



**MINUTES – APPROVED**  
**NASHUA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**March 16, 2011**

**Members Present:**

Martin Michaelis, Amherst	Janet Langdell, Milford
Brad Vear, Amherst	Andy Seale, Milford
Peter Baker, Hollis	Kathy Hersh, Nashua
Stuart Schneiderman, Hudson	Mike Tabacsko, Nashua
Howard Dilworth, Jr., Hudson	Mike Fimbel, Mont Vernon
Richard Maddox, Hudson	Ed Gleason, Pelham
Charles Moser, Mason	David Hennessey, Pelham
Karin Elmer, Merrimack	

**Others Present:**

Bill Parker, Town of Milford	Nancy Mayville, NH DOT
Diane Sheehan, City of Nashua	Ciardelli Family (4 members)
James Davis, Amherst Coach Apartments Building Manager	

**Staff Present:**

Kerrie Diers, Executive Director	Tim Roache, Assistant Director
Julie Chizmas, Transportation Planner	Karen Baker, Program Assistant
Camille Pattison, Principal Planner	

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

**7:05PM - Privilege of the Floor:**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**7:10PM - iTRaC Program Exemplary Places Awards:**

Diers explained the iTRaC Advisory Board and its purpose and passed the floor to Camille Pattison to explain the iTRaC Exemplary Places Award Program. Camille provided a brief history of how the program came about and then introduced Bill Parker, Director of Community Development in Milford and iTRaC Advisory Board member to present the awards. Awards were presented in three categories: commercial, municipal and residential. An award was presented to the Ciardelli Family for their Fuel Company Building in Milford in the commercial/industrial category, Peter Baker accepted the award on behalf of the Town of Hollis for the Lawrence Barn in the public/municipal category, and lastly, James Davis, building manager for Amherst Coach Apartments in Nashua accepted on behalf of owner Dave Goolgasian in the residential category. Diers congratulated everyone and pictures were taken. Diers reminded the group to nominate exemplary places for future awards with the next one coming in about 6 months.

**7:20PM – Discussion: Final Report of the Commission to Study Future Sustainable Revenue Sources for Funding Improvements to State and Municipal Highways and Bridges.**

Diers informed the group that Representative Campbell was unable to make the meeting. She passed around copies of his presentation “Transportation Budget Briefing” which was presented to the GACIT Committee that afternoon and explained that there were no specific recommendations made in the report, but rather it evaluated the funding sources that were available. Diers explained that there are 6 top revenue generators for the Highway Fund (MV Registration, MV Licenses, Certificate of Titles, Inspection Stickers, Overweight Vehicle Fines, License Restoration Fees), and in 2009 a temporary 2 year MV registration fee (SB78) increase was established to raise money for the state (approximately \$86 million & approximately \$10 million in increased municipal Block Grant Aid over the biennium). This fee will sunset (expire) on June 30, 2011 leaving an immediate revenue shortfall of \$124 million for the biennium combined with the 2012-2013 Budget cuts. Additionally, the shortfall would also affect DOT with Betterment programs being cut by \$15M and the next DOT biennial budget experiencing a loss of about \$69M, either from operating or municipal aid. Many projects in the TYP will have to be cut or delayed and DOT will be forced to drastically change its mission and the State will again fall behind in basic road and bridge maintenance. Diers pointed out some of the projects in the region that could potentially be affected by this.

Diers passed around copies of the “Ten Year Plan Budget Project Impacts” which showed a more extensive look at the projects that could be impacted due to a reduction in funding. Roache said that the sentiment from GACIT is that on

July 14<sup>th</sup> we should have a plan on how to deal with the potential cuts by prioritizing or bumping projects. Diers pointed out that the projects listed in bold were identified as being dropped or pushed off unless we recommend otherwise. Nancy Mayville, from NHDOT, provided a little more detail based on a question from Vear, explaining that when part of the funding is listed as earmarked, that is federal funds and the rest is off the system Bridge Program which requires an 80/20 match.

Hersh asked a question about the Broad Street Parkway as it is City and Federal money and yet still listed under "Other Projects as Risk", Mayville explained that STP Urban funds are not all earmarked.

Hennessey questioned if the 2020 Pelham project was in jeopardy. Roache said, not after tonight, as it is one of the projects listed in STIP Amendment #1 along with the Wilton project as "Red-Listed Bridges" and that he would be moving forward with business as usual until the next Ten Year Plan comes out. Roache further explained that there would be less money due to SB78 going away, but the intent of the "sunset" clause was to identify another funding source. Nothing has been recommended at this point, but the fee is included in the Governor's new budget. He pointed out that the Legislature does not want the fee and the reason for this discussion and handouts is for informational purposes only and to let you know that if no new funding source or fee is identified, this is what could be cut in transportation projects. The House will be coming out with their proposed budget on Friday. Seale explained the process of what happens from here. Roache said that the Executive Council would be looking for input on our priorities should this or when it happens if no new funding source is identified. Vear felt it the information was irrelevant. Mayville explained a bit further by example and Roache explained that it was just a scenario.

Langdell asked how you would "un-sunset". Seale said you would have to back legislation. Diers informed that HB2 was currently out there to reverse that and keep SB78 from sun-setting. Hennessey emphasized the potential impacts on how real estate would be affected in the towns if the transportation budget potential downfall is not addressed. He stressed that the secondary roads should equally be looked at to avoid homes being devalued in the rural towns. Langdell commented on this in regards to businesses in other towns and the difficulty for people to get to work if the roads are not there. Diers explained the reasoning for prioritizing.

Maddox stressed the importance of communication and getting the information out to the Commissioners, who can then bring it back to their Selectmen, who could fire off a letter to the legislature.

Vear asked for clarification on the Ten Year Plan potential impacts. Mayville explained and added that maintenance could also be curtailed significantly if SB78 sunsets. Fimbel asked how communities could find information (ex. Mont Vernon paving projects, etc). Mayville said under the Betterment Program on the DOT website.

#### **8:00PM - Update on 10 Year Plan Process and MPO Activities – Asst. Director Tim Roache**

Roache discussed the Ten Year Plan Process in the context of the budget cuts discussed under the previous agenda item. He explained that over the past couple of months, Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) and NRPC have been prioritizing projects currently listed in the Long Range Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and the Ten Year Plan (TYP) by meeting individually with most of our communities. At the April meeting, he would be taking this info back to TTAC to come up with recommendations for the Ten Year Plan.

Seale asked what would happen if the SB78 surcharge was kept, but the federal monies get scaled back. Roache said they would still be facing budget restrictions even if the surcharge was kept and federal monies were reduced. Langdell asked for a breakdown other than the fee. Diers explained it would be about \$110M a year and was not sure if this included the fee; percentages were not discussed.

Roache and Chizmas provided a presentation to the group as a visual of what the potential impacts of a budget shortfall could do to the projects listed in NRPC's Long Range MTP and Transportation Improvement Plan. Vear asked if graphical maps with projects from each of the communities could be provided. Roache said Chizmas had these maps and would email them to the Commissioners.

Roache continued by on his discussion of the two-year cycle on the TYP and the responsibility of NRPC as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the TIP and Long Range MTP. He said that he would still be moving forward with planning for the future even with current funding shortfalls and wants to have projects developed and ready to go if the money comes back and DOT starts taking new projects into the TYP.

Roache provided detail on the projects included in the 2011-2014 S/TIP Amendment 1. Below are the projects listed in STIP Amendment #1:

- Nashua – NH 130
- Nashua – Park ‘n Ride
- Pelham – Main Street Bridge (Red List Priority)
- Wilton – NH 31 Bridge (Red List Priority)
- Statewide – Various

See (“STIP Amendment #1 2011-2014 STIP” memo) included in agenda packet for full description. Roache explained that NRPC, in consultation with its interagency partners, has determined that the proposed changes made by Amendment #1 to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program trigger a new conformity determination and that the previous Nashua Metropolitan Area Air Quality Conformity Analysis (2011 – 2035), adopted October 20th, 2010, continues to be valid. Additionally, a legal notice was placed in the Nashua Telegraph accepting public comments through Monday, March 14th, 2011. No public comments on this amendment have been received to date. Proposed changes were presented to TTAC at the February 9<sup>th</sup> & March 9 meetings and after careful consideration, TTAC recommended that STIP Amendment #1 go to the full Commission on March 16<sup>th</sup> for approval barring any substantial comment.

8:21PM – Public Hearing Open

No Comments

8:22PM – Public Hearing Closed

The Chair asked if there were any comments on STIP Amendment #1. There were none. It was moved by Gleason and seconded by Hennessey:

THAT STIP Amendment #1 to the 2011-2014 STIP be approved.

The motion carried.

**8:35PM - Approval of Minutes of December 15, 2010:**

The Chair asked if there were any comments on the minutes of December 15, 2010. It was moved by Gleason, seconded by Langdell:

THAT the minutes of December 15, 2010 be approved.

The motion carried with 1 abstention.

**8:40PM - Program Highlights:**

Diers pointed to the NRPC Quarter 1 Program Highlights and briefly summarized the Legislative Forum with the Commissioners. She referred to a presentation that was done at the Legislative Forum that provided an overview of NRPC, Programs, and Staff. She added that she was working on increasing participation on the NRPC Commission through outreach, education and possible videos and/or presentations to be played/presented at Selectmen meetings. She also informed the group that hard copies of the NRPC Program Highlights were available upon request and would also be emailed to the list of designated recipients for distribution at town level that were provided to Baker during and after the previous Commission meeting. Pattison reviewed Land Use and Environmental Programs, specifically the Nashua Tree Streets Project and the Energy and Technical Assistance Program. Diers pointed out the upcoming HHW Collection Season dates and addressed a question regarding drug collections. There were some questions about batteries and proper disposal which Diers addressed. Moser asked if Mason would be able to participate in HHW collections. Diers said she would speak with Longval regarding this. It was also suggested that an email link be placed on all participating towns for the NRPC HHW page. Diers said she would also check into this.

Maddox asked if time would be better spent bringing back information or training rather than the traditional roundtable. Langdell felt it was helpful having the Roundtable and there was some benefit to it. Vear said he likes

the Roundtable in talks with other town representatives has received valuable information on ways to deal with different dilemmas such as trash and disposal.

Diers said the Executive Committee was doing a self-assessment to make the best efficient use of the Commission's time and explained that they would be addressing this over the next 3 months.

**8:45PM - Commissioner's Roundtable**

A Commissioner's Roundtable was held and started at 8:45pm

**Adjourn**

The next NRPC Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 15, 2011 at 7:00pm. Motion to adjourn came from Hersh with a second from Seale. The meeting adjourned at 9:15pm

Respectfully submitted,

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Kerrie Diers, Official Recorder