


**NRPC APPROVED MINUTES**  
**NRPC TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**10/10/18**

**Members Present:**

Brian Groth, Town of Hudson	Jim Lavacchia, Town of Wilton
Wayne Husband, City of Nashua	Pete Kohalmi, City of Nashua
Dawn Tuomala, Town of Merrimack	Todd Croteau, Town of Hollis
Tim White, NHDES	Linda Dusenberry, NHDOT
Lincoln Daley, Town of Milford	Mark Chamberlain, Town of Lyndeborough
Gordon Leedy, Town of Amherst	Julie Chizmas, Town of Nashua
Leigh Levine, FHWA	Camille Pattison, Nashua Transit System

**Others Present**

Nate Miller, SNHPC	John Savage, NTS
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**STAFF PRESENT**

Gregg Lantos, Principal Transp. Planner/MPO Coord.	Matt Waitkins, Senior Transportation Planner
Jay Minkarah, Executive Director	Cassie Mullen, Reg'l Planner/Mason Circuit Rider
Sara Siskavich, Assistant Director	Stephen Meno, Reg'l Planner II

**CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Lantos called the meeting to order at 12:06pm with introductions

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 12, 2018 MEETING**

***Gordon Leedy motioned with a second from Lantos to approve the September 12, 2018 TTAC minutes. All were in favor and the motion passed.***

**DISCUSSION OF THE NHDOT ROAD SAFETY AUDIT PROGRAM, NATE MILLER, SOUTHERN NH PLANNING COMMISSION**

Miller gave a PowerPoint presentation on the NHDOT Road Safety Audit Process, specifically pointing out the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). The HSIP apportions about 10 million per year for New Hampshire. This program aims to reduce traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads. The committee which oversees the program is a combination of agencies with local representation by the Metropolitan Planning Organization, Rural Regional Planning Commission and Municipal Representative.

Miller outlined the three types of projects which are eligible for HSIP funding in New Hampshire. They are:

- Statewide network screening using *Safety Analyst*
- Systemic projects (crossover barriers, guardrail projects). This is the area where the most money is spent.
- Locally identified projects – justified by Road Safety Audits

The ways in which the RPCs and MPOs can assist in the process are outlined in the presentation. If a Road Safety Audit is needed, the deadline to apply for one is December 1, 2018. RPCs and MPOs can assist towns with the application by compiling crash records, gathering location-specific traffic volume data and/or turning movement data, developing crash diagrams, participating as a stakeholder in the Road Safety Audit and ensuring that project funding is incorporated into TIP.

If the application is approved, the audit is conducted. This process typically lasts a half of a day and includes an Initial Meeting, Field Review, and Recap Meeting. The goal of the meeting is to reach a consensus on short- and long-term improvements.

After the audit, construction can begin. HSIP funding eligibility must be calculated as a benefit/cost ratio of improvements greater than 1.0. Projects exceeding 1 million may need to pursue funding in the Ten-Year plan.

Questions: Julie asked if HISP funding is being used on turnpike. Nate is Unsure, but Julie asks if turnpikes are eligible for funding. Wayne with the city of Nashua spoke about a high number of accidents on West Hollis Street. The concern is that if there is a bad accident on West Hollis St., traffic backs up on the turnpike. May cost more than 1 Million. Nate mentioned that ten-year-plan updates are upcoming and that this type of scenario is a good one to include in the plan for multi-year funding. Gordon Leedy with the town of Amherst mentions that the crash data town to town is not consistent making it difficult to compare. He asks if there have been thoughts to improve. Nate responds, Yes. There is a group working on this. Data improvement is currently an area of interest in the Statewide Highway Safety Plan.

#### **TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP) PRESENTATIONS FOLLOWED BY PROJECT RANKINGS BY TTAC BY MATT WAITKINS**

Waitkins noted that 4 communities, Amherst, Milford, Merrimack and Nashua, applied and need to be scored. Each of these communities presented on their proposed projects. There is a scoring subcommittee which includes TTAC members from Hollis, Brookline and Wilton. The subcommittee will independently review and score each application. All other TTAC members present were able to rank the projects (one vote per municipality). TTAC rankings will be factored into subcommittee scores. Once the scores are compiled, they will be reviewed and agreed upon by the scoring subcommittee then provided to the NRPC Executive Committee. The EC will be asked to endorse the rankings at which point the rankings will be submitted to the NH DOT no later than the November 9<sup>th</sup> deadline.

#### **AMHERST APPLICATION – PRESENTATION BY GORDON LEEDY**

**Project Description** - Phase II of a multi-modal pathway project on an abandoned rail line. Construct an 8,300 LF, 10 feet wide segment from Walnut Hill Road to Baboosic Lake Road.

**Total Estimate:** \$675,000.00

This is ultimately a 6-phase project totaling \$2.5 million. When completed, this project will offer a multi-modal transportation network focusing on all modes of transportation. There is an existing Road Rail right of way, so there will be no significant resources or impact to wetlands. There is a portion that will be on private property, but there is certainty that the town can obtain right of way for this stretch.

There were no questions from the TTAC members about this presentation.

#### **MERRIMACK APPLICATION – PRESENTATION BY DAWN TUOMALA**

**Project Description** – Construct Sidewalks along Woodbury Street and Baboosic Lake Road. The Woodbury Street Sidewalk will connect both the Merrimack Elementary, Upper Elementary and High Schools with Watson Park and the Souhegan River Trail. The Souhegan River Trail is presently completing the Feasibility Study as part

of the 2014 TAP and is anticipated to begin construction in 2019. The 2014 project will tie into the existing trail system that runs beside the Souhegan River and back up to the school.

The Baboosic Lake Road sidewalk will connect residents on the west side of the FE Everett Turnpike with the Library, the Senior Center, Church, Town Hall, Police Station and Kids Kove Playground that is beside Baboosic Brook.

**Total Estimate:** \$905,000.00

Completed, this project will increase the safety of pedestrians by providing sidewalks in busy areas.

There were no questions from the TTAC members about this presentation.

#### MILFORD APPLICATION – PRESENTATION BY LINCOLN DALEY

**Project Description** – Construct a 180 linear foot pedestrian bridge over the Souhegan River between property located on Elm Street to property located on North River Road.

Construct a 50-foot segment of a bicycle/pedestrian path located on the Elm Street property to a 25-foot pedestrian foot bridge crossing the Souhegan River/drainage swale onto the Keyes Memorial Park property. Construct a 1,450-foot multi-purpose path from the foot bridge extending to the property located on Elm Street and along the northern border of Keys Memorial Park parallel to the Souhegan River and terminating at the Greg Pedestrian Bridge to the Boys & Girls Club.

**Total Estimate:** \$745,000.00

Objective is to increase and provide safe pedestrian and bicycle pathways and to enhance the connectivity for schools, municipalities, recreational areas and natural resources within the city.

There were no questions from the TTAC members about this presentation.

#### NASHUA APPLICATION – PRESENTATION BY JULIE CHIZMAS

**Project Description** – Lock Street and Whitney Street are predominant routes to Mount Pleasant Elementary School, a walking school located in Nashua's historic French Hill neighborhood where 73% of the students were eligible for free/reduced lunch in 2017. This project will improve these routes to school by widening existing sidewalks to a minimum of 5 feet to allow for strollers, wheelchairs and other mobility devices to comfortably use the sidewalks. The wider sidewalks will also accommodate the City's sidewalk plows, which is vitally important in a walking school neighborhood.

Striped bike lanes will also be added to these streets as part of Nashua's goal to expand and connect non-motorized facilities throughout the City.

**Total Estimate:** \$998,974.00

This project addresses sidewalk repair and additions in a popular walking area surrounding. Some current sidewalks are too narrow for snow equipment, broken, without traffic beckons, partially blocked by utility poles, etc.

There were no questions from the TTAC members about this presentation.

### **STATE OF NH TEN YEAR PLAN PROCESS AND PROJECTS SUBMITTED BY GREGG LANTOS**

Lantos briefly reviewed the 2021-2030 NH Ten Year Plan Regional Planning Commission Process document including the time frame. Lantos said that it is his understanding that the NHDOT has agreed to swap the Pelham Project #41589 for the Broad Street Parkway Interchange project, as Pelham Project #41751 was funded under CMAQ and duplicates the previous one. As such, it should not necessary for us to submit a project application for the BSP interchange in the next TYP round. All were reminded that project applications must be vetted out by professional engineering staff prior to submittal to NHDOT. For those without P.E. staff NHDOT will conduct the review; note the December 3 deadline for submitting projects to NHDOT for engineering review.

Question from Lantos to Dusenberry – is there a mechanism to spread out the Ten-Year Plan to allocate money over those years rather than a shorter time period (preliminary phase?). This will be a future discussion item for PFPNH. While it would be great to get all TAP approved and funded, if projects are not funded, they can be applied for in the Ten-Year Plan. There is still the financial capacity to add projects to this plan beyond projects submitted in 2018.

### **METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP) UPDATE**

Lantos asked TTAC members if the MTP Outline document looks complete. The outline covers all the required areas; the organization of the content may be subject to change.

### **ADJOURN**

Lantos adjourned the meeting at 1:39pm. Motioned by Wayne Husband.