

**RPC MPO Policy Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Tuck Museum, Hampton, NH
December 14, 2016

Members Present: Phil Wilson, Chair, and Dan Derby, North Hampton; Tim Moore, Plaistow; Barbara Kravitz, Ann Carnaby, Mark Olson and Fran McMahon, Hampton; Don Hawkins, Seabrook; Glenn Coppelman and Peter Coffin, Kingston; Lucy Cushman, Stratham; Katherine Woolhouse and Langdon Plumer, Exeter; Richard McDermott, Hampton Falls; Phil Winslow, Rye; Mike Turell and Robert Clark, Atkinson; Stephen Gerrato, Greenland; Joe Foley, Epping; Jim Doggett, Newton; Michael McAndrew, New Castle; Josh Denton, Portsmouth; Tim White and Elizabeth Strachan, NHDES; and Glenn Davison, NHDOT.

Others Present: Ben Moore, Trustee Tuck Museum; Jason Bachand, Hampton Town Planner; Alissa Welch, Raymond; and Sunny Kravitz, Hampton; Representative Tamara Le, North Hampton.

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

7:04 p.m. Policy Meeting Opened

1. Call to Order / Introductions

Chairman Wilson called the MPO Policy Committee meeting to order. Attendees introduced themselves and stated what municipality they were from or the agency they represented. **Wilson** welcomed Alissa Welch from Raymond. **Wilson** thanked Ben Moore for hosting the meeting, for the tour of the Barn before the meeting and for the hospitality shown. **B Moore** gave a brief history of the museum.

2. Minutes from October 12, 2016, Policy Committee

Motion: **Coppelman** made a motion to approve the minutes of October 12, 2016, as written. **Doggett** seconded the motion. **Motion carried with abstentions.**

3. Hampton Planning Update

Jason Bachand, Hampton Town Planner gave an overview of the zoning items that will be on the town's ballot, including an amendment to regarding Accessory Dwelling Units for compliance with the new State mandate. Kravitz asked Bachand to send the list of changes to Sinnott. Wilson thanked Bachand attending the meeting and for the information

4. FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (MPO TIP) Adoption and Amendment to the Long Range Transportation Plan

7:12 pm PUBLIC HEARING OPENED

A. Presentation

FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program

Walker gave a PowerPoint presentation explaining the Transportation Improvement Program, which is a multi-year program: the projects identified in the document contains information about the funding source, project scope, type of funds used and the fiscal year in which funds are planned for expenditure. The plan also needs to be fiscally constrained.

The TIP includes approximately \$560 million in funded projects that are split into two tables: Regional Projects and Statewide Programs.

He continued the Regional Projects includes approximately \$229 million across 18 projects and 2 transit systems. Much of the funding is dedicated to several ongoing large projects: the I-93 widening (\$73 million); the Newington-Dover Spaulding Turnpike Improvements (\$20 million); and the Sarah Long Bridge (\$65 million, 50% paid by the State of Maine).

Walker stated the Statewide program is a funding program for 33 areas and a fund of +/- \$300 million. \$36 million of that program are allocated to the RPC region. He distributed a handout and gave an overview of the projects contained in the spreadsheet.

Walker stated the Statewide program table contains a variety of project types related to: operations, maintenance and preservation needs along with funding that goes to communities for project implementation. Decisions regarding the specific projects come from programs such as the Highway Safety Improvement Program, Transportation Alternatives Program or through DOT programs that identifies needs such as "Red List" Bridges, or NH DOT District maintenance requirements. 2017-2020

Update to the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Project List

Walker stated the plan addresses the 20+ year planning horizon for transportation projects and is updated to maintain consistency between the TIP and Plan documents. Staff is continuing to work toward a full revision of the Long Range Transportation Plan, which should will be completed during 2017.

He continued that the immediate changes to the plan have been limited to: incorporating approved projects and timeframes from the most recent Ten Year Plan Process; updating the fiscal constraint analysis to account for new years and different revenue and cost assumptions; and assignment of projects by year to accommodate both the projects in the proposed 2017-2020 TIP and the 2017-2026 State Ten Year Plan.

Walker gave an overview of the project list included in the plan and the process. The plan contains 123 projects in 27 communities, which totals about \$1.5 billion dollars including inflation.

He reviewed the projects tables included in the document. The TIP and Plan are both fiscally constrained and the TAC Committee has recommended approval by the MPO Policy Committee.

He continued that there was a project in Portsmouth that needed a change and he explained. The minor revisions to the TIP have been included. He has also incorporated Raymond's projects into the document.

B. Public Comment

Walker stated he received comments from some Portsmouth citizens concerning the heavy traffic on Route 1 when Water Country Waterpark is open, and distributed the letter from the residents. Sinnott stated that RPC staff has discussed these concerns with Portsmouth which had also communicated similar concerns to NHDOT indicating they wanted the opportunity to review more detailed engineering options that those stated in the TIP project. Both the City and the RPC have been assured that will happen in the normal course of project design and alternatives evaluation. These comments will be incorporated into staff's letter to DOT. Further discussion ensued.

7:32 PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

C. Policy Commission Discussion and Action

No other public comments received at the meeting.

Motion: **T Moore** made a motion to approve the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan with the changes discussed tonight and comments incorporated. **Turrell** seconded the motion.

Sinnott briefly explained how inflation will be incorporated into the plan. **Davison** explained how DOT adjusts for inflation.

Denton thanked the committee and staff for helping to improve the congestion on Route 1. **Motion carried.**

5. Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ) Program – New Funding Round

Bogle stated there has not been CMAQ funding since 2010. He gave a PowerPoint presentation explaining the program. The upcoming round will have an emphasis on vehicle replacements for public transit agencies. Projects funded in previous rounds include: traffic signal monitoring, diesel engine retrofits, alternate fuel projects, vehicles and fueling stations, transportation demand management, ridesharing initiatives, bike/ped projects, transit improvements and others. He listed some of the projects funded in the past.

Bogle stated the funding announcement is expected to be released in early-mid January 2017, DOT wants the round completed within 6-7 months. NH DOT is asking prospective applicants to notify them informally of their intent to apply. DOT will hold pre-proposal workshops that town staff needs to attend if they plan on submitting a project.

He reviewed the project ranking criteria process which will be largely the same as the last round.

Staff will forward the funding notice when published. **Bogle** stated the agencies interested in applying for funding should begin project development now. Both staff and DOT will be available to assist communities in proposal development. As soon as staff receives the notice it will be distributed to communities. Discussion ensued.

6. Project Solicitation for 2019-2028 State Ten Year Plan

Walker gave a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed how the 10-year plan will be incorporated into the other plans. Staff will be soliciting communities and transportation agencies to identify transportation needs and projects to be added to the plan and reviewed the process.

The solicitation should be sent out next week. The projects need to be returned to staff in February 2017. **Walker** continued that the project prioritization and selection will follow the same process as used in 2015, which he reviewed. All RPC's will use a common set of selection criteria, projects will be ranked and added to the last 2 years of the Ten Year Plan and each RPC works within a budget target of potential funding for the region.

The current prioritization process has two steps: consider the eligibility of the project for federal funding and the feasibility of the proposal; and where does the project location fit as a priority within NH DOTs Pavement and Bridge Strategies.

Walker stated there are currently seven criteria and gave an explanation of each. This is an opportunity to change any of the criteria or weighting and asked the members questions and discussion ensued. Members can contact staff with any other information.

7. Long Range Transportation Plan Update

Bogle stated staff has been focusing their work on 1) refining draft set of performance measures and 2) refining implementation recommendations as part of the Long Range Transportation Plan which is a requirement of both MAP-21 and FAST Act. This has largely been a part of the multi-MPO SHRP 2 performance based planning effort. **Bogle** reviewed the SHRP2 program.

Bogle gave a powerpoint presentation reviewing the recommendations & implementation of the eleven goals of the Long Range Transportation Plan: 1) mobility; 2) transportation choices; 3) land use integration; 4) system preservation & maintenance; 5) energy & environment; 6) safety & security; 7) economic vitality; 8) resiliency; 9) public health; 10) efficient and effective planning process; and 11) resource availability. Discussion ensued. **Bogle** gave a timeline and next steps.

8. Project and Program Updates, Other MPO Business: The project update memo was distributed.

9. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne M. Rines
Recording Secretary

**RPC Commission Committee
Meeting Minutes**

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9:02 pm Commission Meeting portion was called to order by Chairman Phil Wilson

9. FY 2016 Financial Audit

Sinnott gave a brief overview of the Audit and stated the Executive Committee has accepted the audit. **Motion: Coppelman** made a motion to accept the FY 2016 Financial Audit. **Coffin** seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

10. Reappointment of RPC Representative (Fran McMahon) to Hampton Beach Advisory Commission

Sinnott stated McMahon has been the RPCs representative and is willing to continue.

Motion: Mc Dermott made a motion to re-appoint Fran McMahon as the RPC's Representative to the Hampton Beach Advisory Committee. **Plumer** seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Sinnott suggested that David Walker be appointed the RPC alternate representative on the HBAC rather than himself as is currently the case. He said that recently Dave has had more involvement with the HBAC with their Transportation Plan update and is better able to represent the agency.

Motion: Coppelman made a motion to appoint David Walker as the RPC's Alternate Representative to the Hampton Beach Advisory Commission. **Coffin** seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

11. Contract Authorization: NHDES/EPS 604B Powwow River Watershed Planning

Sinnott reviewed the project and Grant Agreement. **Motion: Dogget** made a motion to Authorize Sinnott to execute the contract. **Kravitz** seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

12. Public Comment

Winslow recognized the work that Sinnott did in Chairing the Coastal Risk Hazards Commission and the RPC and the Executive Committee. **Sinnott** thanked Winslow for the acknowledgement and for his involvement representing Rye, and stated that recognition should extend to Julie Labranche had a huge roll in the Commission's success.

13. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm

Respectfully Submitted by,
Roxanne M. Rines
Recording Secretary