


NRPC APPROVED MINUTES
NRPC TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
March 13, 2019

Members Present:

Gordon Leedy, Town of Amherst	Camille Pattison, NTS
Jeff Gowan, Town of Pelham	Dawn Tuomala, Town of Merrimack
Pete Kohalmi, City of Nashua	Julie Chizmas, City of Nashua
Simon Carson, PAC, CSAC	Mark Chamberlain, Town of Lyndeborough
Lucy A. St. John, NHDOT	Elizabeth Strachan, NHDES
Brian Groth, Town of Hudson	Steve Dodson, City of Nashua
John Savage, NTS	Paul Maloney, FHWA
Tad Putney, Town of Brookline	

Others Present

Chris Buchanan	Erica Wygonik, Alta Planning & RSG
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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
Mason Twombly, Environmental Planner	Derek Stahl, Planning Technician
John Goeman, Reg'l Planner/Wilton Circuit Rider	Sabrina Pedersen, Community Relations Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Lantos called the meeting to order at 12:03pm with a round of introductions.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 13TH, 2019 MEETING

Lantos referred to the minutes of February 13, 2019 included in the agenda packet as Attachment 1. He asked if there were any corrections; if not, a motion for approval.

Chizmas motioned with a second from Gowan to approve the February 13, 2019 TTAC minutes as amended. All were in favor and the motion passed.

REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF THE 2021-2030 NH TEN YEAR TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM PROJECT PRIORITIZATION

- Lantos is scheduled to meet with NH DOT on Monday, March 18th, 2019 regarding the project priorities for the plan. NHDOT revised cost estimates and project scope issues will be discussed at this meeting.
- Amend the project table to indicate Amherst rather than Brookline as TYP if TAP unsuccessful (entire reference was later deleted as TAP process has been completed).
- Ranking methodology will be a subject for review by PFPNH group in the coming year. Lantos commented about the difficulty of comparing projects to one another with the ranking metrics (e.g. footpath versus Exit 5 interchange realignment). Minkarah added that the Federal Highway has provided good input about the metrics.
- Chizmas asked for a change in the project title Taylor Falls/Memorial Bridge to Hudson/Nashua.

Leedy motioned with a second from Putney to approve the 6 projects as priority projects. All were in favor and the motion passed.

OVERVIEW OF STATE PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

- Phil Goff from Alta Planning & RSG presented about the Statewide Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan and Economic Impact Study. Alta Planning & RSG is an Oregon-based planning and engineering firm specializing in bicycle, pedestrian, and trail routes. Currently, they are working on a statewide bike and pedestrian plans for Rhode Island.
- In terms of project timeline, Goff proposed that the plan is expected to run until the end of the year; ideally, a draft report will be complete by November. The plan is currently 3 months underway.
- Goff proceeded forward with outlining Tasks 1 – 7 of the plan:

Task 1: Public Engagement: the public can provide input on their webpage (www.nhpedbikeplan.com) through an interactive map and online survey. So far, 200 surveys have been completed with a goal of doubling that figure by May. The interactive map will be available through the summer. A total of 5 community meetings will happen throughout the state in April/May. A final public meeting will be held in Concord in October.

Task 2: Existing Conditions Assessment: the gap analysis is based on RPC plans. Numbered and non-numbered state highways are primarily highlighted as a result of the project contract with NH DOT. Local roadways running parallel to state corridors are within the project scope. Urban and rural compacts are within scope too.

Task 3: Summary of Existing Policies and Programs in NH: Alta Planning & RSG will be developing best practices and recommendations of existing policies and programs.

Task 4: Stakeholder Outreach: TTAC committee can be involved much in this task.

Task 5: Level of Stress Analysis, Network Recommendations, & Project Prioritization: this looks at an evaluation of roadways' ability to accommodate user types: BLTS 1 (ideal) to BLTS 4 (high stress). Alta Planning & RSG completed a similar analysis for Vermont. Network recommendations will primarily focus on bicycle connectivity/safety. Project prioritization will be evaluated based on critical criteria (demand, safety impact, connectivity, equity issues cost/permitting issues, etc.).

Task 6: Economic Impact Analysis: this task will begin in the summer with the assistance of an economic analysis consultant. The analysis will primarily focus on on-road investments to offer a financial argument.

Task 7: Draft/Final Report: the draft and final presentation are scheduled to be available in October.

Questions pertaining to the plan:

1. Disco asked if existing plans will be considered. Goff stated that statewide plans developed by RPCs will be examined, but individual municipal plans will not be due to time constraints. The plan will have more of a state and regional focus. Through public engagement, they hope to receive input for individual municipalities. Goff clarified that Route 3 in Merrimack should already be included; he stated that he would confirm this information.
2. Carson asked about the drop date for public comment. Goff stated that the drop date will be around mid-summer (no exact date). Survey and map will be open until the month of May.
3. Carson asked about the process of sharing the public's input. Goff answered that anyone can look at the online interactive map to view comments. By October, there will be an appendix summarizing the public's input from the public meetings, interactive map, and survey. Carson recommended to geocode for each comment.
4. Leedy asked if Goff had given any thought about the plan providing any tools. Goff stated that local roads on state roads are out of their scope, but they could provide a 1-pager tool-kit to guide municipalities about what their approach could be for making rough estimates for now and in the future for local road improvements.
5. Concern about a lack of road design in the presentation was addressed. Goff stated that design guidelines will be provided for municipalities too.
6. Goff answered that lobbying with state representatives is not part of their contract. Policy recommendations will be included in Task 3.
7. Buchanan asked about the lack of focus on multi-use path opportunities. Phil stated that there is a current senate bill for studying multi-use paths in the state. For this plan, it is outside of this scope.
8. Putney voiced concern about a missing rail trail gap in Brookline extending into Massachusetts. Goff made note of the missing gap to add into their gap analysis.
9. Goeman asked about how regional recommendations from the public will be considered. Goff stated that each RPC can give input individually. Then Alta Planning & RSG will review and compare priorities with the recommendations to assess consistency with regional goals.
10. Chizmas asked about the meaning of the white highlighted roads on the gap analysis map. Red lines refer to the gaps. White roads (numbered highways) do not include gaps. Yellow roads (non-numbered highways) do not include gaps. Route 111 was highlighted as a missing gap.
11. Minkarah asked about the goal of the transportation plan being transportation or recreational, highlighting that the Daniel Webster Highway and 101A are not included as gaps. Goff stated that he would examine the D.W. Highway and 101A. Goff clarified that the bicycle routes are focused more on connectivity whereas the pedestrian component will look more at policy and design recommendations. urged that Phil looks at this route.
12. Buchanan asked about how Alta Planning & RSG examine community importance when identifying gaps. Goff stated that they will ultimately prioritize projects and specifically focus on routes that connect between destinations and facilities that people use a lot and/or enjoy.

13. Disco raised concern about Route 122 being equally important as Route 3 in Merrimack. He strongly suggested Goff to check out bicycle crash data for Route 122. He also recommended Goff to look at NRPC's bike/ped plans. A comment was made about bicyclists shifting towards wider main roads instead of back roads due to increased cellphone use. It was suggested that Goff check out the concentration of employers to safety routes. Brookline was brought up as an example of how narrowed roads result in wider lanes and slower traffic speed.
14. Comments were made about categorizing pedestrian and bicycling as two different entities. A suggestion was made to investigate the major places where people work.
15. Chizmas highlighted how Nashua/Merrimack widened Route 3 yet it is not called a gap. Chizmas stated that it should be categorized as a gap, followed by agreeance by Waitkins.
16. No additional comments were made about the vision and goals of the plan.
17. Waitkins commented that the gap analysis would be a great task for the regional bike/ped group.
18. Leedy commented about how significant barriers are not shown on the gap analysis map. He encouraged Goff to factor in these barriers into the analysis.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

ADJOURN

Waitkins asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Leedy motioned with a second from Chizmas to adjourn. All were in favor and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 1:32 pm.