



**APPROVED MINUTES  
NASHUA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
Executive Committee  
February 17, 2010**

**Present:** Janet Langdell  
Mike Fimbel, Chairman  
Howard Dilworth  
Tom Collins  
Kathy Hersh

**Absent:** Joe Torre  
Sue Ellen Seabury  
Karin Elmer  
Peter Baker

**Staff:**

Kerrie Diers, Executive Director  
Tim Roache, Assistant Director

**I. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Fimbel at 6:00 pm.

**II. Meeting With NHDOT Commissioner Campbell :**

Director Diers welcomed Commissioner Campbell and explained to the Executive Committee that the Commissioner had asked to come to the meeting to address concerns over the perception that NRPC proposed a property tax to pay for operations of the proposed passenger rail service.

Commissioner Campbell explained that the Capitol Corridor Rail Project has never been fully programmed in the Ten Year Plan or Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. He explained that it is difficult to obtain federal funding for the project unless it is included in these documents. In recent meetings with the Public Works Committee he circulated a working document developed by members of the NH Rail Transit Authority including former NRPC Executive Director Steve Williams. He explained that the purpose for distributing the working document to the Public Works Committee was to help them understand the capital and operating expenses associated with the Capitol Corridor Project. He explained that the working document included "brainstorming" ideas to raise the necessary revenue to operate rail service along the corridor. He stated that the press ran with this information. Commissioner Campbell apologized for releasing a working document that was not supported or endorsed by NRPC. The Commissioner added that he has taken steps to ensure that all parties in Concord understand the source and purpose of the document. Commissioner Campbell provided NRPC with a revised document showing only the capital and operating expenses associated with the project.

Commissioner Campbell went on to describe recent decisions of the legislature that support the development of the Capitol Corridor Rail project. He and the Governor remain committed to implementing the project. The Commissioner opened the floor for questions from the Executive Committee.

Dilworth explained that his concern with this series of events is the perception that NRPC advocated for property tax and additional vehicle registration fee to support the project. Dilworth explained that NRPC does not support increases to property tax or vehicle registration fees. HE is concerned that the city and town officials be impacted by this perception. Dilworth stated that it is imperative that it be made very clear that NRPC has never taken that position.

Commissioner Campbell thanked Mr. Dilworth for his comments and added that he would be remiss if he did not mention that there will need to be a subsidy for the operations of the rail project. The State is not in a position to step up and pay that subsidy at this time. Another source of funds will need to be identified.



Hersh thanked the Commissioner for coming to speak to the Executive Committee and for his support of the project adding that his efforts have greatly contributed to advance the project to where it is today. Hersh continued with two points. First that is the perception issue persists that Representative David Campbell could help address the issue and clarify the record. Second, Hersh stated that the document in question was a scenario planning or brainstorming exercise. Former Director Williams did not intend to represent the policy of NRPC through this document. She added that the document was developed by several members of the NHRTA.

Langdell added that the document supported the necessary big picture thinking needed for projects of the scope and supported Hersh's comments.

Hersh added that document is not dated and in no way indicates that it is a "final report"

Diers thanked Commissioner Campbell for attending.

### III. **Minutes:**

Approval of January 20, 2010 meeting minutes: Hersh made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Langdell seconded the motion which passed unanimously

### IV. **Finance Reports:**

#### **NRPC:**

Diers reviewed the NRPC Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statement. She indicated that cash flow was in good shape and that expenses continue to lag revenue this month. Just over half way through the year financial indicators are tracking well through January. Some annual expenses are high in January as they come due at the beginning of the calendar year.

Fimbel asked about the status of the local dues. Diers explained how various communities pay on different schedules and that we are in good shape. She added that the dues help with cash flow until we begin to bill against contracts.

Dilworth asked about the New Freedoms/RCC contract and the NTS Visioning contract. Diers explained that the New Freedoms Contract is with NHDOT and is scoped to support a variety of transit and human service oriented transit projects. Diers explained that the NTS Visioning project is a carry over from the previous year and will be billed out soon.

Dilworth noted that the legal expenses have exceeded the budget. Diers explained that their have been additional requirements from NHDOT and the SVTC Fiscal Agent agreement required legal review.

#### **Capitol Corridor:**

Diers stated that there are no changes to report.

#### **SVTC:**

Diers reviewed recent transfers of funds into the account

Dilworth made a motion to accept and place on file for audit. Hersh Seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

### V. **Reports:**

Diers indicated that the reports were attached to the meeting packet in advance so rather than review them she asked for specific questions.

Fimbel asked about the NHRTA report questioning the \$1.28 Cost/Benefit Ratio referenced in the report. Diers explained that the number came from the preliminary Economic Impact Report of the Rail Project and that it indicates a 1.28 cent return on the dollar invested in the project.

Hersh asked if information was available on the TE project rankings. Roache stated that no new information is available. But applicants will have the opportunity to present their projects. Hersh indicated that Nashua intends to present their project.

#### **VI. Subcommittee Reports:**

##### **Regional Policy Committee:**

Diers suggested sending recommendations to Peter Baker regarding the Regional Policy Committee. Hersh asked what the product of the Regional Policy Committee is intended to be. The committee discussed the purpose of committee and agreed that NRPC needs to better define what we support as an agency and have well developed positions to support or oppose possible legislation.

##### **Historic Documentation:**

Dilworth updated the committee on status of the work to document the history of NRPC. He outlined the approach and methods that will be used by members and staff that assist with the project.

#### **VII. NRPC Outreach Plan:**

Diers reviewed the NRPC Outreach Plan. Diers stressed that it is important for NRPC to convey the work we do to our members and other target audiences. She stated that the goal is to provide a consistent message and to ensure all interested parties understand NRPC. Diers distributed and reviewed a draft PowerPoint presentation that provided an overview of regional planning commission role.

The Executive Committee suggested corrections and additions to the list of elected officials to be included in the outreach plan. Hersh stated that the first on page 2 of the plan under the heading "Why Are These People" is inaccurate. Fimbel stated that the perception of most commissioners is that their responsibility is to represent their community. However the RSA states that they represent their community and region equally. Hersh suggested that the language regarding how NRPC supports or accommodates volunteers be changed to how do we encourage participation in NRPC.

Diers reminded the Executive Committee that this is a draft working document and has not been published.

#### **VIII. Old Business:**

Diers reminded the Executive Committee of the Legislative Forum scheduled for February 18, 2010. Diers stated that there have been 70 RSVP's so far.

Diers informed the Executive Committee that the line of credit has been approved. She is coordinating with the bank to schedule a closing date.

#### **IX. Other Business**

None

#### **X. Adjourn**

Langdell made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Hersh. Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.