



**APPROVED MINUTES
NASHUA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
Executive Committee
July 15, 2015**

Present:

Dave Hennessey, Chair
Mike Fimbel, Vice Chair
Jim Battis
Janet Langdell
Sarah Marchant
Tom Young

Absent:

Karin Elmer, Treasurer
Dan Kelly
Susan Ruch

Staff:

Tim Roache, Executive Director
Jennifer Czysz, Assistant Director

1. Call to Order:

Hennessey called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Public Hearing: Amendment #1 to the adopted Nashua Metropolitan Area 2015 – 2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Czysz presented the proposed amendments to the TIP and noted that there had been some delays in DOTs issuance of the Revision Report due to the new database system. The proposal before the board was based upon the Fiscal Constraint data with supplementary data from a soon to be superseded revision report. The updated Revision Report, with the final proposed amendments, was not available before the hearing. There could still be subsequent minor adjustments; however they are not expected to be significant. Overall there are ten projects in the NRPC region that are proposed to be amended. Including:

- Amherst (10136C) – deferred to FY2019 and removed from TIP
- Bedford-Merrimack (16100) – construction delayed and cost reduced
- Hudson (20245) – increase construction funding
- Milford (13692B) – delayed construction
- Milford (14492) – project added to the TIP
- Milford (14837) – increase construction funding
- Milford-Nashua (10136) – delayed ROW phase work
- Nashua (10136A) – defer a portion of PE and ROW to FY2019
- Nashua (13117) – deferred to FY2019 and removed from TIP
- Nashua (16314) – all project phases delayed

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation has maintained fiscal constraint of the STIP. Many of the project delays are related to the State fiscal constraint. All project delays will incur cost inflation commensurate with the delay. There were also 2 projects in the SNHPC region that fall within the Nashua Urbanized Area that are proposed to be removed from the TIP and several statewide projects with proposed amendments.

Roache noted all of New Hampshire is unclassifiable/attainment for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard and that the 1997 ozone standard was revoked for transportation conformity purposes in the Boston-Manchester-Portsmouth (SE) NH area. NRPC,

has confirmed that the proposed changes made by STIP Amendment 1 conforms with the City of Nashua Carbon Monoxide Maintenance Area.

Young made a motion to approve the TIP Amendment 1, second by Battis. The motion passed 6-0-0.

3. Minutes: June 17, 2015

The Executive Committee reviewed the minutes from the June 17, 2015 meeting. Motion to approve the minutes as submitted by Langdell, seconded by Battis. The motion passed 6-0-0.

4. May/June Dashboard and Financial Reports

Roache reviewed the most recent Dashboard and noted that there aren't many changes, bank account is healthy, and all funds are now in TD Bank. NRPC hosted a Merrimack Chamber Networking Breakfast that was well received and have been invited to speak at a lunch in November. Staff attended a recent Massachusetts RPA Directors Pipeline Meeting, the NH RPC directors retreat, the APA Region 1 conference and a FEMA Flood Map workshop. Roache was quoted recently in an AP Transportation article and NRPC received positive press from the Keene Sentinel regarding its work on with the EFAC. Website usage has been up all around. Twitter has gone up and Facebook has been level along with Constant Contact. NRPC's recent Facebook post on Albuquerque Ave in Litchfield has been the top post to date with over 2,500 views.

Roache discussed the balance sheet which is very healthy. May showed an overall profit. In the end DOT was over budget at the end of FY2015 when it had been expected to be under budget. Langdell asked when it is expected that NRPC will have to settle up with NHDOT for the indirect overages of past years. It is expected that will happen this year.

Langdell made a motion to accept and place the report on file, second by Battis. The motion passed 6-0-0.

5. Acceptance of the Exit 36 South Planning Study

Roache presented the final Exit 36 South Planning Study and noted that the study had been presented to the Commission a year ago. The Study has been widely used and accepted within the community however no formal motion had been made by the commission to accept the Study.

Motion by Marchant to accept the Exit 36 South Planning Study as presented, second by Young. The motion passed 6-0-0.

6. EFAC Update and Draft Resolution

Roache noted that he has received feedback regarding the presentation that was made by the EFAC chair to the full Commission at the June meeting. Overall, the Committee felt that the presentation by the EFAC was centrist – neither pro or anti-pipeline. The EFAC had initially stated that their general sentiments were that benefits did not outweigh the concerns. EFAC received feedback that its response needs to be better articulated. Roache has worked with EFAC representatives to draft a possible resolution which he distributed in draft form to the committee.

Hennessey commented that there has been some acknowledgement from KinderMorgan that the pipeline can not be sited directly within the power line right of way, but as yet, has not delineated exactly where the power line will be sited. The resolution needs to note where.

Marchant said that NRPC needs to revise the time frame of the committee which was to sunset in June. As the filings will happen in September, the original timeframe is no longer applicable. Langdell agreed that communities will need NRPC to continue to keep track of the pipeline proceedings in the months to come. Marchant added that NRPC needs to be in position to respond to a proposal once available. The renewed EFAC charge should be a task specific timeline to ensure continued participation of members.

Hennessey noted, now that the EFAC has given its preliminary report out to the Commission, the commission now needs to decide whether to take a position relative to the pipeline at its September meeting. Marchant didn't feel the NRPC would have adequate information from KinderMorgan in order to take a position. The final proposal needs to be released first. Hennessey followed up by noting that the commission can at least decide whether it desires to take a position versus remain neutral.

Roache felt that NRPC should make a statement of some form. FERC's 30-day comment period will close at the end of August. Marchant suggested that a response could include the environmental impact data that NRPC has compiled.

Roached noted that in EFACs continuing efforts they are still looking to speak with the business community to ensure a balance perspective is included in its findings. He is looking to invite the Business and Industry Association (BIA) to meet with NRPC and EFAC representatives. The Committee then discussed the benefits of inviting additional individual large businesses from regional communities.

Roache distributed a draft resolution that he has been collaborating on with members of the EFAC. Marchant thought this was a good idea and Hennessey asked Committee members to send any input on the draft directly to Roache. Marchant noted that if all affected communities in the region are taking the same position it would be good to submit a letter to FERC and SEC that supports those communities.

Battis noted that the draft White Paper is posted online. Is that document finished? Roache answered no, it is still being finalized. Marchant noted the draft was posted in order to solicit feedback to make sure the paper has captured the full range of input. Roache noted for example if we still hear from businesses, those findings might be folded into the report. The other voice missing is general public input. Hennessey noted there have already been many public hearings, instead, perhaps get direct input from Selectmen as representatives of the public and municipal sentiment. Marchant suggested doing something online such as a survey. Langdell noted that would minimize travel impacts on residents having to drive to NRPC to provide input. Langdell asked if we could also have something paper based in town libraries to accommodate the non-computer using public.

Roache and Czys also described the migration of all documents currently compiled by the EFAC to a searchable cloud based database with full access to all documents online.

Langdell asked if Roache could notify the Executive Committee when BIA is scheduled to meet with the EFAC.

7. Other Business

Roache reviewed a rough timeline for completing the retirement system corrective action. Once this is settled Roache is considering soliciting an RFP for a new retirement system provider that specializes in government agencies. There is limited work remaining for the Attorney. Battis asked if there was any indication from the IRS of when we would have the closing agreement. Roached noted we should have that by the end of July.

Next meeting will be August 19, 2015.

8. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made by Battis with a second by Fimbel. The motion passed 6-0-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:12.