

Minutes

Rockingham Planning Commission Metropolitan Planning Organization October 10, 2018

Brentwood Community Center Brentwood, NH

Commissioners Present: B. Kravitz, Chairman (Hampton); Ann Carnaby (Hampton) R. Clark (Atkinson); B. Donahue (Salem); J. Foley (Epping); L. Cushman, (Stratham); M. McAndrew (New Castle); A. Davis (Hampstead); A. Brubaker, (Hampton Falls); M. Turell (Atkinson); G. Coppelman (Kingston); T. Moore (Plaistow); J. Kiszka (Plaistow); P. Wilson (North Hampton); Fran McMahon (Hampton); Rick Becksted (Portsmouth); Steve Gerrato (Greenland)

Guests: S. Kravitz (Hampton); L. Wilson (North Hampton); Representative Kate Murray, Representative Laura Pantelakos; Victoria Sheehan, Chris Waszczuk (NHDOT); Elizabeth Strahan (NHDES); D.Voss (Plaistow); Dean Merrill

Staff: T. Roache (Executive Director); D. Walker (Assistant Director) S. Bogle (Sr. Transportation Planner)

- 1. Kravitz convened the meeting at 7 p.m. and introductions were made around the room**
- 2. Minutes of April 11, 2018**

*Coppelman moved to approve the Minutes of April 11, 2018 with miscellaneous corrections; Clark seconded. **SO VOTED.***

- 3. Transportation Funding and the Ten Year Plan – Guest Speaker: NHDOT Commissioner, Victoria Sheehan**

Roache introduced NHDOT Commissioner Victoria Sheehan and Deputy Commissioner Chris Waszczuk. Roache explained that the NHDOT is working to submit the 2019 budget to the Governor's office and is here to explain the challenges they face and ask for support of the MPO in restoring cash match to the Department of Transportation budget.

Commissioner Sheehan introduced herself and provided an overview of the transportation funding in the State. She then introduced Chris Waszczuk who provided a more detailed explanation of priorities, challenges and opportunities related to transportation funding. Waszczuk distributed an 18-page white paper from which he spoke and referred to during the discussion. Waszczuk described the various funding sources available to the Department. He explained that the Department does not provide the 20% cash match to support the planning, design or implementation of transportation projects. He explained toll credits as soft match which allow access to 100% of the federal funds but in effect reduce the overall potential funding by 20%. Sheehan interjected that the restoring cash match would increase the amount of work the Department could complete.

Waszczuk moved on to explain the how the turnpike system is funded and how a toll increase combined with changing the limits of the turnpike system could benefit the overall federal program as well as the turnpike.

The presentation and discussion moved on to unfunded needs. Waszczuk explained that funding is allocated to our priorities, but our priorities don't necessarily align with our needs. Waszczuk reviewed a listing of unfunded needs and made the case for additional revenue.

The presentation concluded with a discussion of the Highway Trust Fund and the impacts of a possible rescission. Commissioner Sheehan thanked the Commissioners for their time and asked for their support as they move through the budget process.

4. Pavement & Bridge (PM2) and Congestion (PM3) Performance Targets – Dave Walker, Assistant Director

Roache turned the meeting over to Walker for a presentation on Pavement & Bridge (PM2) and Congestion (PM3) Performance Targets.

Walker explained that in May 2017 the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) final rules on "National Performance Management Measures; Assessing Pavement Condition for the National Highway Performance Program and Bridge Condition for the National Highway Performance Program" (referred to as "PM2") and "National Performance Management Measures; Assessing Performance of the National Highway System, Freight Movement on the Interstate System, and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program" (referred to as "PM3") went into effect starting the clock for States and MPOs to establish baseline conditions and performance targets for these programs. He stated that the rule requires State Departments of Transportation to set 2-year and 4-year targets for PM2 and PM3 measures by May 20, 2018, and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to set 4-year regional targets within 180 days after

that. Targets are to be established for nine measures within the three performance areas that walker went on to describe.

Walker went on to explain the target development process for bridge and pavement conditions. He reviewed the data and presented the targets to the Commissioners. Coppelman made a motion to adopt the performance targets as presented. Second by Wilson. Passed unanimously.

5. Transportation Alternatives Project Ranking – Scott Bogle, Senior Transportation Planner

Roache introduced Bogle to provide an update on the Transportation Alternatives Project Ranking. Bogle explained that September 7th was the deadline for submittal of proposals for the third funding round of the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). He stated that three full proposals were received from Exeter, New Castle and Portsmouth. In aggregate these proposals request \$1,874,400 in federal funding and have a total project cost of \$2,543,000. The proposals were reviewed by a scoring committee of TAC members and staff, and the TAC adopted preliminary rankings at their meeting on July 27th. Bogle reviewed the projects scoring criteria and ranking of the projects.

Bogle requested that the Policy Committee to adopt final regional project rankings which will then be forwarded to NHDOT. Bogle shared the ranking process and rank order of the projects. There was a motion by Clark to accept the ranking, second by Coppelman.

6. Ten Year Plan Project Prioritization

Walker presented an update on the Ten-Year Plan Project Prioritization. Walker stated that the MPO is beginning the process of prioritizing projects to provide NHDOT a list of candidates for the next iteration of the State Ten Year Plan (2021-2030). He explained that to facilitate the process, the MPO has coordinated with NHDOT and the other New Hampshire RPCs to establish a basic course of work and a set of 10 selection criteria that are used statewide to prioritize project proposals. NHDOT has developed a basic outline of the Project Selection process for the Ten-Year Plan and that is attached along with the definitions of the project selection criteria.

Overall, the project selection process will be similar to those used for the previous 4-5 cycles with a few significant changes. Walker said he is working with the TAC establishing the exact methodology the MPO will use, project selection criteria weights, and what milestones need to be met. Walker explained that the criteria setting & draft priorities will need to take place before the MPO meets again. Walker reviewed the criteria for the MPO Commissioners.

Walker went on to explain that the criteria will be used to develop a preliminary list of projects for consideration in the Ten-Year Plan. These projects would be forwarded to NHDOT for engineering review and updated cost estimates. Roache explained that the Policy Committee would see the projects again before any final recommendations were made to NHDOT. Walker sought a motion to approve the scoring criteria and the preliminary rankings to be completed by the TAC to move forward as a preliminary priority list. Motion was moved by Wilson and seconded by Moore. Motion carried.

7. Other Business –

Staff distributed project updates memo and provided a brief update of the COAST Operations Analysis.

8. Public Comment - None

Meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim Roache, Executive Director