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ROCKINGHAM PLANNING COMMISSION/MPO POLICY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

April 8, 2015

North Hampton Town Hall

North Hampton NH

Members Present: G. Coppelman, Chairman (Kingston); P. Wilson (No. Hampton); J. Whitney, P. Merrill (Kensington); D. Marshall (Fremont); R. McDermott (H. Falls); M. McAndrew (New Castle); F. Chase, D. Hawkins (Seabrook); J. Doggett (Newton); A. Carnaby, F. McMahon (Hampton); K. Woolhouse, D. Clement, G. English (Exeter); S. Gerrato (Greenland); B. Goodrich (Stratham); P. Winslow (Rye); R. Taintor (Portsmouth); J. VanBokkelen (So. Hampton); T. Moore (Plaistow)

Guests: J. Bachand, Hampton; D. Baxter (Seabrook); L. Wilson (No Hampton); J. Nyhan (Hampton Beach Area Commission)

Staff: C. Sinnott (Executive Director); D. Walker (Transportation Program Mgr); A. Pettengill (Business Manager)

I. MPO Policy Committee meeting called to order at 7:50 p.m.

II. Minutes of February 11, 2015

Doggett moved to approve the Minutes of February 11, 2015 as presented; Winslow seconded. SO VOTED. (11 abstentions)

III. Project Selection & Prioritization for State 10 Year Plan- David Walker, Transportation Program Manager

Walker referred to Attachment MPO-2, Figure 2, 3 & 4 and also DOT's Pavement & Bridge Strategies. He explained the purpose and approach to prioritizing/selecting/recommending projects for the Ten Year Plan by eligibility and feasibility and then by scoring against a set of selection criteria (as described in detail in Attachment MPO-2). He reviewed some specific projects and also explained the Bridge & Pavement Strategies of NHDOT's newly implemented Tiered System of management of roads and bridges. Discussion followed on red list bridges, filtering projects, the selection criteria, and budgetary constraints. The 2 year budget is just under \$6 million. After ranking, the top 6 projects are Plaistow-121A safety improvement; Portsmouth-Maplewood safety improvement; Epping-Rte 125 signalization; Portsmouth-RR crossing; Portsmouth-signalization; Plaistow- Rte 125 signalization. However, the whole list will

be submitted in case they discard a project they will still have the next project to move up. Walker noted initially the top project was the Hampton route 101/1 interchange reconstruction project but it had an \$11 million budget and was not ready with support from community yet – study not adopted yet.

He noted that the Technical Advisory Committee reviewed the Project Selection list on March 26th and one project was moved to the “not ready” list – Hampton 101/US1. The Committee was supportive of the remaining projects and recommended the next highest scoring projects should be put forward as recommended additions to the 10 Year Plan, staying within the proposed budget target.

Whitney moved to approve the Project Selection & Prioritization list (Figure 4) for the State 10 Year Plan as presented, and that the current projects listed in the TIP or Plan remain, and be recommended to NHDOT. Also that DOT find corridor funds for NH33 Exeter to Portsmouth, and Rte 111 Kingston to Windham comprehensive studies that are needed; VanBokkelen seconded.

Chairman of the Hampton Beach Area Commission, John Nyhan requested the MPO consider an Ocean Road project be one of the top 7 projects for the 10 Year Plan. He noted an application for a TIGER grant in 2011 for this project. There was a preliminary scope and cost submitted. However, the project was not considered in Washington because it was not in the State’s 10 Year Plan. Another TIGER grant was applied for to work on a study to enhance the cost details. That application was funded. It began last year and used the TIGER funds to re-evaluate the whole transportation system of the beach area. By the end of this year full recommendations will be ready. Two years ago \$250k was put into the Hampton Beach Master Plan for engineering studies. Although this project is not “ready to go” it would be imperative to keep the momentum that has begun. He suggested this is a special exception situation that should get into that top 7 list.

Walker stated that the project is already in the 10 year plan as a study project, however, there is some question as to what there is to evaluate since the project feasibility study is just getting started, and another challenge with this is that DOT has stated that they will not consider reconstruction projects. And finally, the sheer cost is also a problem. Sinnott stated that the Feasibility Study is already on the 10Year Plan and that demonstrates priority and that hasn’t changed. RPC staff will correct the list that shows it coming off 10 year plan and will work with Hampton Beach Commission to get a letter of support for the Ocean Boulevard project for TIGER application process.

Moore moved to direct staff to write a letter of support for the Hampton Beach Ocean Boulevard project for TIGER application; VanBokkelen seconded.

Coppelman called the first motion for Project Selection. **SO VOTED.** Coppelman voted no because the Rte 125 Plaistow to Kingston project has run further down the list.

Coppelman called the second motion for letter of support. Wilson stated he will not vote for a letter of support that he has not read. *Moore Moved to amend the motion to add that the*

support letter be brought to the MPO at their next scheduled meeting; VanBokkelen seconded.
SO VOTED.

IV. Proposed FY 2016-17 UPWP- David Walker, Transportation Program Manager

Walker referred to Attachment MPO-3 and noted that this document was distributed at the February meeting and represents RPC work tasks for transportation funding for two years. Since February a few changes were made, one being a Road Surface Mgmt System w/ one community and a bike/ped plan that is separated out as its own category. Also the Road Infrastructure vulnerability Study has been relocated in the doc and budget assumptions have been tweaked a little bit – specifically the 10% DOT will be keeping for their own admin which represents approx. \$55,000 reduction of funds for the RPC. Also some tasks that were completed were deleted. In essence, this is what the staff will be working on for the next two years.

Chase asked if there will be a reduction of staff due to this reduction in UPWP funds? Walker stated there would not be.

Chase moved to approve the FY 2016-17 UPWP as presented; English seconded. SO VOTED.

V. Long Range Transportation Plan Update

Walker stated the staff has been working on an update and the Regional master plan helps immensely with completing the update. FHWA is pushing to incorporate some performance measures (as required under the Map 21 legislation), therefore, we are working on comprehensive look at that and we are trying to do it with other MPO's and other regions to identify, evaluate, best way to develop performance measures. He discussed key elements to the development process of performance measures and additional tasks that should be included in the Update. Estimate another 1 ½ years before the Update is complete.

VI. MPO Policy Committee Project Updates - Project update memo was distributed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Pettengill
Recording Secretary
