



MINUTES

NRPC TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

4/16/03

Members Present: Steve Williams, NRPC
Andrew Singelakis, NRPC
Jay Minkarah, Town of Merrimack
Todd Landry, City of Nashua
John Cashell, Town of Hudson
Bill Parker, Town of Milford
Subramanian Sharma, NH DOT
Becky Ohler, NH DES
Paul Newman, City of Nashua
John Whittaker, Nashua Transit System

Others Present: Ray Guarino, NRPC Transportation Planner
Matt Waitkins, NRPC Transportation Planner
Ryan Friedman, NRPC Transportation Planner
Camille Pattison, NRPC Transit Planner
Steve Wagner, NRPC Regional Planner
Angie Rapp, NRPC Environmental Planner

Meeting Opened and review of Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Steve Williams at 3:01 PM. Self-introductions were made. Williams asked the Committee if there were any corrections to the minutes from the 3/19/03 meeting. It was noted that "Bill Lyford" should be changed to "Bob Lyford" in two instances. Becky Ohler moved to accept the minutes with the noted amendments and Bill Parker seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Transportation Enhancement (TE) and CMAQ Applications

Williams went over the TE and CMAQ applications, reviewing the items in the application forms themselves as well as the criteria used to rank projects upon submittal. Williams stressed that the applications needed to be submitted to NRPC by July 31st and that if NRPC assistance is requested to complete the application, in completing an air quality analysis for example, such a request must be made by June 1st.

The TE evaluation rankings criteria awards points to projects in 6 categories:

- Land use served
- Promotion of safety of pedestrian travel
- Connectivity to non-motorized facilities
- Consistency with the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan
- Cost
- Other (exemplification of TE program)

Scores will be totaled for each project, with the highest-scoring projects receiving top ranking. For CMAQ projects, submitted applications will be ranked between zero and ten based on their ability to achieve air emissions reduction and reduce vehicle miles traveled, among other objectives. Williams also stressed that projects promoting the use of alternative modes of transportation will receive priority.



Road Classification Revisions

Ray Guarino gave a report on the process of updating the classification of all roads in the region. Federal guidelines require certain percentages of road mileage to be classified into a number of categories. Guarino highlighted four issues that are being resolved as NRPC addresses this task:

1. The boundaries of urban areas have changed, necessitating some roads previously classified as rural to now be classified as urban.
2. Mileage in certain classes must be set aside to accommodate future road construction, especially the Circumferential Highway, Broad Street Parkway and Albuquerque Ave.
3. Many roads in the region are split into 2 or more functional classifications. Classifying an entire road consistently would help simplify the process in the future.
4. In Merrimack, functional class designations are not consistent with the town's preferences as identified in the town's subdivision ordinance. NRPC recommends working towards consistency between local and federal designations.

Guarino called the attention of the Committee to a table showing the proposed total road mileage in each community that will be reclassified to help meet the federal guidelines. The major changes include an increase of nearly 27 miles in the "Freeways and Expressways" category and a decrease of around 23 miles each to the "Other Principal Arterials" and "Minor Collector" classes.

The Committee approved the changes proposed by NRPC and described in the Memorandum for submission to the NH DOT.

Draft Regional Transit Implementation Plan

Camille Pattison gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining the Transit Implementation Plan. The plan identifies several goals and addresses the costs and processes of implementing various new services. Among the goals identified:

- Increase service frequency system-wide by decreasing headways to ½ hour, implementing evening service and running all routes between 5:30 AM and 11:30 PM.
- Expanding the Nashua service area by adding a Daniel Webster Circulator and service to Daniel Webster College and Nashua North High School.
- Expanding the regional service area by providing a deviated fixed route between Amherst, Milford and Wilton, and a deviated fixed route from Nashua to Hollis and Brookline.
- Begin deviated fixed route service in Milford, Hudson and Merrimack.

Pattison also highlighted the importance of Intelligent Transportation Systems technology in transit, outlining implementation costs for Automatic Vehicle Locators, Electronic Fare Collection and Voice Annunciation systems. Also, the presentation addressed the possibilities for tying in the Nashua Transit System service area to other regional transit providers in Lowell, Manchester, Salem, Derry, Concord and Keene.

Next Meeting, July 16, 2003 at 3 PM.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:25 PM.



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