

DRAFT

RPC MPO Policy

Minutes

Portsmouth Public Library
July 13, 2016

Members Present: Barbara Kravitz, Vice Chair, Hampton; Tim Moore, Plaistow; Glenn Coppelman and Peter Coffin, Kingston; Don Clement and Katherine Woolhouse, Exeter; Richard McDermott, Hampton Falls; Joan Whitney and Peter Merrill, Kensington; Mike Turell and Robert Clark, Atkinson; Rick Taintor, Portsmouth; Chris Cross, Newington; Stephen Gerrato, Greenland; Francis Chase and Don Hawkins, Seabrook; Jim Doggett, Newton; Michael McAndrew, New Castle; Lucy Cushman, Stratham; Tim White, NH DES; and Glenn Davison, NH DOT.

Others Present: Sunny Kravitz, Hampton and Silas Archambault, Exeter.

Staff Present: Cliff Sinnott, Dave Walker, Scott Bogle and Roxanne Rines.

7:05 p.m. Policy Meeting Opened

1. Introductions

Vice Chair Barbara Kravitz welcomed attendees and indicated that Chairman Phil Wilson is away and so she will be chairing the meeting this evening. She asked attendees to introduce themselves and state what municipality or agency/organization they represented.

2. Minutes from April 13, 2016, RPC Policy Committee

Motion: **Gerrato** made a motion to approve the minutes of April 13, 2016, as written. **McDermott** seconded the motion. **Motion carried with abstentions.**

3. Public Hearing: Updated Coordinated Community Transportation Plan for the Derry-Salem Area

7:08 pm PUBLIC HEARING OPENED

A. Plan Content

Bogle gave a slide presentation addressing the purpose of the Coordinated Community Transportation Plan and noted that agencies seeking to receive Section 5310 funding must be able to reference an adopted Coordinated Public Transit Human Service Transportation Plan in their region; the purposes of the Plan are to improve access to transportation for the elderly, disabled and low income; inventory of available transportation services;

identify areas of redundant service; and make recommendations to address the identified gaps in service, improve coordination and eliminate or reduce duplication in services and improve the efficient use of resources.

He stated the RPC has two separate, multi-regional plans; one covers the Greater Derry-Salem RCC/CART region and the other plan is the Southeast NH RCC/ACT region. He gave brief explanations of both plans. Discussion ensued about funding issues for public transportation.

B. Public Comment

Sunny Kravitz stated that he does not think the town of Hampton has a coordination plan. **Bogle** stated that Hampton is within the RCC/ACT planning region, so is covered.

7:35 pm PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

C. Action on Coordinated Transportation Plan

Motion: **Doggett** made a motion to adopt the Updated Coordinated Community Transportation Plan for the Derry-Salem Area. **Turell** seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

4. Portsmouth Transportation Initiatives

Taintor gave a slide presentation concerning transportation, land use and complete streets initiatives in the City, covering the following: the transportation survey the City conducted; creating a supplement document for the Master Plan concerning how to add bike lanes to the current roadways; parking issues along streets; complete streets policy; East Coast Greenway improvements; and new street design standards with emergency personnel input. Discussion ensued.

5. MPO Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

Bogle gave a presentation reviewing the LRTP updates completed thus far. The TAC has reviewed both a draft and revised Plan Goals, preliminary work on objectives and policies, draft chapters on Existing Conditions, as well as Key Issues and Challenges. He reviewed the current timeframe and staff is projecting that the document will be ready for adoption at the January 2017, MPO meeting.

Bogle gave a brief explanation of the seven remaining Long Range Plan elements: (i) complete existing conditions; (ii) complete the scenario planning element; (iii) refine plan objectives and select performance metrics; (iv) needs assessment; (v) strategies; (vi) consultation; and (vii) solicitation for long range plan projects. Discussion ensued. **Sinnott** spoke briefly about the SHRP2 program and how it is intended to develop performance measures usable in the LRTP .

6. Revised Federal Metropolitan Transportation Planning Rules – Status and Schedule Update

Walker stated there are a number of rulemaking actions that will have impacts on the work the MPO completes. The changes with the largest impacts will be: (i) two new planning factors (a) improve resiliency and reliability of the transportation system and reduce or mitigate stormwater

impacts on surface transportation; and (b) enhance travel and tourism; (ii) Transportation Improvement Program: (a) make progress towards achieving the established performance targets; and (b) include a description of the anticipated effect of the TIP toward achieving the performance targets identified in the LRTP.

Walker stated the most important new rule will be that the MPO must implement a "Performance-based approach" to include the seven national goals in the process. He then reviewed the goals and gave a brief explanation of how each will be accomplished, they are: 1) safety; 2) infrastructure condition; 3) congestion reduction; 4) system reliability; 5) freight movement and economic vitality; 6) environmental sustainability; and 7) reduced project delivery delays. Discussion ensued.

He continued that in addition to the new Metropolitan Planning rules, FHWA has also issued a 'surprise' NPRM on MPO coordination and consolidation. The proposed MPO coordination and planning area reform rule is to "promote more effective regional planning by States and MPOs. Historically, the rule has been interpreted that as long as each community within the Urbanized Area (UZA) is covered by an MPO, the MPO planning area requirement were met. In NH, MPO's have been designated to be contiguous with the planning commission boundaries.

He explained that the new interpretation would require that anytime multiple MPOs are within the same UZA, there would need to be a consolidation, ideally to a single MPO covering the entire UZA. This would require that MPOs work together to produce a single Long Range Plan and Transportation Improvement Program.

Walker then reviewed the current RPC region and the two UZAs they are part of and how the new rules would change current boundaries and the impact it would have. It appears there is little support for this proposal by State DOT's and MPOs. He stated both AASHTO and the AMPO have cosigned a letter asking for longer than 60 days to comment, but also outlining some initial reasons why they believe the rule is a poor idea, a copy of the letter was distributed. Members voiced their concerns about the new rule and discussion ensued.

Walker stated that commissioners and/or communities can submit their own comment letters. Discussion ensued with members. **Sinnott** stated members will see staff's final comments before they are sent out.

7. Transportation Alternatives Program: Program Revision, Process & Letters of Interest Submitted from RPC Region

Bogle gave a quick overview of the program and stated letters of intent were received from 13 communities.

8. Commissioner Roundtable

Kravitz stated this item will be tabled due to time constraints.

9. Project Status

A handout was distributed.

11. Other Business

Sinnott distributed a sub-agreement with SRPC and explained the Strategic Highway Research Program 2 (SHRP2). He asked that members vote to allow the RPC to enter a contract with the Strafford Regional Planning Commission.

Motion: Moore made a motion to allow the RPC to enter into a contract with the Strafford Regional Planning Commission for the SHRP2 Program. **McDermott** seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

12. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne M. Rines
Recording Secretary