



APPROVED – MINUTES
NASHUA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
Held at the NRPC Office
9 Executive Park, Suite 201, Merrimack, NH
March 15, 2017

Members Present:

Michael Dell Orfano, Amherst	Thomas Young, Litchfield	Dan Kelly, Nashua
Martin Michaelis, Amherst	William W. Boyd, Merrimack–8pm	Sarah Marchant, Nashua
Susan Ruch, Amherst	Karin Elmer, Merrimack	Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Jill Adams, Brookline	Anant Panwalkar, Merrimack	Dave Hennessey, Pelham
Venu Rao, Hollis	Chris Costantino, Milford	Hal Lynde, Pelham
James Battis, Hudson	Janet Langdell, Milford	James Kofalt
Kim Queenan, Litchfield	George Skuse, Milford	Kermit Williams, Wilton

Others Present:

Matt Paddy, City of Nashua	Tim Cummings, City of Nashua
Steve Michaud, City of Nashua	Ed Weber, City of Nashua / Videographer
Suzanne Fournier, Brox Env. Citizens	Nancy Mayville, NHDOT
Tim White, NHDES	Jason Schrieber, Nelson Nygaard / Speaker
Jenny Maxwell, Amherst	

Staff Present:

Tim Roache, Executive Director	Jen Czysz, Assistant Director
Julie Chizmas, Senior Transportation Planner	Karen Baker, Program Assistant

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Chairman Hennessey called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM with introductions. He noted that Executive Committee member & Commissioner Boyd had to leave for town business but would be back.

PUBLIC HEARING: ADOPTION OF THE 2017-2020 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AND MINOR UPDATE TO THE 2017-2040 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP)

Roache informed the group of the recently adopted 2017-2020 TIP and the 2017-2040 MTP Minor update.

Hennessey opened the Public Hearing at 7:03 with a presentation from Chizmas.

Chizmas informed the Commission that Amendment #1 to the adopted Nashua Metropolitan Area 2017 – 2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), is to account for changes to Statewide projects and to maintain consistency with the Statewide TIP (STIP). Also being amended is the 2017 – 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) project list and fiscal constraint analysis to maintain consistency with the amended TIP Project list.

The proposed amendments to the projects in the Nashua region are administrative in nature, are fiscally constrained, and all applicable conformity requirements under the conformity rule have been met and transportation conformity requirements under 40 CFR 93.109(b) continue to apply, including project level conformity determinations based on carbon monoxide hot spot analyses under 40 CFR 93.116. She added that the proposed amendments are necessary to ensure that the TIP and STIP reflect the anticipated project schedule. She noted that there is 1 regional project, the Pelham: Main St Bridge Replacement which is delayed because 2 other State Aid bridges downstream have to be done first. There are also 3 statewide projects for Tier 2 Maintenance Paving, Tier 2 Rehabilitation and the Road and Weather Information System. Chizmas noted that a legal notice was placed in the Nashua Telegraph and on the NRPC website. Public comments were accepted through March 3, 2017. There were no comments.

Chizmas stated that NRPC staff has reviewed this amendment in consultation with the NH DOT, NH DES, US EPA, FHWA, FTA and representatives of the MPOs, and recommend approving the proposed changes in this

amendment. Additionally, at the March 8 meeting, the TTAC reviewed and discussed the amendment and unanimously passed a motion recommending approval of the proposed changes in TIP Amendment #1.

Langdell questioned why the Pelham project was not regionally significant, but listed as a regional project but the Salem project listed under statewide projects is. Chizmas explained that the Pelham Bridge project does not meet the federal definition of regionally significant.

At 7:07pm: Langdell motioned with a second from Young to close the public hearing.

Dell Orfano motioned to with a second from Battis:

THAT, Amendment #1 to the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) & the 2017-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Minor Update, be approved.

The motion **carried.**

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

There was no public present that wished to speak.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – DECEMBER 21, 2016

The Chair asked if there were any comments on the minutes of December 21, 2016. Battis noted that he was the “member” and that it could be noted on page 3, paragraph 4 that started with “A member of the group...” Langdell stated on page 5, after the “Milford,” in the paragraph starting with “Langdell commented that...” it should read “...but the roads need improvement especially on 101a...” There were other grammatical additions and/or omissions on page 3 noted by the group. Williams noted the vote on page 3, paragraph 5 recognizing that the abstentions were in the minutes and asked if the roll call was recorded. Hennessey stated that this was an oversight on his part and that going forward contentious votes will have a roll call. After further discussion, Battis motioned with a second from Williams:

THAT the minutes of December 21, 2016 be approved as amended and placed on file.

The motion **carried.**

GUEST PRESENTATION: JASON SCHRIEBER, PRINCIPAL, NELSON NYGAARD

Roache introduced Jason Schrieber, Principal with Nelson Nygaard who would be providing a presentation to the group on “How Cities’ Transportation Infrastructure Affects Their Economic Prosperity, Environmental Impact and Overall Health”. Langdell asked if the presentation could be made available. Roache noted that it was being filmed and that it would be available on YouTube. After Schrieber’s presentation, he took questions from the group which he addressed. The questions and answers are listed below:

Dell Orfano stated that people are very car dependent, how do you break that habit? Schrieber said Uber or Lyft would be one way and that autonomy will win out and the future is in trying to share resources as much as possible. He added that not everybody is going to get their pick. Williams commented that this is still only a Nashua story and that people want to park in front of businesses because they are only taking 1 trip in the small towns. He added an example for Wilton people will not go to the candy store if there is a movie going on because there is no parking. He asked, what is the solution to that; curb timeouts, shared lots for the theatre? He added that the bigger threat is that there are only 2 places to go in Wilton and the fear of development and density is another issue and a hurdle. Schrieber said it is not about transportation, it is about place and

education.

Lynde asked where the math is; where is the funding? Schrieber noted that a vast majority is done by tax increment financing or public and private partnerships. He added that in these places served by the train, the community was motivated and interested not by the train, but the place the train serviced.

Roache asked if this was incremental. Schrieber said yes and mentioned demonstrated successes such as Portland, Maine.

Marchant remarked how are you going to serve your downtown or have your key corridors work better with our tax dollars or encourage your younger generation to stay to help share the overall tax burden without transit. Williams commented that except Nashua, it's like this everywhere, single stops. Marchant stated that Milford was not a single stop.

Maxwell commented having rail or some type of transit to tie Amherst to Keene would be good for her because it would take less of her time, she would be able to do more with public transit, there would be lower cost not having to maintain a car. She added that you need transit in the middle and it would build economic development where there is not a lot of development.

Schrieber replied to a member regarding driverless cars. He noted that driverless cars would change this a bit, but they are still expensive and you could maybe have car sharing to avoid congestion.

Young commented that we once had transit system years ago and we are just going in circles.

Williams commented that not all of Portland has access to public transit and it is much cheaper to live when you are not as close to transit. He added that there are still some workforce issues. Schrieber noted that getting workforce in is a problem in lots of smaller communities, but that is due to a shortage of workforce development housing.

Kelly commented that there is no vision in NH for rail. He referred to the spine and circulator approach concept that needs to be used here but for it just does not click here. People don't want economic development. Schrieber said it is about community benefits and gave some examples in other places. He added that you are not trying to move everybody onto the train; you're just trying to make it more viable for economic development. He added that it is about packaging and messaging. Schrieber thanked the group for having him.

Roache informed the group of the Ten Year Plan process currently going on and suggested folks come to the GACIT Hearings and to also share the video when it becomes available. The YouTube presentation from Jason Schrieber is available at the following link: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqhl_yBKTzea73MGeGTgr-A

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Czysz referred to the March 15, 2017 NRPC Program Highlights included in the agenda packet. She summarized the Land Use programs specifically economic development planning, the Capital Improvement Programs that NRPC is working with Litchfield and Pelham on, local land use planning efforts with Mont Vernon on a Town Center Rezoning, policy research for Brookline and wetlands assistance for Lyndeborough. She also touched on the Hazard Mitigation Plans that NRPC is working on for Brookline, Pelham and Mason. Lastly she informed the group that the 2017 Household Hazardous Waste season kicks off on April 22nd. Roache summarized the GIS Programs specifically trail mapping for the Merrimack Conservation Commission including creating new brochures, the Greater Nashua Public Health project on the Urban Heat Island Effect and the new interactive remote sensing tool to map land cover types that contribute to the urban heat island.

Lastly, Roache talked about the Transportation programs informing the group of the recent FTA Funding applications submitted for 5310 funding for Purchase of Service and Formula funds in support of the ongoing work of the Souhegan Valley Transportation Collaborative. He also informed the group of the SPR 5303e funding application submission that if awarded can be used for planning and technical studies of public transportation systems. He added that this would include public charrettes if awarded and they should know by spring if they get it.

The March 15, 2017 NRPC Program Highlights can found on the NRPC website at the following link:
http://www.nashuapc.org/download_file/view/2047/209/

Czysch passed around copies of the 2017 NH Small MS4 General Permit factsheet developed by NRPC. She noted that NRPC and 4 other RPCs are working with communities affected by the new MS4 permit.

COMMISSIONERS ROUNDTABLE

Hennessey informed the group that the Commissioners Roundtable is a forum for exchange to share your town's successes and is also part of the Strategic Plan.

White-NHDES:

- Soliciting for diesel emission reduction act for replacement of diesel vehicles.

Rao-Hollis:

- Renewable energy solution for Hollis School District, 200 kilowatt solar panels/pumps for hot water. At the March meeting, for the first time ever it was unanimously approved. Education and previous successes was helpful. Additionally the City has no energy committee and the Mayor asked him to speak about Hollis' energy successes and now they have formed an energy committee and their first meeting is scheduled for March 16.

Kelly-Nashua:

- As a primary user of the Transit System, it was a major blow when they voted against the money for the continued work of the NHRTA. He is working hard to make sure the NHRTA stays.

Dell Orfano-Amherst:

- An abutter to LaBelle is suing the town over the expansion proposal stating that it is not consistent with the Town's Master Plan and they may lose the proposal. Also, a complete re-evaluation of all town owned property is being done to raise capital for the general fund.

Marchant-Nashua:

- Just came back from a trip India as part of a Rotary Group Study Exchange Program. Newly developed Energy Committee is going to be starting up a big project which she will share at the next meeting. Hydroelectric dam was just turned back over to the City to run and will be buying out a portion of a lease on another dam which will help offset the entire City's electric bill with green power. City is working on the Downtown Waterfront Plan which will include the Gate City Trolley which will run free on Fridays & Saturdays plus many festivals and activities.

Melizzi-Golja-Nashua:

- Sculpture Symposium is going to happen in May with 3 returning artists. Board of Aldermen Strategic Plan Committee is looking at agreed upon priorities geared to economic development.

Boyd-Merrimack:

- November Presidential elections went smoothly with no problems getting to the polls but there was no press about that. Media is quick to jump on the negative. DPW garage was built in 1973 when the population of Merrimack was 10,000 and there was only 170 miles of road. Now the population is 28,000 and there is 280 mile of road. The existing building has served its purpose and there is now a \$3.3 mil bond for a new one as well as a fight to support the desperately needed project. Merrimack also working on economic development for the Town Center Master Plan which started in 2007 through an NRPC iTRaC project and with vision and patience has come a long way.

Battis-Hudson:

- Battis informed that at the Hudson deliberative session Selectmen motioned to remove the NRPC dues from the budget. The vote failed 2-3. Hudson is looking for a new Town Planner. Roache noted that NRPC has reached out to Hudson and offered help on this. Looking into a user fee for Bensons and new fire station is on the ballot.

Langdell-Milford:

- Major expansion going on with Hitchiner and everything went through smoothly with the Planning Board. The Milford Dome collapsed due to heavy snow-no figure yet to replace it. The Town Fathers have requested to the BOS to enact RSA 79-E Tax Relief for Redevelopment. There will be a Make it in Milford Tour at Town Hall. Work on Keyes Park expansion. Costantino and the CC are working on bike lanes in town.

Williams-Wilton:

- Economic development update: 2 new restaurants in Wilton (Oliver's Restaurant and Gary's Restaurant). Pep Direct building has new tenants. Atlantic Pre-Fab will use half the building and plan to lease the other side. Completed the business survey and received some interesting info. Hope to pass at town meeting the NH Plan for Village Charrette. Lastly, the town will be putting forward a tax credit request and thinking about workforce development.

Queenan-Litchfield:

- Litchfield has approved 3 more chapters of the Master Plan. The new fire station is on the ballot and they are looking into how to review any potential demolition of historic properties. There is a new water main that will run from Merrimack to Litchfield and lastly 42 units of multi-family housing and 35 single-family and a small commercial building will be built.

Lynde-Pelham:

- Will be running a gas line to support part of Route 38 and it will run by Town Hall and schools. There was a provision for 55+ housing that was rescinded due to a technicality. Hennessey noted that while the ordinance was town wide, it impacted existing zoning districts with fewer than 100 residents. According to state law if a change impacts fewer than 100 properties in a district then all properties must receive notification by mail. This notice was not provided.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn came from Boyd with a second from Dell Orfano. The meeting ended at 8:49pm. The next Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 21, 2017 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted

Tim Roache, Official Recorder: _____