



MINUTES
NASHUA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
March 19, 2003

Members Present:	Frank Bolmarcich, Chairman, Nashua	Pat Jewett, Litchfield
	Marilyn Peterman, Amherst	Nelson Disco, Merrimack
	Martin Michaelis, Amherst	Donald Wunderlich, Merrimack
	Paul Wenger, Amherst	Karin Elmer, Merrimack
	Ann Seabury, Hudson	Richard Roulx, Merrimack
	Doris Ducharme, Hudson	Bill Parker, Milford
	Howard Dilworth, Jr., Hudson	Mike Fimbel, Mont Vernon
	Suellen Seabury Quinlan, Hudson	Hal Melcher, Wilton
	Richard Maddox, Hudson	Diane Nilsson, Wilton
	Bob Lyford, NH DOT	Becky Ohler, NH DES
Staff Present:	Andrew Singelakis	Camille Pattison
	Mark Archambault	Angie Rapp
	Ryan Friedman	Shirley Vance
	Ray Guarino	John Vogl
	Betsy Hahn	Matt Waitkins
	Steve Heuchert	Steve Williams
	Koren Melfi	

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Privilege of the Floor

There were no members of the public in attendance who wished to speak.

Introduction of New Members

New members to the Commission were welcomed: Hal Melcher, Wilton; Tad Luszey and Richard Maddox from Hudson; and Karin Elmer and Richard Roulx from Merrimack.

Approval of Minutes - November 20, 2002

It was the moved by Marilyn Peterman, seconded by Don Wunderlich:

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on November 20, 2002
be approved.

The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman announced that Diane Nilsson, who has represented the Town of Wilton for the past 5 years, is moving to New Ipswich and will no longer be on the Commission. Diane was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Adoption of UPWP

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for FY 2004-2005 was presented. This is a federally required process the Commission undertakes every two years. The document outlines the tasks to be achieved through our block grant and other transportation planning contracts. The Transportation



Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) has recommended the UPWP for approval. There may be some minor comments by DOT, but they would not include anything substantial.

It was moved by Marilyn Peterman, seconded by Bill Parker:

THAT the Commission adopt the Unified Planning Work Program for FY 2004-FY 2005, including any non-substantive corrections made by DOT.

The motion carried unanimously.

Endorsement of TIP Projects

Andrew Singelakis discussed the three recommended regional projects for inclusion in the TIP: 1) safety improvements on the Route 101 Bypass; 2) southbound approaches for Exit 36; and 3) project development for the Route 101 widening. He then distributed a memo from Steve Williams regarding rankings for non-regional transportation projects. Steve Williams explained that NRPC had solicited projects from the communities for inclusion in the State's Transportation Improvement Program (and Ten Year Plan). The local projects were ranked by the staff with criteria established through the TTAC. Seven were reconstruction projects in Nashua, and three were improvement projects in Hudson. DOT funds are extremely tight, and it is unlikely that many projects will be added to the State's plan. The proposed TIP was recommended by the TTAC. It was then moved by Marilyn Peterman, seconded by Mike Fimbel:

THAT the TIP, as prioritized by Commission staff, is endorsed by the Commission.

The motion carried unanimously.

Andrew Singelakis discussed the summary of the projects included in the State's draft Ten Year Plan. One spreadsheet shows a summary of projects including new start dates which shows a number of projects are moving back significant periods of time. (The Circumferential Highway project moves back from 2003 to 2006.) He is very concerned about this. We should make our legislators aware of this and that we would like them to vote for projects in our region. A Regional Roundtable should be held before the Ten Year Plan comes out at which time we should raise our concerns about these transportation issues. Andrew expressed concerns about the extent of time the Circumferential Highway project is taking, the project's impact on the Pennichuck Watershed, and questioned whether this project needs to be rethought.

Regarding commuter rail, our Congressional delegation has expressed concerns about state support for the project due the vote taken by the Executive Council not to approve a \$76,000 preliminary engineering contract extension. The issue of funding projects with gas tax money is being brought to court. Mayor Streeter held a meeting on March 13 to raise awareness. Both the Cities of Nashua and Manchester have passed resolutions urging the Executive Council to bring the item back onto its agenda, and to vote in the affirmative for it. The Governor has been very helpful and supports the project.

The following motion, as recommended by the Executive Committee, was moved by Howard Dilworth, Jr., seconded by Marilyn Peterman:

WHEREAS, the Nashua Regional Planning Commission represents twelve communities in the Greater Nashua area and is the Metropolitan Planning Organization responsible for transportation planning in the region; and

WHEREAS, commuter rail service between the State of New Hampshire and Boston would offer our citizens an important alternative to using congested highways;

WHEREAS, rail usage offers benefits to the environment; and

WHEREAS, having rail service to Nashua would be a significant economic development opportunity for the region; and

WHEREAS, restoring commuter rail service to New Hampshire hinges on the restoration of service to the City of Nashua first, with the longer term goal of extending to downtown Manchester via Merrimack and Bedford; and

WHEREAS, and extension of the contract with Parsons-Brinckerhoff is necessary to continue to implement commuter rail service to Nashua; and

WHEREAS, the contract extension requires approval by the Executive Council; and

WHEREAS, failure to execute the contract may jeopardize federal funding for the project and could result in the termination of the project; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by its Commissioners that the Nashua Regional Planning Commission strongly encourages the Executive Council to execute the contract extension with Parsons Brinckerhoff for the return of commuter rail to New Hampshire.

The motion carried unanimously.

Regional Water District Update

Since the last meeting, Philadelphia suburban has withdrawn from its deal to purchase the Pennichuck Water Works after a City vote on January 14th to pursue acquisition of the assets of the water utility. Over 16 communities have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work through the details of a water charter. HB 361, which would enable the Regional Water District to raise money by water bonds, has passed the House. A Committee has been formed to develop the charter which represents all of the communities served by Pennichuck. The NRPC is also on the Committee.

Regional Roundtable

A Regional Roundtable was held.

It was then moved by, Don Wunderlich, seconded by Marilyn Peterman:

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Singelakis, Official Recorder