

MINUTES
Rockingham Planning Commission
MPO Technical Advisory Committee
RPC Offices, 156 Water Street, Exeter NH
May 23, 2024

Members Present: W. Baldwin (Atkinson); S. Kizza (Brentwood); A. Nolan (Epping); B. Dion (Greenland); J. Lynch (Hampton); P. Coffin (Kingston); C. Cross (Newington); C. Papachristos (Newton); S. Kroner (North Hampton); 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).

Guests: C. Spetelunas, B. Lambert, A. Zatecka, M. Monroe, P. Doughty (NHDOT Safety Section)

Staff: D. Walker (Assistant Director); S. Bogle (Senior Transportation Planner); M. Jerominek (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 4/25/2024 Meetings

Minutes of the meetings were approved without discussion. **Motion: P. Coffin; Seconded by R. Nichols. Approved.**

3. NHDOT Safety Planning Efforts – B. Lambert (NHDOT Safety Section)

Lambert provided an overview of NHDOT's Active Transportation Program within the Safety Section. He summarized several key plans including the 2021-2024 Strategic Highway Safety Plan which includes numerous strategies to improve safety for Vulnerable Road Users (people walking or bicycling, highway workers or other road users not in the protective shell of a motor vehicle); the NH Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan (2023); the recent Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment (2023); and the statewide Complete Streets Policy currently in development.

Key challenges identified through the three planning efforts included:

- Driver behavior (speeding, distraction)
- Overcoming decades of car-centric highway design, maintenance and operating practices.
- Improving data on bicycling and walking, including on bike/ped volumes, roadway features to support safety and traffic stress analysis, and better crash data to eliminate undercounting of ped/bike crashes and allow better analysis of crash causes.
- Available resources vs. need and demand.
- Process for reaching consensus on investment priorities

Opportunities identified in the plan documents include:

- Adoption and implementation of the new Complete Streets Policy
- Improving collaboration with law enforcement and other highway safety partners
- Use of Big Data/AI for improving ped/bike volume data as well as parameters like prevailing speed and volume by segment
- Dedicated funding under the IJA/BIL
- Innovative design alternatives

Discussion followed regarding needs in the RPC MPO region.

4. 2025 Project Selection Criteria Weighting – D. Walker

Walker reviewed the project selection criteria weighting process discussed at previous meetings. The Project selection process is a part of the MPO’s Long Range Transportation Plan and the state’s Ten Year Plan. He then covered the results of the TAC survey regarding setting the weights for each of the criteria and presented the draft weights for each criterion based on the results. Walker stated that the criteria weights will be utilized to prioritize projects for the State Ten year Plan, and that the June meeting will present a prioritized list of projects and short list from which the TAC will select projects to be sent to an engineering team for scoping. Based on engineer recommendations, draft priority projects will be sent to NHDOT in November.

Extensive discussion regarding the weights followed with a motion proposed to set the weights as the following:

Criteria	Local	Regional	Inter-Regional
Economic Development	12%	9%	12%
Equity, Accessibility and Environmental Justice	14%	8%	8%
Mobility	8%	14%	10%
Natural Hazards Resiliency	10%	9%	6%
Network Significance	10%	16%	19%
Safety	20%	18%	19%
State of Repair	16%	17%	16%
Support	10%	9%	10%

Motion: R. Nichols; Seconded by M. Connors. Approved 5-4 with one abstention.

5. Agency Updates and Announcements – Multiple TAC Members

Not enough time was available to cover this topic at the meeting.

6. Open Discussion/Comments

A project updates memo was provided to TAC members.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Walker, Recording Secretary