

**APPROVED – MINUTES
NASHUA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
May 17, 2023**

Held in-person and via Zoom, an in-person quorum was present

Members Present:

Jason Hennessey, Amherst	John Yule, Milford
Will Ludt, Amherst	Tim Berry, Mont Vernon
Danielle Pray, Amherst	Bob Bollinger, Nashua
Joe Garruba, Hollis	Camille Correa, Nashua/NTS
Venu Rao, Hollis	Jeff Gowan, Pelham
James Battis, Hudson (Treasurer)	Dave Hennessey, Pelham
Karin Elmer, Merrimack	Peter Howd, Wilton
Tim Tenhave, Merrimack (Chair)	Kermit William, Wilton
Janet Langdell, Milford	William Rose, NH DOT (remote)

Staff Present:

Jay Minkarah, Executive Director
Camille Pattison, Assistant Director
Matt Waitkins, MPO Coordinator

1. Welcome and Introductions

Tim Tenhave opened the meeting with introductions.

2. MPO Policy Committee

FY2023-2026 NRPC Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment 1: NRPC staff will provide a summary of proposed TIP Amendment 1 to the adopted FY2023-2026 NRPC TIP

Matt Waitkins explained that the Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC), as the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Nashua Region, held a public comment period from May 5 - 16, 2023, on proposed Amendment#1 to the adopted Nashua Metropolitan Area FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The NRPC is amending the TIP to account for changes to projects within the Nashua region and to maintain consistency with the Statewide TIP (STIP). This process is being conducted in accordance with the Nashua MPO Public Involvement Procedures, and Federal and State Regulations. The NRPC is also amending the 2019-2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) project list and fiscal constraint analysis to maintain consistency with the amended TIP project list.

Tenhave opened the public hearing at 7:07PM.

Waitkins then explained the thresholds that triggered this TIP amendment were adding or removing a project or phase of a project, and a significant change (>25%) in the total cost of a project within STIP years. He explained the 3 [primary transportation planning documents](#) that NRPC maintains and Jay Minkarah expanded on it explaining that you cannot spend federal transportation dollars unless it is in the STIP (State Transportation Improvement Program) and the TIP.

He then reviewed the proposed project amendments starting with regional projects, followed by statewide projects:

- Merrimack (10136D): NH Route 101A; Safety improvements at NH 101A / Cont. Blvd & at Craftsman Lane / Boston Post Rd.
 - An amendment is required because of a significant increase (>25%) in the cost of the project within the 2023 2026 TIP years. The cost increase = \$1,817,828 which represents an increase of 38%.
 - Reason for cost increase: \$900k increase in non-participating funds due to the utility relocation costs being performed by the department's contractor; and \$825k due to inflation.

Waitkins reviewed the public comment received relative to returning to the 3-lane section by PC Connection and discussion ensued. William Rose explained that NH DOT is scheduled to advertise for bids in July and the property owner is not willing to allow impacts to their property at this time. He said at this point the department's perspective is to do the other safety improvements and address this issue separately rather than delay the entire project.

- Nashua-Hudson (42596): Bridge Rehabilitation of 2 bridges owned by both Nashua & Hudson. BR #110/068 & 109/068
 - An amendment is required because this project is being added to the TIP.
 - Hudson and Nashua were able to advance the project design and therefore be prepared to begin construction in FY2023.
- Pelham (41751A): NH128 & NH111A Intersection Improvements (roundabout) at Mammoth (NH 128) and Marsh Rd (NH111A)
 - This project is being added to the TIP through the public comment period by NRPC.
 - Project # 41751 was split into two projects (41751 & 41751A) during the February Minor Revision to the (previous) FY2021-2024 TIP. This resulted in the following two projects:
 - Project # 41751; NH128 & Sherburne Rd. - Intersection improvements @ NH128/Sherburne Rd.
 - Project # 41751A; NH128 & NH111A (Marsh Rd) - Intersection Improvements (roundabout) at Mammoth (NH 128) and Marsh Rd (NH111A).
 - NHDOT then rolled both projects into the FY2023-2026 S/TIP. Project #41751A is not included in the FY2023-2026 NRPC TIP project list at this time and as a result needs to be added during this amendment process.
- Statewide (44196): Development of a Resilience Improvement Plan.
 - An amendment is required because this project is being added to the TIP. This is a new funding program in the BIL/IIJA federal surface transportation legislation called *Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost Saving Transportation (PROTECT)*.

Minkarah explained that these types of plans are normally required for grants of federal transportation dollars, like the Safe Routes for All grant. Rose clarified that this is a new funding source and unlike all other federal funds the State isn't required to do this plan, however the federal government has stated that if the plans are completed, the DOT can access PROTECT dollars at a reduced match (as low as 5%).

Jeff Gowan asked for clarification on the timing of the two Pelham projects. Waitkins stated that both projects are scheduled for construction in 2025. Rose explained the projects were split because of the level of development of design for the first intersection is further along than the second component and DOT saw an opportunity to move the first intersection out to bid for construction sooner. It was done to get the work started sooner based on how complete the design is.

Rose stated that he will have Jennifer Reczek, Project Manager, forward Waitkins her presentation on Project 10136D to forward to the Commission.

Waitkins reviewed the Public Comments received and the responses.

Jason Hennessey asked where the funds will come from for the cost increase to Project 10136D. Waitkins stated that \$900k is coming from the utility company and Rose stated the remainder is coming from State turnpike toll credits.

Peter Howd asked about the Statewide project and if it is being added to the TIP because it was added to the STIP. Minkarah stated yes.

While reviewing the proposed motion, there was discussion about whether to add language about the importance of revisiting adding back the 3-lane section by PC Connection to Project 10136D.

Tenhave closed the public hearing at 7:48PM.

Jim Battis motioned, with a second from Jeff Gowan,

THAT the TIP Amendment #1 to the adopted Nashua Metropolitan Area FY2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) be approved and to amend the FY2019-2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) project list and fiscal constraint analysis to maintain consistency with the amended project list.

The motion **carried**.

3. Adjourn

Tenhave discussed that the NRPC Statement of Strategy Survey is still open and encouraged all to take part and to share it with their communities.

Tenhave reminded all that the meeting next month is the annual meeting where the Commission will vote on the budget and elect officers. Anyone interested in becoming an officer should contact him.

Motion to adjourn was made by Karin Elmer, with a second from Jim Battis, all in favor. The meeting ended at 7:54 p.m.

The next Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristin Wardner, Administrative Assistant