


NRPC APPROVED MINUTES
NRPC TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
12/14/16

Members Present:

Gordon Leedy, Town of Amherst
 Tad Putney, Town of Brookline
 John Cashell, Town of Hudson
 Tom Bayrd, Town of Hollis
 Elvis Dhima, Town of Hudson
 Troy Brown, Town of Litchfield
 Kyle Fox, Town of Merrimack

Dawn Tuomala, Town of Merrimack
 Lincoln Daly, Town of Milford
 Steve Dookran, City of Nashua
 Wayne Husband, City of Nashua
 Sara Marchant, City of Nashua
 Jeff Gowan, Town of Pelham
 Scott Butcher, Town of Wilton

Others Present

Suzanne Fournier, Milford-Brox Environmental Citizens
 Linda Dusenberry, NHDOT

STAFF PRESENT:

Tim Roache, Executive Director
 Julie Chizmas, Senior Transportation Planner

Matt Waitkins, Field Data/Transportation Planner
 Karen Baker, Program Assistant

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Chizmas opened the meeting at 12:07pm with introductions.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 9, 2016:

Chizmas referred to the minutes of November 9, 2016 included in the agenda packet as attachment 1. She asked if there were any corrections and if not, for a motion to approve. Leedy moved to approve the November 9, 2016 minutes with a second from Cashell. All were in favor with 2 abstentions.

ACTION ITEM: RECOMMENDATION TO ADOPT TRANSPORTATION PLANNING DOCUMENTS FOR THE NASHUA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO):

Draft 2017-2020 TIP and Draft 2014-2040 MTP Minor Update

Chizmas reviewed the process of the TIP & MTP Update. The steps started with solicitation for projects in Feb/Mar of 2015 followed by NRPC TTAC subcommittee ranking and submittal of final rankings to NHDOT for the 2017-2026 Ten Year Plan in April of 2015. NRPC participated in the GACIT Hearings in the Fall of 2015 and the TYP was adopted in June of 2016. Following the TYP adoption, the draft TIP was developed and the MPT project list updated maintaining fiscal constraint and the meeting the Air Quality Conformity requirements. Chizmas listed the regional projects not included in the TIP and MTP update because the final year of funding was in 2015/2016. She also noted two other projects: Merrimack removal of Exit 11 Tolls and Nashua Pine Hill Rd & Indian Rock Rd Intersection Improvements that were removed per discussion at the September Commission meeting as well as the Merrimack Baboosic Lake Rd Bridge replacement project that was included in the Turnpike Widening project. Chizmas informed the group of the new regional projects included in the TIP/MTP: Nashua Pavement Rehab on Somerset Pkwy, NH 101A, NH 130 & NH 111 with project construction in 2017; the Brookline Southbound left turn lane from NH 13 onto Old Milford Rd a TYP project with construction slated for 2026 (previously illustrative in the MTP); and the Nashua East Hollis St Improvements from Main St. to the proposed roundabout.

Husband asked about the Nashua Exit 5 project. Chizmas said that project is in the long range plan because there is no funding yet. Chizmas noted that there is 64million in regional projects in the TIP and the MTP update is only on the project list. Chizmas also informed the group that a 30 day public comment was held

and closed on December 9th. Comments were received from NHDOT regarding the Nashua East Hollis St Improvements for a funding correction with match coming from turnpike dollars and not from the City and a scope revision to reflect intersection improvements at the intersection of East Hollis Street and Bridge Street from C Street to the Hudson Town Line. There was further discussion between Dhima, Cashell, Marchant and Dookran on the scope change as the most recent scope had the project ending at Derry St in Hudson; Dhima said the project should address both sides of the bridge due to the fact that traffic flows into one lane once in Hudson. Cashell noted that Hudson is working with Nashua on this and that Hudson traffic is Nashua traffic and vice versa. Marchant noted that Nashua is in the very early preliminary stages and there needs to be intersection improvements there but there are no good options. After further discussion, Gowan motioned to recommend approval of the that the Nashua Regional Planning Commission adopt the 2017 – 2020 Transportation Improvement Program and 2017 – 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Minor Update, with the inclusion of the comments submitted by the NHDOT with a second from Putney. All were in favor with Dhima opposed. Chizmas noted that there would be a public hearing on December 21st at 7:00 during the Commission meeting followed by adoption.

Gordon talked about the 101 widening that is in the MTP but not in the TIP and asked if the Bedford portion of this project was in the SNHRPC TIP. Chizmas said it was. Gordon said he was trying to get a sense of the timeframe for the Bedford portion widening. Roache said it was a big project and then broken down into pieces; we carry the ROW and PE in our TIP but the small child projects that evolve from this change things. There was further discussion on other similar larger projects that have been broken out into child projects.

Dookran asked about when plans get adopted if those changes will reflect in the new Ten Year Plan. Chizmas said no, when the new one is done, that it is a static document. What changes is our TIP. She added that she hopes that all TIP changes are incorporated into the next TYP. Roache added that he hoped with the next S/TIP update, that the timing will change things to avoid the issue with the TYP adoption. There were comments on the confusion between the S/TIP and TYP.

Lastly, Chizmas noted that the Regional Planning Commissions will be meeting on December 20th to discuss project evaluation criteria for the 2019-2028 Ten Year Plan and to discuss what worked well, what can be added and what should be changed. She added that she added that we would be bringing this information to TTAC for review and weight setting.

2019-2028 TEN YEAR PLAN:

Chizmas provided the anticipate schedule for the 2019-2028 Ten Year Plan:

- January/February 2017: Project Solicitation
- April 2017: Project rankings due to NHDOT
- August 2017: NHDOT to meet with RPCs to discuss projects
- September –December 2017: GACIT Hearings
- January – June 2018: Governor and Legislative Reviews
- June 2018: Adopt 2019 – 2028 TYP into Law

Chizmas asked the group if any of the project evaluation criteria was problematic. She added that they are trying to prevent having criteria that is too subjective to matter. Roache elaborated that he wants to have a clear consistent message on our priorities and not throw a new one at DOT every two years, just focus on real priorities.

Cashell felt low hanging fruit should be at the local level and that we are getting bogged down with minutia and should be working on regional issues. Gowan commented that a lot of the smaller local projects are on State roads. Cashell also commented that the State wants to be involved in the whole economic

development aspect and part of that is safety. Roache said he is looking for input on how we can better meet the needs of the region. Leedy suggested lumping smaller improvements into smaller category. He also added some smaller towns do not have funds to do local projects. Roache felt that this was a valuable thing to pass along and that it should be done collectively as a region. Leedy commented that the requirements for projects come from the Feds who then pass it along to State government who then pass it along to the municipal level. Husband commented that the municipal managed process is a bear. Roache said he has been hearing this and it has been voiced to the federal delegation that there should not be a one size fits all approach. Cashell commented that they can build 3ft for every 1ft of sidewalk if the town does it themselves and not get the Federal Government involved. He added that the State needs to be more efficient in spending. Dookran commented that many smaller projects are competing with 20mil dollar projects. There was further discussion on scoring fairly.

Leedy felt that smaller projects should be acknowledged as being just as impactful as a larger project and used the Library Hill project in Nashua as an example of a small project that could help the entire region if done. Chizmas commented that several high crash intersections have been reported recently but aren't eligible for highway safety improvement program funding because the crashes don't result in fatalities or severe injuries, but do have negative impacts on network operations. Leedy commented that a lot of the crash data out there is bad data quality.

Roache commented that after the RPC criteria meeting on December 20th, he will bring back info on what he learned to TTAC. Cashell commented that they should all agree on what is most important project for the region that can be funded and put it forth as the true priority. Chizmas suggested they come up with a tier type structure to prioritize the projects.

2018-2019 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP):

Chizmas explained that the UPWP is intended to document the planning priorities and categorized work tasks that the Nashua MPO will undertake in the 2-year UPWP period. She noted that resiliency and travel and tourism have been added this year. Chizmas proceeded by reviewing the following planning emphasis areas for the 2018-2019 UPWP with the group:

- MAP-21/F AST Act and Planning Final Rule – Compliance, Planning Performance Measures
- Urbanized Area Set-asides, Suballocation and Project Selection
- Congestion Management Process (CMP) Implementation
- Freight Planning
- Fiscal Constraint and Financial Planning
- Metropolitan and Statewide Travel Demand Model Maintenance
- Data Collection for HPMS and CMP Development, Maintenance and Monitoring
- Planning and Environment Linkages (PEL)
- Climate Change & Stormwater Impacts, Resiliency
- Livability and Sustainability
- Project Monitoring

Chizmas posed questions to the group to think about, asking what skills can NRPC improve to better serve our region. Other questions she asked the group to think about were for ideas on how NRPC can better engage the public, if there are regional and/or local scenarios to analyze and any other technical assistance and support we can provide to the communities in relation to corridor studies, intersection analyses, master plan updates or training and education for the public and board members. Roache added that any input from the group would be great.



Marchant asked for updates for emergency planning. Husband asked for more traffic simulation training and Dookran asked if NRPC could take something other than a neutral approach when it comes to issues or projects that are important to the region. Roache commented that the Commission feels that NRPC should provide factual un-biased information. Chizmas noted that the draft UPWP is due to DOT by mid-January.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn came from Leedy with a second from Dhima. The meeting ended at 1:18pm.