass around survey to his staff for input
- Will add rail project back into list of existing Long Range projects
- Commission needs to strongly identify 3 top priorities to generate support from elected officials
- Levine said to consider organizing least to most important for Question #12

##### Existing Conditions

Roach stated that revisions to the existing conditions section of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan were still ongoing and an updated draft would be available on line when the revisions were completed.

#### **DISCUSSION REGARDING STIP AMENDMENT 4 AND 5**

During the STIP Amendment 4 public hearing, NHDOT made a commitment to move funds from 101A project to the E. Hollis Street project, stating the changes would be reflected in Amendment #5. Amendment #5 has been released and the E. Hollis Street is not included in the amendment. A memo will be generated and submitted to the DOT with concerns from Nashua and the MPO to address this and to change the TIP.

- Levine commented on financial constraint and the need to include a total cost for East Hollis Street if it's to be included in the TIP



**STAFF AND PROJECT UPDATES**

- **LPA Project** – Changes affecting construction; requesting cc from project manager to NRPC (conformity trigger conflicts)
- **HB1716** – Changes to 10 Year Plan - legislature removed Milford Jennison Bridge, which had been added at the last minute
- **Census & Urban Area Population Thresholds** – Federal Senate transportation bill could get rid of MPOs under 200,000. And if over 200,000, impacts 5307/transit funding; Waitkins commented that the 50% match would be lost; MAP 21 (Bill) Surface Transportation Authorization Legislation – 75% at Senate for approval; if does not pass, will ask for exemption (this bill passed at the house that day).

Motion to adjourn came from Sousa with a second from Gowan. The meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm.