


NRPC APPROVED MINUTES
NRPC TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
07/08/15

Members Present:

Colleen Mailloux, Town of Amherst
 Tad Putney, Town of Brookline
 Tom Bayrd, Town of Hollis
 Elvis Dhima, Town of Hudson
 John Cashell, Town of Hudson

Chris Clow, City of Nashua
 Raymond Blethen, Nashua Transit
 Kyle Fox, Town of Merrimack
 Wayne Husband, City of Nashua Traffic
 Jeff Gowan, Town of Pelham

STAFF PRESENT

Tim Roache, Executive Director
 Matt Waitkins, Field Data/Transportation Planner

Jen Czysz, Assistant Director
 Karen Baker, Program Assistant

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Czysz opened the meeting with introductions at 12:10pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 10, 2015 MEETING

Czysz referred to the minutes of June 10, 2015 included in the agenda packet as Attachment 1 and asked for a motion to approve. Mailloux moved to approve the June 10, 2015 minutes with a second from Gowan. All were in favor with 3 abstentions.

S/TIP AMENDMENT 1 – ACTION REQUIRED

Czysz informed the group that this was the first S/TIP Amendment for the 2015-2018 S/TIP and its large size (the full report being 90 pages) is because of the backlog of amendments due to the DOT converting to a new database system. She referred to the memo and list of NRPC region projects included in the agenda packet. Czysz pointed out that the fiscal restraint report issued by NHDOT did not match the DOT issued Revision Report and that she was waiting for an updated Revision Report from DOT. She added that they still need to move forward in time for the next FTA quarterly billing cycle so the State can adopt the STIP in time for invoicing purposes on the 5310 funding. Roache elaborated on this some. Czysz referred to the list of projects included in the agenda packet and said she wants to confirm that what the town has is consistent with the projects in the S/TIP Amendment 1 and that the towns are aware of changes.

Czysz summarized all the projects listed and said there are ten projects in the NRPC region that are proposed to be amended which are listed below:

- 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

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.

Gowan motioned to approve the proposed list of amendments in S/TIP A1 based on the final additional information forthcoming from DOT. Putney seconded the motion. All were in favor.

CTAP PHASE 3

Czys referred to the CTAP Phase 3 program informing the group that it would only apply or affect Hudson, Pelham and Litchfield. In addition, it would be only for transit oriented development in the I-93 corridor and the LPA process will have to be followed. There will be 6 projects funded and all are estimated to be in the \$200,000-250,000 range. She informed the group of Southern NH RPC's interest in collaborating with NRPC to do a corridor study for NH 111 & 102 as an example for an idea for a project through the CTAP Phase 3 funding round. Roache commented that he felt DOT would want something rail related. He suggested coordinating with the 3 transit agencies for better transportation options and connections between Nashua, Manchester and the Seacoast as another idea for a CTAP project.

Gowan expressed his disappointment with the setup CTAP Round 3 and felt it was not a practical use of money. Cashell said the issue in Hudson is cost and match and referred to previous talks about bus service to the Hudson Industrial Park. Blethen talked about connections with bus between Hudson and Nashua and tying into rail. Czys suggested pursuing this with DOT. Roache said that rail and bus to Hudson will be looked at and where ridership is focused.

Gowan elaborated on his displeasure with CTAP 3 adding that the first CTAP was good but the new Phase 3 is ill-conceived and felt there were so many places to spend money. He added that Pelham is not a community where mass transit is discussed and a park and ride would not make sense in Pelham. Gowan further commented that he felt the initial purpose of CTAP was to minimize impact of I-93 and now he feels it is, to minimize the impact to I-93. Czys said the focus was to reduce the number of cars travelling on I-93 through Phase 3 CTAP projects. Roache asked what the timeframe from DOT was. Czys said there was no timeframe but sooner would be better to submit comments to DOT on the draft Phase 3 scope. She added there should be a 1 page release regarding the process and she would be following up with DOT. She added that there was a potential to incorporate the environmental process with DES for this round, however, this has yet to be finalized.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

FY2016 Transportation Work Plan

Czys referred to the memo on the agenda packet regarding the approved NRPC FY2016 Work Plan. She reviewed the projects that would be in the coming year. She summarized each of the following:

- 2016 – 2025 Ten Year Plan and GACIT Process
- NRPC Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan
- Pavement Management Pilot Project
- Performance Measurement Planning
- Congestion Management Process
- North Bridge Summit
- Nashua Transit System Comprehensive Plan

Putney said Brookline would be interested in the Pavement Management program. Roache said he was not sure of how the community would be picked for the pilot program.

Roache commented that they were still in the information gathering phase for the Performance Measures Planning, but that NRPC was getting a jump on it. He added that Strafford was looking at priorities and met with stakeholders across the state (ex. NTS) to come up with a priority or interest level in different areas related to the delivery of services.

Czys informed the group that NRPC has been doing time travel runs in the major corridors in the Nashua region and have completed 4, with a plan to complete a total of 8 this year. Reports produced from these travel time runs will show characteristics and comparisons of time to travel the corridors and how long it should take. Currently, D.W. Highway, Route 3 and Route 101 are done. Cashell asked if seasonal changes are being accounted for. Waitkins said yes and they were done before the school year ended. Czys said 5 more corridors and reports will be completed.

Relative to the Third Bridge Crossing Summit, Dhima commented that he did not feel you could have an argument against having a third crossing in response to having discussions if there is still a need.

OTHER BUSINESS

Cashell said that Hudson is adopting methodology for CAP fees and are in the process of identifying a new set of project improvements as part of the process for continued success in collecting the fees. He added that they will have a whole new set of projects for the TIP.

Roache asked if any of the towns were in need of any traffic counts.

Putney asked what the status was on the Exit 36S project. Roache noted that the TIGER grant application was submitted and that this may become a project for the future mayor.

Fox informed the group that the Manchester Street Bridge in Merrimack will open on Wednesday July 15th.

Cashell motioned to adjourn with a second from Husband. The meeting adjourned at 1:21 pm.