

MINUTES
Rockingham Planning Commission
Transportation Advisory Committee
March 25, 2021

Virtual Meeting via Zoom & Public Input Per RSA 91-A:2, III(b)
the RPC Chair has declared the COVID 19 Outbreak an emergency and has waived
the requirement that a quorum be physically present at the meeting

Members Present: R. McDermott, Chairman (H. Falls); T. Moore (Plaistow); D. Sharples (Exeter); P. Coffin (Kingston); L. St. John (NH DOT); T. White (NHDES); M. Connors (Stratham); K. Mäkinen (Salem); C. Jacobs (Hampton); J. Walker (Portsmouth); D. Seiglie (Rye); R. Nichols (COAST); L. Levine (FHWA non-voting); C. Cross (Newington non-voting)

Staff: D. Walker (Assistant Director/Transp Mgr); S. Bogle (Sr. Transportation Planner); C. Matthews (GIS/Transportation Analyst); T. Roache (Executive Director); A. Pettengill (Business Manager)

- 1. Chairman McDermott convened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. and introductions and Zoom etiquette was reviewed.**
- 2. Minutes of February 25, 2021**

*Coffin moved to approve the Minutes of February 25, 2021 as presented; Jacobs seconded. Roll Call vote was taken. 3 abstentions. **SO VOTED***

- 3. Prioritizing Project Submittals to the Transportation Alternative Program – S. Bogle**

Bogle explained that today was the deadline for the submittal of proposals for the final funding round of the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). Out of four proposals, two have decided not to proceed (Newington & Portsmouth), which leaves Salem and Rye's proposals. Salem is proposing sidewalk improvements and a connector path. Rye is proposing to redesign part of the main roadway through town and extend sidewalk and add shoulder, bike lanes and new crosswalks. He reviewed each proposal by the categories and criteria used for weighing each project. He noted that both projects are very good projects and discussion followed reference the oversight and financial support from the communities and LPA certification requirements. It was noted that Newington did not submit their project because the match funds were voted down at Town meeting and Portsmouth decided there were just too many other projects for them at the moment. Seiglie stressed that the Town of Rye has high community involvement and is very committed to fulfilling the requirements to get this project.

*Jacobs moved to approve the ranking of the projects as presented by staff, scoring Rye first and Salem second; Sharples seconded. Roll Call vote was taken. **SO VOTED** 2 abstentions.*

Walker asked that it be noted that she wishes to suggest that the process for LPA projects leaves small towns at a disadvantage and needs to be reviewed.

4. Project Updates – D. Walker

Walker noted that he was in a zoom meeting with NHDOT related to the high level bridge project and the intention to design a breakdown lane that would also become a travel lane for traffic during busy commute times of the day. The RPC received notice from NHDOT regarding the environmental process for the Hampton/Seabrook bridge and the public comment period has started. Bogle noted that he submitted an application for a Tufts grant to address age friendly communities. He also has submitted a proposal to National Trails -NH Seacoast Greenway Connections and is planning for bike month and the commuter challenge coming up.

5. **Open discussion/Comments:** Walker stated Landman had sent a video of the bridge in Minnesota that collapsed and Walker will forward that to TAC members. Sharples noted that the sidewalks on Epping Road project will be completed this year.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Pettengill, Recording Secretary
