

MINUTES
Rockingham Planning Commission
Metropolitan Planning Organization
February 12, 2020

Kingston Library, Kingston NH

Commissioners/MPO Reps Present: B. Kravitz, Chairman (Hampton); R. McDermott, A. Brubaker (H. Falls); P. Wilson (North Hampton); M. McAndrew (New Castle); A. Davis, S. Hastings (Hampstead); T. Moore, J. Kiszka (Plaistow); G. Davison (NHDOT); G. Coppelman (Kingston); G. English (Exeter); L. Cushman (Stratham); J. Tabor, P. Britz, E. Moreau (Portsmouth); G. Gott (Raymond)

Guests: L. Wilson (North Hampton)

Staff: T. Roache (Executive Director); D. Walker (Assistant Director/Transportation Manager); S. Bogle (Sr. Transportation Planner); A. Pettengill (Business Manager)

- 1. Call to Order: Chairman Kravitz called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.; introductions were made around the room.**
- 2. Minutes of October 9, 2019**

*Coppelman noted his name should be added to the "Present" list. Wilson moved to approve the Minutes of October 9, 2019 as amended; McDermott seconded. **SO VOTED.** 3 abstentions*

- 3. Public Hearing: Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #3 – D.Walker**

Kravitz Opened the Public Hearing at 7:10 p.m.

Roache explained that this MPO has gathered to administer planning rules for the federal transportation process, namely, the Long Range Transportation Plan and the Ten Year Plan.

Walker explained that Amendment #3 to the TIP was noticed for a 15 day public comment period and no comments were filed. The amendment is a net funding change of \$10.8 million. Changes include 4 regional and 14 statewide changes in the form of project additions, adjustments, scope change, or removal of project. Walker reviewed the new projects and cost/funding changes and adjustments. He also explained that the Long Range Transportation Plan is also being updated to maintain consistency between the project lists in the two documents. Fiscal constraint is being maintained and air quality conformity will rely on previous conformity analysis. *The Technical Advisory Committee recommended approval of Amendment*

*#3 on January 23, 2020. Coppelman moved to approve TIP Amendment #3 as presented; English seconded. **SO VOTED.***

Public Hearing closed at 7:20 p.m.

4. 2020 Highway Safety Improvement Program Performance Targets – D. Walker

Walker noted that this is the third time that the HSIP has come before the MPO. It is done annually and it is a mandate for the FHWA to develop a rule for safety planning/performance measures and targets that are to be set annually by the state DOTs and MPOs, thus creating measures that help assess the safety performance of the transportation system. Five areas are measured: Number of Fatalities; Rate of Fatalities; Number of Serious Injuries; Number of non-motorized fatalities and non-motorized serious injuries. Discussion followed regarding removal of the “target” column on Figures 1 & 2 of Attachment 3. *Cushman moved to accept the 2020 HSIP Performance Targets as presented; McDermott seconded. **SO VOTED.***

5. Age Friendly Communities Grant Proposal – S. Bogle

Bogle explained that the RPC made a proposal to Tufts Health Plan Foundation to support an Age Friendly Communities Initiative for the RPC MPO region. The request is for two years of funding to focus on livability to include transportation accessibility, housing options, economic opportunities, and social & recreational opportunities. This project would build on the work that has been started by Southern NH Planning Commission (SNHPC) in the greater Manchester area through the Tufts Health Plan Foundation which also involves previous work done in the Keene and Monadnock region. The goal is to create awareness of potential roadblocks and opportunities for becoming more age-friendly and offer guidance/assistance to towns wishing to improve their age friendliness. This would include a review of local regulations that provide or create barriers for housing and transportation opportunities and then provide a set of recommendations. Discussion followed on logistics and outcomes of the SNHPC’s work.

6. Seacoast Transportation Corridor Vulnerability Study Summary – T. Roache

Roache stated that the RPC does a lot of climate work in the region and at a recent meeting with CAW there was discussion about the transportation network and its vulnerability to sea level rise or storm surge. This happened recently when three northeaster storms left many roads and accessways along the coast untravellable. The objective of the Vulnerability Study would be to figure out where the traffic should go and how to plan for that. It should understand the affects on traffic and planning for the whole corridor from Massachusetts to Maine. A Corridor Advisory Committee will be formed made up of representatives from the NH Dept of Environmental Services, UNH, and the municipalities. The data collected will be used along with our prior sea level rise studies and travel demand models for air quality conformity. This project will help make decisions about the future plans for the Corridor. Roache noted that he has been contacted by NBC channel 10 Boston cable news network to put together a feature story about the corridor and sea level vulnerability. Discussion followed.

7. Other Business

- a. Project Updates: Walker and Bogle reviewed a handout of project updates
- b. Public Comment: None

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette Pettengill