


APPROVED MINUTES
NRPC TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
01/09/13

Members Present:

Jeff Babel, Town of Hollis DPW
 Jason Hoch, Town of Litchfield
 Kyle Fox, Town of Merrimack
 Sarah Marchant, Town of Amherst
 Jeff Gowan, Town of Pelham
 John Cashell, Town of Hudson
 Mark Sousa, City of Nashua NTS
 Louise Woodworth, City of Nashua NTS

Kathy Hersh, City of Nashua
 Wayne Husband, City of Nashua
 Kelly Anderson, City of Nashua
 Tad Putney, Town of Brookline
 Bill Parker, Town of Milford
Others Present:
 Paul Lockwood, NH DES
 Karla Kemp, NHDOT
 Leigh Levine, FHWA

STAFF PRESENT

Tim Roache, MPO Coordinator
 Julie Chizmas, Senior Transportation Planner
 Matt Waitkins, Field Data/Transportation Planner
 Kerrie Diers, Executive Director
 Mark Connors, NRPC Intern

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Tim Roache opened the meeting at 12:03 with introductions.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 12, 2012 MEETING

Roache referred to the minutes of December 12th, 2012 included in the agenda packet as Attachment 1 and asked for a motion to approve. Sousa moved to approve the December 12th, 2012 minutes with a second from Gowan. All were in favor.

MPO PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA

Roache stressed the importance of the project evaluation criteria and having the projects scored and that it provides true quantification of projects at the state level. He provided a few examples. Chizmas referred to the results of the Transportation Project Evaluation Criteria Weights Survey adding that there were 19 responses which she broke out and took an average across all the responses and looked at weights and showed averages by role. Top ranking across all categories were Safety/State of Repair and Mobility which was consistent with what DOT had received for results. Impacts to historical and regional impacts scored the lowest. She asked the group if this matched what the group was thinking. Roache said that he had been to DOT to see how their Decision Lens software worked and how it assisted in the prioritization and evaluation and decision making for DOT. Both Chizmas and Roache commented on the robustness of the DOT process. He asked if there were any tweaks or adjustments to the results provided through the survey. Sousa said if the results shown are from the survey, then it is what everyone agreed on. Cashell commented that the top 4 strongest results were similar. Roache said the next task would be to evaluate and apply weights to score all the projects. He added that a priority project for the regional will score accordingly and this will provide the backup. Fox asked if the RPCs and the DOT had the same scoring system. Roache said DOT's is as close as possible and will be very similar, but he had not seen the other RPC's criteria. Husband felt that the "Risk to Historical/Cultural Environment" would weight out in the project development process so they did not score or weigh as high. Babel commented that if you don't get the top categories, you won't get to the bottom categories. Roache added that each project will have an overall score and a score on individual criteria adding that there will be some flexibility. Levine commented there is a trump card factor and it does not matter how high a project scores because it will come down to funding and feasibility of the project. Roache said if you know a project is not feasible, it does not have to be scored, but he felt most projects in the 10 Year Plan that would be scored are feasible. He asked for a consensus to use the final results from the Project Evaluation Criteria Weights Survey. There was a consensus from the group.

MPO EXISTING PROJECTS TO BE EVALUATED

Roache said that projects that the group would be trying to score would be for the 2015-2018 TIP and through 2024 for the Ten Year Plan (TYP) and the MTP. He added that if projects were so far along, they would not be scored. He pointed out that there were no projects in the last 2 years of the current TIP and that would leave room for new projects where there were none. He began by reviewing the projects listed

Roache questioned Babel if the Hollis Four Corners Project was feasible and if it should be scored. Babel said it comes down to matching funds. He added that it is needed but the local support is low because it people don't use the intersection; they are not supportive of it. Chizmas asked if was in the Hollis Master Plan and Babel thought that it was. Roache said he would have short fact sheets available for all the projects to reference when doing the scoring.

Chizmas referred to the Amherst Railroad Crossings project, identifying that 5 were proposed and 2 or 3 have already been improved. She questioned if the remaining crossings are a priority. She commented that the Hudson Sidewalk Project was still a priority. Next, Chizmas referred to the Merrimack 101A Post Road Project of which was part of a bigger project that got broken out into 4 phases and bumped out of the TYP. Roache felt the project would become a regional priority. Chizmas added that Phase 1 was still in the range of the TYP timeline with construction set for 2020. Roache moved onto the Nashua 130 project. A member questioned if they were just not ranking certain projects and not just knocking them off the list. Roache said that was correct and idea was to just put the best chances forward. Husband commented that some projects shifted due to funding constraints and could still change. The Widening of the Turnpike, Exit 36S, Widening of 101 between Bedford and Wilton were other projects discussed. Marchant said there was stronger support in Amherst for the 101 Widening.

Lastly, Roache reviewed the illustrative projects which were projects with no known funding source. Roache said the ranking would be done by volunteers from the Commission, TTAC and Staff and proceeded to asked for volunteers to assist in the ranking. Marchant asked what the timeline was to have this done. Roache said they needed a draft ranking the February TTAC meeting but can wait until March. Putney, Fox, Cashell and Parker volunteered. Roache said that Chizmas would provide information on the criteria and project fact sheets to the volunteers. Additionally, Roache would recruit some Commission's to assist in the ranking as well. Chizmas asked the group to provide her with any important details for the projects being scored from letters of support or anything else pertaining to the projects.

STAFF AND PROJECT UPDATES

Roache informed the group of the Exit 36S Project Steering Committee Kick off meeting scheduled for the February 5th. Diers referred to the Regional Plan that NRPC was working on and the upcoming first topic Transportation Workshop scheduled for Friday, February 8th, which would include lunch, a brief presentation on the state of transportation, "what we've heard" and existing conditions data. After that attendees would break out into groups of 6-8 and discuss regional needs in three categories (Mobility, Quality of Life & System Sustainability). All TTAC is welcome to attend. She added that Pattison was the lead for this workshop which will be a look at where we are heading and will feed into the MTP also. Chizmas referred to the Project Advertising Schedule updates and the 2013 TTAC meeting calendar included in the Agenda packet. The next meeting would be in February and where the group would be looking at a prioritized list of projects.

Motion to adjourn came from Babel with a second from Gowan. The meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm.