



**APPROVED MEETING MINUTES – October Special Meeting
NASHUA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
October 20, 2010**

Members Present:

Martin Michaelis, Amherst	Karin Elmer, Merrimack
Brad Vear, Amherst	Andy Seale, Milford
Tad Putney, Brookline	Mike Fimbel, Mont Vernon
Susan Durham, Hollis	Kathy Hersh, Nashua
Howard Dilworth, Jr., Hudson	Michael Tabacsko, Nashua
Richard Maddox, Hudson	Tom Collins, Pelham
Stuart Schneiderman, Hudson	Ed Gleason, Pelham
Charles Moser, Mason	David Hennessey, Pelham

Others Present:

Staff Present:

Tim Roache, Assistant Director	Karen Baker, Administrative Assistant
Julie Chizmas, Transportation Planner	

Call to Order/Introductions

Fimbel called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM thanking everyone for being there.

Privilege of the Floor

There were no members of the public in attendance.

2011 – 2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); 2011 – 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP); and 2011 – 2035 Air Quality Conformity Analysis

Public Hearing

Fimbel opened the Public Hearing at 7:04pm and informed the group that it would include a presentation of the transportation documents by Tim Roache.

Staff Presentation

Roache summarized the documents pointing out that not a whole lot had changed as far as adding or cutting of projects since the last 2 year process. He proceeded with the Power Point presentation on the LRTP, TIP & AQ. Listed below are the highlights:

- All MPO's including NRPC are in the final phase of a two-year development cycle for the federally required, fiscally constrained draft versions of the LRTP, TIP, and AQ reports in a process that began in the Fall of 2008 timed to coincide with the development of the State's Ten Year Plan.
- Projects listed in the existing TYP, TIP & LRTP were reviewed internally and in several TTAC meetings as well as with the Commission to prioritize a draft project list for the TIP and LRTP.
- NRPC participated in the GACIT hearings on the State Ten Year Plan as well as interagency consultation process for consistency with the NRPC TIP and NHDOT listed projects.
- Air Quality Analysis completed based on projects listed in the NRPC TIP and LRTP with a 30 day public comment period which ended on September 13th.
- Comments addressed and reflected in documents, TTAC recommended approval, and a Public Hearing scheduled for September 15th.
- **New** this year was the FHWA required Congestion Management Process (CMP) which is a set of actions designed to manage the operation of the transportation system, define congestion, collect and process data, identify congested corridors/intersections, and provide performance measures and a monitoring plan. The TTAC recommended approval included the CMP being rolled into the LRTP.
- Comments:
 - NHDOT in the form of a list of projects scheduled for construction in 2010 that were delayed until 2011 or 2012

- NHDES asked that the air quality analysis be updated following their submission of revised vehicle emission factors
- Town of Milford submitted comments regarding the long term improvements to NH 101
- There were no comments from FHWA, FTA, and EPA
- NRPC as the designated MPO for the region is required to adopt all three documents (LRTP, TIP, & AQ) to ensure uninterrupted access to the federal transportation funds. Failure would prevent projects in the TIP and other MPO's from moving forward.

Hennessey asked if NRPC would be building in the analyses of the census into the process. Chizmas responded that the numbers came from OEP and a formula that they use. Elmer commented that census population dictates the number of Commissioners. Roache said there would be a number of opportunities to talk about this over the next few years and referred to the suggestion motion at the end of the presentation.

Fimbel asked for comments and pointed out that there were no members from the public in attendance to speak.

Putney expressed his concern that 4 of the 13 communities are not included in the LRTP in terms of projects. He added that over a 5, 10, or 15 year period, every community should have a completed project. Roache responded to this by saying that fiscal problems with the Ten Year Plan are partly a factor and therefore NRPC has not solicited the towns for new projects in 6 years. Additionally, NRPC is revamping the MPO and process and the next cycle will include solicitation of new projects with the hopes of having this corrected over the next couple cycles.

Fimbel asked about the Exit 36S exclusion and the congestion mitigation impacts since there will be a lack of funding due to not getting the TIGER 2 grant. Roache said that D.W. Highway and Spit Brook would be affected and that is why it is included in the LRTP even though it is technically in MA.

Fimbel asked what the 4 MPO's were. Roache said in NH it was Rockingham, Strafford, Southern NH, and Nashua RPC's that are the MPO's. Roache further explained potential issues that could affect transit associated with census coming out. If the population is over 200,000, this would change the Nashua region from a small urbanized area to a large urbanized area which carries much more stringent requirements. He added the only transit provider in the region is NTS which uses 5307 funds which carries a 50/50 match for operations and 80/20 for capital. There is the potential for any operation funds to disappear if we become a large urbanized area which also changes the match for capital to 50/50. He was not clear but thought that operational funds are determined by bus miles and some other things, so MBTA would take up a lot of those funds since they already have rail in place.

Hennessey asked what happens if there was a decrease in population. Roache was unsure what would happen in that case. Chizmas said she only looked into what happens if there is a population increase.

Roache reminded the group that NRPC would be soliciting for new projects and doing project presentations in all of the towns. Fimbel asked if there were no further comments, he would like a motion and referred to the suggested one at the end of Roache's presentation.

Consideration for Adoption

After further discussion, a motion was made by Ed Gleason and seconded by Tom Collins:

THAT the Nashua Regional Planning Commission adopt the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program, the 2011 – 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan including the Congestion Management Process and the 2011-2035 Air Quality Conformity Analysis.

The motion **carried** with Putney opposed.

Public Hearing

Fimbel closed the public hearing at 7:35pm. Vear asked about Exit 36S and if NRPC worked with MA and who in MA since he had never heard of them. Roache informed that it was NMCOG or Northern Middlesex Council of Governments and he recently had applied for grants with them.

Fimbel explained that Seabury was no longer on the Commission or Executive Committee so they were now down 2 people. He asked for someone to step forward to be on the Executive Committee and to also send out prayers for Seabury. Maddox asked if June minutes had to be approved. Fimbel explained that they would be done at the December meeting and the reasoning behind the decision.

Fimbel informed the group that Hersh was voted as Pro Tem Vice Chair to replace Seabury on the Executive Committee since her role on the Executive Committee would be up in December.

Commissioners' Roundtable

A Commissioners Roundtable was held.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn came from Maddox with a second from Seale. The meeting adjourned at 7:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerrie Diers, Official Recorder