

**MINUTES**  
**Rockingham Planning Commission**  
**MPO Technical Advisory Committee**  
**RPC Offices, 156 Water Street, Exeter NH**  
**March 28, 2024**

**Members Present:** S. Kizza (Brentwood); A. Nolan (Epping); D. Sharples (Exeter); B. Dion (Greenland); J. Lavacchia (Hampstead); P. Coffin (Kingston); C. Cross (Newington); T. Moore (Plaistow); D. Seiglie (Rye); E. Eby (Portsmouth); R. Nichols (COAST); V. Partington, (NHDES); L. St. John (NH DOT); S. Pesci (UNH); L. Levine (FHWA).

**Guests:** K. Lucy (NHDES Coastal Program); K. Asadifakhr (UNH Dept. of Civil & Environmental Engineering)

**Staff:** D. Walker (Assistant Director); S. Bogle (Senior Transportation Planner)

**1. Introductions**

Roll call attendance was taken. Walker indicated that the chair was not attending and that he would run the meeting.

**2. Minutes of 2/22/2024 Meetings**

Minutes of the meetings were approved without discussion. **Motion: P. Coffin; Seconded by B. Dion. Unanimous with L. St. John, D. Sieglie, and V. Partington abstaining.**

**3. NH Stream Crossing Initiative – K. Lucy and K. Asadifakhr**

Lucy provided an overview of the NH Stream Crossing Initiative which is looking at prioritizing replacement of culverts in New Hampshire. Data collection has been taking place over many years and a nearly complete inventory is now available and those culverts that are older or undersized have been identified and assessed. The next step is to prioritize those stream crossings that need to be repaired or replaced with the goal of achieving optimal ecological, economic, and societal outcomes and Asadifakhr discussed that process. The project team is undertaking a survey to better understand how to best prioritize needs. The process that they will be using is a hybrid of methods used by other agencies and fits NH needs. The proposed scoring methodology was detailed and each site will be scored and rank for both environmental and transportation factors. Optimal sites will have both environmental and transportation scores that are high and the optimal combination of locations will be selected to maximize benefits, minimize costs. Locations will be prioritized based on watersheds. Stakeholder engagement includes surveys, workshops, and other interactions. Discussion included impacts of road closures on transit, environmental impacts, how municipalities might be best involved, and ensuring that impacts of these projects aren't disproportionately on disadvantaged communities. The team requested any information that TAC members might have regarding data sources, organizations and others that should be involved, challenges that communities are facing, and what tools/data/resources communities might need to facilitate replacement.

**4. TIP Amendment #5 – D. Walker**

Walker provided an overview of the TIP amendment process and the projects included in Amendment #5. The amendment includes 3 projects and will be utilizing a 10-day comment period that will begin March 29. The Amendment will be considered for approval by the MPO Policy Committee at the April 10, 2024 meeting. The amendment proposes funding/timing changes to three projects. Walker briefly covered the details of each project change. There was a short discussion related to the delays to Exeter 40623 which Walker will follow up with NHDOT regarding. Fiscal constraint is maintained and air quality conformity is addressed according to current requirements. Walker recommended that the TAC endorse the changes in Amendment #5 and recommend approval to the MPO Policy Committee. A few questions were posed about the projects and programs. ***Motion P. Coffin; Seconded by B. Dion. Unanimous approval.***

**5. 2025 Project Solicitation and Selection Process – D. Walker**

Walker continued discussion of the project solicitation and selection process for the Long Range Transportation Plan and the next iteration of the State Ten Year Plan from the previous meeting. He reviewed the anticipated timeline, the process for communities to submit projects, an overview of the project selection criteria, and the need to have projects undergo a scope and cost estimate from an engineer. He covered the planned request for projects that will begin April 2 with projects due in early June, 2024. The submission process was covered as was the initial evaluation process. TAC considered options for setting the criteria weights. Discussion will continue next month with an in-depth look at the project selection criteria and starting the criteria weighting process.

**6. Regional Master Plan – Transportation Related Feedback from March RPC meeting – M. Jerominek**

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

**7. MPO Safety Action Plan Development – D. Walker**

Walker provided a short update on the development of Safety Action Plans (SAP) for the four New Hampshire MPOs. He covered the purpose of the SAP, the approach used, the components of the document, the public involvement process

**8. Agency Updates and Announcements – Multiple TAC Members**

NHDOT is running a comment period on their public involvement process from April 1 to May 15, 2024. A notice was sent to Executive Directors and will be shared with TAC. NHDES is working on a Deisel Emissions Reduction Act RFP to go out in April.

**9. Project Updates**

A project updates memo was provided to TAC members. Updates on the Ten Year Plan and project changes in the region were discussed, as were updates on the Safety Action Plan, NH Seacoast Greenway, and Federal Transit Administration FY24 apportionments.

*Meeting adjourned at approximately 15:00 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,  
David Walker, Recording Secretary

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