

MINUTES
Rockingham Planning Commission
MPO Technical Advisory Committee
RPC Offices, 156 Water Street, Exeter NH
June 27, 2024

Members Present: S. Kizza (Brentwood); L. O’Neil (East Kingston); A. Nolan (Epping); B. Dion (Greenland); J. Hale (Hampton); J. Lynch (Hampton); J. Lavacchia (Hampstead); P. Coffin (Kingston); C. Cross (Newington); T. Moore (Plaistow); E. Eby (Portsmouth); D. Seiglie (Rye); M. Connors (Stratham); R. Nichols (COAST); J. Wade (NHDES); L. St. John (NHDOT); L. Levine (FHWA).

Staff: D. Walker (Assistant Director); M. Jerominek (Regional 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 5/23/2024 Meetings

Minutes of the meetings were approved without discussion. **Motion: P. Coffin; Seconded by R. Nichols. Approved with St. John, Seiglie, and Wade abstaining.**

3. TIP Amendment #6 – D. Walker

Walker provided an overview of the project changes incorporated into Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #6. The changes include eight projects – four regional projects and four statewide programs. A comment period will be held between June 28, 2024 and July 8, 2024 with a public hearing at the MPO Policy Committee meeting on July 10, 2024. One new Statewide Program is being added to the TIP (OHSS), funding is increased for the Statewide PAVE-T2-RESURF program and for Greenland 43849. Funding for North Hampton 24457 is decreasing due to delays in the project and STBG-FTA program is decreasing funds as those moneys have been transferred from FHWA to FTA. Three projects (Londonderry/Windham/Seabrook 4435, Plaistow 40641, and the TRAFMON program) are incorporating changes to the scope descriptions. After discussion of the projects and other active projects in the region the TAC voted to endorse the changes included in Amendment #6 and recommend approval to the MPO Policy Committee. **Motion: P. Coffin; Seconded by R. Nichols.**

4. 2025 Project Selection – D. Walker

Walker reviewed the project prioritization process is for the MPO to identify candidate projects for the State Ten Year Plan from the projects in the Long Range Transportation Plan and those recently submitted by communities. RPC received submittals for 5 new projects and updated information for several. Including the new projects, the MPO Long Range Transportation Plan contains 169 total projects. Of these, 52 are already included in the State Ten Year Plan or Transportation Improvement Program leaving 117 to evaluate. Ten of these projects are currently not eligible for federal funding or are otherwise infeasible, are not needed in the next

ten years, or are being funded via other methods. This leaves 107 to score against the project selection criteria and rank. Those projects have been distributed into three groups based on scale (Local, Regional, Inter-Regional) and scored against the established statewide criteria using the weights set by the TAC on June 23, 2022. Walker prepared a preliminary Candidate Projects List for the TAC to review and select a short-list of projects that will be referred to the engineering consultants for the development of scope and cost estimates. After discussion, the TAC agreed to take the following approach:

1. hold of on programming any sea-level rise/resiliency projects with the exception of the low areas on NH 1B in New Castle and Rye which were included in the NH1B Causeway Feasibility Study.
2. Submit six projects that already have scope and cost estimates to obtain updated cost information.
3. Submit 7 projects for development of new scope and cost estimates.

The TAC was informed that the actual number of projects that will be able to receive new or updated cost estimates will be dependent upon the cost of that work as the budget is limited to approximately \$30,000. As many projects will be incorporated as is feasible based on that budget. After lengthy discussion, a motion was made and seconded to put forward the staff recommendation for six projects to be proposed for updated cost estimates and seven projects for new cost estimates. **Motion: P. Coffin; Seconded by B. Dion. Approved with St. John abstaining.**

5. Agency Updates and Announcements – Multiple TAC Members

Nichols announced that ridership on COAST is up 35% over last year on the system. Service has been returned to normal levels as they have been able to fully staff with drivers. COAST has a regular email newsletter now that provides information on COAST activities and information. Walker announced that RPC had received a RAISE grant to conduct engineering work on the Seacoast Greenway through the Hampton-Seabrook Estuary. Nichols announced that Scott Bogle received an award for his work on Community Transportation and Coordination from the Statewide Council for Community Transportation.

6. Open Discussion/Comments

Dion brought up the issue of communities measuring impacts of sea-level rise differently and how it would be better if a common methodology was utilized. Discussion followed.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Walker, Recording Secretary