

**MINUTES**  
**Rockingham Planning Commission**  
**March 10, 2021**

**Remote Meeting via ZOOM Conference Call**  
**Per RSA 91-A:2, III(b) the RPC Chair declared the COVID-19 Outbreak**  
**An Emergency and has waived the requirement**  
**That a quorum be physically present at the meeting**

**Commissioners/MPO Reps Present:** R. McDermott, Chairman (Hampton Falls); A. Davis, Vice Chairman (Hampstead); A. Carnaby (Hampton); B. Moreau, P. Britz, J. Tabor (Portsmouth); G. Coppelman, P. Coffin (Kingston); L. Cushman (Stratham); M. McAndrew (New Castle); J. Kiszka (Plaistow); A. Brubaker (H. Falls); D. Hebert (Newington); L. Plumer, G. English (Exeter); J. Doggett, M. Allen (Newton); J. Grote (Rye); G. Davison (NHDOT); P. Wilson (N. Hampton); S. Gerrato (Greenland); T. White (NHDES)

**Guests:** C. Cross

**Staff:** T. Roache (Executive Director); D. Walker (Assistant Director); S. Bogle (Sr Transportation Planner); A. Warhaft (Office Coordinator)

**1. Chairman McDermott called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.; Remote Meeting via Zoom Conference Call per RSA 91-A:2, III(b)**

**2. RPC Business**

**a. Minutes of February 10, 2021**

*G. Coppelman moved to approve the Minutes of February 10, 2021 as presented; L. Plumer seconded. Roll Call vote taken. **SO VOTED.** 3 abstentions.*

**b. RPC Committee Reports**

T. Roache provided updates on several of the RPC Committees.

- The Executive Committee is continuing to work towards establishing the 501c3, which will help to diversify our revenue stream and lessen the financial burden on our communities.
- The Regional Impact Committee reviewed and provided recommendations on the proposed development in Kingston. The committee will be meeting soon to address a proposed subdivision in Newton.
- The Legislative Policy Committee met to review legislative bills to assess if any will affect any RPC communities. S. Bogle, T. Moore and the other members of the committee have pursued the current bills and reduced the list to approximately a dozen that may affect the RPC communities. J. Grote shared

that one bill will limit municipalities' ability to raise taxes; another would restrict communities' ability to enact health measures; and, another bill looks to increase the maximum load of lumber that can be transported on NH roads.

### 3. MPO Business

#### a. **Public Hearing: 2021 – 2024 Transportation Improvement Program and Updated 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan – D. Walker**

*R. McDermott opened the Public Hearing at 7:22 pm.* D. Walker reviewed the purpose and function of the MPO, as well as the cyclical process of the transportation plans. Included in the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) updates are: project listing and information, fiscal restraint documentation, public involvement, MPO System Performance Report and technical updates. The 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update is focused on maintaining consistency with the TIP and Ten Year Plan and include: an updated project listing and fiscal analysis; shifted project timing to reflect prioritized project list; and, incorporation of the Performance Based Planning. The full update to the LRTP will be completed in 2023. Comments on the plan and changes include: complete updates to the System Performance Report; FHWA requested clarification on fiscal constraint; NHDES suggested small change to Air Quality Conformity analysis; update COAST funding to reflect FTW funding allocations; add Salem project to out years of LRTP; and add 4 TAP proposals.

The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) recommended approval of the 2021-2024 TIP and the 2045 LRTP at their meeting on Feb 25, 2021; the TIP and LRTP are fiscally constrained and reflect regional priorities; transportation conformity has been addressed; and the TIP and LRTP make progress towards achieving the region's performance targets.

Discussion and questions followed.

*R. McDermott closed the Public Hearing at 8:17 pm.*

#### b. **MOTION TO ADOPT: J. Doggett moved to approve the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program and the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan Update as presented; G. Coppelman seconded. **SO VOTED.****

#### c. **RPC 2023 – 2032 Ten Year Plan Project Priorities – D. Walker**

D. Walker reviews the process of project selection and the list of candidate projects. NHDOT reviewed the projects and returned revised cost estimates. RPC staff and the TAC recommend that the East Coast Greenway (ECG) project to complete the Rail Trail over the Hampton Marsh be selected for the Ten Year Plan. Benefits include safety, regional economic development and environmental preservation. The TAC also recommended that the remaining regional funding to the project budget to account for additional environmental/design costs. Regional Priorities for NHDOT's Corridor Study

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Program will be sent to NHDOT, including review of NH 33, NH 111, NH 125, and NH 101.

The TAC endorsed submitting the ECG Phase III project as our priority project for the 2023-2032 Ten Year Plan. The committee suggests using the remaining “target” funding to supplement the project to account for environmental and construction needs.

Discussion and questions followed.

*L. Plumer moved to approve the East Coast Greenway Phase III project for the RPC 2023-2032 Ten Year Plan Project Priorities. P. Britz seconded. **SO VOTED.***

**d. Transportation Alternatives Program Update – S. Bogle**

The Transportation Alternatives Program is the successor to the Transportation Enhancement Program. Typically, there is a two-year funding round and there is 5.2 million dollars available. Letters of interest for the program were due in February and statewide there were 41 letters received requesting approximately 30 million dollars in funding. In our region, the projects submitted were from Portsmouth (Market Street Side Path), Salem (Cluff Road Sidewalk/Path Connection), Rye (Town Center Complete Streets) and Newington (Nimble Hill Road Safety Lane). Full proposals are due the week of March 15<sup>th</sup> and will be reviewed by the TAC, then presented to the MPO.

**4. Public Comment - none**

**5. Meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Warhaft, Recording Secretary

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