



MINUTES
NASHUA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
Executive Committee
May 16, 2007

Present: Kathy Hersh, Chair
Nelson Disco, Treasurer
Tom Collins
Howard Dilworth
Mike Fimbel
Noreen O'Connell, Vice Chair

Staff: Stephen Williams, Executive Director
Kerrie Diers, Assistant Director

I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hersh at 6:03 pm.

II. Approval of the Minutes of April 18, 2007:

Two corrections were noted: Noreen O'Connell was not present, and under section IV. HB 582, the 1957 report was from the Town of Hudson, not NRPC. Motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Fimbel and seconded by Dilworth. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Finance Report and Balance Sheet for April 2007:

Williams presented the April financial reports. NRPC was -\$17,658 for the month but is +\$25,572 for the year to date. It is looking positive toward the end of the year. The balance sheet looks pretty normal for this time of year. Williams announced that NRPC was awarded a second Brownfields grant to continue the work we've been doing in the region. Also, NRPC was selected to submit a full proposal to the EPA for a Healthy Communities Grant to fund a regional energy program.

IV. TIP Amendment for Hudson Intersections Project:

Williams reviewed a memo dated May 10 describing the recent request from the Town of Hudson to amend the 2007 - 2010 Transportation Improvement Program. The project was originally scheduled for 2010, but the engineering design was completed earlier than anticipated, so the project is now ready for implementation. The DOT is amenable to this request, but because it has air quality impacts, NRPC needed to provide public notice and hold a public hearing. The comment period will be open until the first Monday in June. The TTAC recommended in favor of this amendment.

Hersh opened the public hearing at 6:10 pm. No members of the public were present. The public hearing was closed at 6:11 pm. Disco moved to approve the amendment pending no substantive comments from the public. Collins seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Adoption of the FY 2008 -2009 Unified Planning Work Program:

Under Federal regulations, NRPC is required to put forth a schedule of planning activities that meet federal guidelines. Williams reviewed a memo to the Executive committee dated May 10, 2007 which highlights the new programs in the UPWP. NRPC will begin working on a model of the region using UrbanSim. This is the first application of this program east of the Mississippi. This will lead to a scenario planning process. Other work will include the Regional Plan, iTRaC Program and general transit planning. This UPWP is recommended by the TTAC. It was also



favorably reviewed by FHWA and DOT. Fimbel moved to approve the FY 2008 – 2009 UPWP, seconded by Disco. The vote was in favor of the motion with one member opposed. The motion carried.

VI. Amendment to the 06-07 UPWP:

Williams reviewed a memo to the Executive Committee dated May 10, 2007. Under federal regulations, NRPC is required to include use of FTA planning funds in the scope. This is a technical correction to include Nashua Transit Planning activities. No funds go through NRPC for this.

Dilworth moved to approve the amendment, seconded by Disco. Discussion centered on whether there is a procedure in place to catch these types of mistakes. Hersh stated that this occurred due to a staffing change, and the City is working on cross training so that these types of errors do not occur in the future. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. HB 582:

Williams reviewed a memo to the Executive Committee dated May 10, 2007 that described the status of HB 582 which would direct NH DOT to expedite construction of a new Merrimack River bridge at the location proposed for the former Circumferential Highway Bridge. NRPC conducted a traffic analysis and toll analysis. The legislation calls for a 4 lane/55 mph highway, so this is what NRPC modeled, however, we also have the analysis for a 2 lane highway. Benefits from the two lane bridge are not as great, but impacts from new traffic on surrounding roads is also not as great. The toll analysis shows that the revenue will exceed the costs, so the financial outlook is a positive one. The TTAC recommended that NRPC support HB 582 with the following caveats:

1. The location not be specified in the legislation but rather be more general to say that there is a need for another bridge that could possibly be funded by tolls.
2. The first step should be an alternatives analysis that would include appropriate mitigation for local traffic impacts. The original was completed in 1981, so needs to be updated.
3. Transportation policies should be made through the appropriate processes, and not through legislation.

O'Connell moved to approve as recommended by the TTAC, seconded by Fimbel. Discussion focused on issue #3. The legislative process is available to account for where the typical policy processes break down. Adding this comment does not add value to our recommendation. Motion was amended to remove the third TTAC recommendation. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Representation with Vear Commercial Real Estate:

The Executive Committee reviewed the standard real estate contract from Brad Vear. Dilworth moved to enter into the agreement with Vear Commercial Real Estate, seconded by Collins. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Executive Directors Annual Review:

The Executive Committee conducted the annual review for the Executive Director.

X. Other Business



Nominating Committee Report: Mike Fimbel has agreed to run for Treasurer. There is still one vacancy on the Executive Committee that will need to be filled. The committee is still working on that position.

XI. Next Meeting:
June 20, 2007

XII. Adjourn

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