


APPROVED MINUTES
NRPC TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
05/09/12

Members Present:

John Cashell, Town of Hudson
 Gary Webster, Town of Hudson
 Kyle Fox, Town of Merrimack
 Bill Parker, Town of Milford
 Wayne Husband, City of Nashua
 Jeff Gowan, Town of Pelham

Others Present:

Bill Hoke, NH DOT
 Nick Alexander, NH DOT
 Paul Lockwood, NH DES

Staff Present

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

Jen Czysz, Senior Regional Planner
 Matt Waitkins, Field Data/Transportation Planner
 Karen Baker, Program Assistant

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Julie Chizmas opened the meeting at 12:12 with introductions.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 11TH MEETING

Chizmas referred to the minutes of April 11th, included in the agenda packet as Attachment 1 and asked for a motion to approve. Gowan moved to approve the April 11, 2012 minutes with a second from Cashell. All were in favor.

While waiting for more municipalities to show up, Jill Longval informed the group about the 2012 Commute Green Statewide Challenge which begins Monday, May 14 and goes until December 31. Anyone who logs trips during the challenge will receive coupons, good for discounts at businesses across the state. Top achievers in a variety of team and individual categories will be rewarded with prizes and statewide recognition. Last year, there were 65 businesses and organizations that participated as teams and 678 individuals who registered for the 1 week challenge. Prizes last year included a GoPro HD Helmet Camera, Amtrak Downeaster passes, and Free Bike Tune Ups from EMS among many others.

The goal of the Commute Green NH Statewide Challenge is to provide simple and easy ways for people to try green commuting for first time and to celebrate the efforts of people who already green commute. The Statewide Challenge is open to anyone who lives, works, or commutes through New Hampshire. As in past years, you can compete individually or as part of a team. If your municipality has put together a team in the past we encourage you to participate again this year. If you've never had a team before, consider creating one and helping to represent the Nashua region in the statewide challenge. Longval provided the website www.commutegreennh.org for folks to get started. Lockwood also informed the group about the Green Your Fleet day event in Nashua on June 1st at the technical college.

S/TIP AMENDMENT 5 - ACTION ITEM

Chizmas reviewed S/TIP Amendment #5 and the projects that pertained to the NRPC region.

Milford – South Street/Project ID - 14837:

- Description: South Street Improvement Project: Construct the Phase 2 portion of the downtown revitalization plan to improve overall safety, physical/ADA accessibility, functionality, design and general aesthetic of the intersection.
- Proposed Amendment: Delay Construction from FY2012 to FY2013 and increase funding for inflation and update project schedule to reflect current estimates:

- Total S/TIP Funding: Existing = \$1,041,000; Proposed = \$1,074,000

Nashua – East Hollis Street/Project ID - 3536/16314:

- Description: Reconstruction of East Hollis Street from Main Street to Hudson town line to improve capacity.
- Proposed Amendment: Advance NH DOT Ten Year Plan project into the S/TIP with FY2013 Preliminary Engineering funding per request from the City of Nashua that the unobligated preliminary engineering and right-of-way balance in project #10136A, improvements along NH 101A which have been delayed beyond FFY 2014, be applied to the East Hollis Street project in order to advance that project's schedule.
- Total S/TIP Funding: Existing = \$0; Proposed = \$413,000

Nashua/Manchester/Concord - Capital Corridor/Project ID - 13514:

- Description: Purchase passenger rail equipment (CMAQ Program) [00-12CM]
- Proposed Amendment: Reduce FY2014 Construction funding from \$5,000,000 to \$266,000 and update project funding to reflect current estimates.
- Total S/TIP Funding: Existing = \$5,000,000; Proposed = \$266,000

Various Statewide Projects

Chizmas added that the NRPC, in consultation with the DOT, DES, EPA, FHWA, FTA, and the other MPOs, have confirmed that the proposed changes made by S/TIP Amendment #5 do not trigger a new conformity determination of the SE NH 8-hour Ozone Nonattainment Area and the City of Nashua Carbon Monoxide Maintenance Area. Therefore, the Nashua Metropolitan Area Air Quality Conformity Analysis (2011 – 2035), adopted June 15, 2011, continues to be valid. Additionally, NRPC placed a legal notice in the Nashua Telegraph and accepted public comments through Tuesday, May 8, 2012. No comments had been received as of the date of this memo. A Public Hearing will be held on Wednesday, May 16, 2012 at the Nashua Regional Planning Commission at 6:00 PM.

Chizmas concluded informing the group that action is required from the TTAC to recommend approval of the proposed Amendment #5 by the NRPC Executive Committee.

Parker motioned to recommend approval of the proposed amendment to the NRPC Executive Committee with a second from Gowan. There was no further discussion motion passed with all in favor.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP) UPDATE

Goals and Objectives:

Chizmas referred to the MTP Goals memo included in the agenda packet and read the draft vision statement that NRPC and the TTAC developed for the region in the spring of 2012 which was also presented to the Executive Committee and will be considered for adoption in June. She also referred to the 2011-2035 LRTP existing goals and objectives included in the memo and said she would be seeking input from the group for new goals and objectives based on the draft vision statement. Chizmas explained that there was nothing measurable in the old goals & objectives and the new policy going forward will require that performance measures be used.

Chizmas emphasized the important step to the process of establishing a set of goals to achieve the vision for the region. She said the first step is to review the existing goals and determine which, if any, are consistent with the transportation vision for the region. Chizmas referred to recent brainstorming amongst staff and provided the list of potential new goals from the brainstorming exercise and presented them onscreen. She asked the group for input and comments.

- Cashell asked about the word universal and access being used together and felt that was redundant. Czys gave her opinion as to why she felt they should go together.
- Waitkins suggested rewording bullet 4.

- Lockwood suggested using Mass Transit or alternate forms or incorporating travel within certain distance for convenience.
- Alexander commented that 6 bullets did not talk about highways.
- Czynsz explained that the list was generated based on the flow of the vision statement
- Alexander suggested some consistency and balance.
- Chizmas said the original thought was to break it out but based on the vision statement, they decided to go with Czynsz's suggestion and did based on the flow of the vision.
- Czynsz responded to Alexander's comments and suggested putting in something along the lines of complete streets and retrofitting to the existing system.
- Lockwood liked the original goals due to the complexity of them. He also commented that there was nothing in reference to environmental on the first set of bullets. Chizmas explained that the first set of goals was based solely on the first sentence of the vision statement. She scrolled her presentation down to show the input how it was broken down using the rest of the sentences of the vision. She added that goals that can actually be achieved should be the focus.
- Fox suggested coming up with an indexing system of different components then develop a list of needs, adding that it would give it more credibility.

Chizmas asked for input on the approach and if anyone felt there was anything that should be scratched.

- Cashell felt the 2040 year was scary and that the date was too far out. It comes across as being shelved and not taken seriously. Chizmas suggested using steps. Cashell felt that was a good idea and provided an example.
- Lockwood suggested and provided an example asking at the same time if there would action steps for each goal. Chizmas said "yes".
- Husband commented on single occupant motor vehicles being a big issue and it's relation to congestion and how to deal with that.
- Fox felt the goals should be weighted providing an example of road sign replacement vs. more money for police departments or schools. Husband agreed adding there should be some weight on what is more important.

Chizmas brought up availability of finances. A member suggested applying a cost benefit analysis to the goals and then coming up with objectives. Chizmas agreed that a cost benefit analysis should be part of the goals and that funding should be included as a component. She concluded by reviewing the five overarching goals as being congestion, safety, accessibility, mode choice, and funding. Fox suggested having a life cycle cost. Czynsz said that it would be included under funding. Chizmas said she would take the five goals and make real sentences, use performance measures and metrics and include objectives.

Preliminary MTP Survey Results:

Chizmas reviewed the results of the MPT Survey. She informed the group that as of yesterday, there was 176 responses with Amherst being the highest participating town to complete the survey. Diers asked if the survey was on all the Town/City websites. Chizmas was not certain if it was on all sites, but she said it was encouraged via the Constant Contact E-News that went out regarding the survey.

Chizmas continued reviewing the results adding that there was not anything real shocking in the results. She added that there was no end date for survey and she hoped to get some more folks to complete the survey. Czynsz suggested starting with the Libraries where they have a bank of computers. Chizmas asked the TTAC to ask their towns to add the survey link to their Town/City websites.

Chizmas pointed out that Passenger Rail was the most important improvement for the region with NH 101A next based on the survey results. She said she would send another email out to the Towns/City regarding the survey.



US 3 EXIT 36 SOUTHBOUND PLANNING STUDY UPDATE

Roache joined the meeting and provided an update on the Exit 36 Southbound project. He informed the group that he just came back from a Governor and Council meeting and they accepted to expend the funds for the Exit 36S Planning Study. He added that there was some question from Councilor Wheeler on using toll credits since the project is mostly in Massachusetts and not part of the Highway System. The Attorney General was going to check into this.

STAFF AND PROJECT UPDATES

NH DOT Project Advertising Schedule Updates

Chizmas passed around the Advertising Schedule summary sheet.

OTHER BUSINESS

Cashell was asked by Selectman Maddox to ask about doing a corridor traffic study south in Hudson. Diers said that NRPC would come up with a scope of work for this and see what we can do.

Chizmas passed around a brochure from the NH DOT on the *New Hampshire Strategic Highway Safety Plan Overview – Driving Toward Zero Deaths – 2012-2016*. She added that the website was not yet up.

Motion to adjourn came from Cashell with a second from Parker. The meeting adjourned at 1:12 pm.