



**APPROVED MINUTES**  
**NRPC TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**02/10/10**

**Members Present:**

Jeff Babel, Town of Hollis  
 Steve Dookran, City of Nashua  
 Joe Mendola, City of Nashua  
 Jean Marie Kennamer, City of Nashua  
 Roger Houston, City of Nashua  
 Lucy St. John, City of Nashua  
 Mark Sousa, Nashua Transit  
 Joseph Izzo, Nashua Transit  
 Kristi Gillette, Nashua Transit  
 Louise Woodworth, Nashua Transit

Nick Alexander, NH DOT  
 Bruce Berry, Town of Amherst  
 Dave Lent, Town of Merrimack  
 Marc Dixon, FHWA  
 Leigh Levine, FHWA  
 Chris Skoglund, NHDES  
 Bill Parker, Town of Milford  
 John Cashell, Town of Hudson  
 Tad Putney, Town of Brookline

**Others Present**

Tim Roache, Assistant Director  
 Kerrie Diers, Executive Director  
 Julie Chizmas, Transportation Planner

Matt Waitkins, Field Data/Transportation Planner  
 Karen M. Baker, Administrative Assistant

**CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Tim Roache opened the meeting at 12:08 indicating that the meeting would be mostly informational and proceeded with introductions around the table.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 16TH 2009 MEETING**

Roache referred to the minutes of December 16, 2009 included in the agenda packet as Attachment 1 and asked for a motion to approve. Babel moved to approve the December 16, 2009 minutes with a second from Parker. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**2009-2010 CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY (CMAQ) PROGRAM UPDATE**

Chizmas referred to the 2009-2010 Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ) program update memo included in everyone's agenda packet and briefly summarized the process to date. She pointed out the summary of Letters of Intent (LOI's), including DOT's, also included. Chizmas informed that NRPC would be working with everyone who submitted a LOI. She added that there is 59 million being requested for a 12 million dollar program. In addition there would be mandatory abbreviated workshops; one on February 11<sup>th</sup> at NRPC and one on February 16<sup>th</sup>. Draft criteria were also included in the agenda packet for comment. She informed that CMAQ assigned weights to criteria as opposed to TE which did not. Chizmas reminded the group that there were links on the NRPC, FHWA, and NHDOT websites for information on the CMAQ program. Roache added that NRPC would make sure their scoring was consistent with DOT's and that if there were any concerns or comments to notify Chizmas and she would take them into consideration and bring to group and to also keep communication open with Chizmas and any differences in projects submitted since the LOI.

**PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA FOR THE LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP) & THE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)**

Roache explained that this past year he had been resistant to adding new projects, ranking projects or coming up with a list. He continued saying at some point NRPC would have to solicit communities for new projects. He also informed TTAC that the 4 MPO's in the state got together to come up with prioritization measures to show that the MPO's were capable of doing the work. Roache informed that Julie had been working with the planners from the MPO's to develop criteria and they had come up with a draft. Chizmas provided an on screen draft version of what they had come up with so far. She briefly summarized some of the key points. She indicated that they used successful criteria from other states like Pennsylvania and California as a template and modified it to suit us. Currently there were 18 criteria with the first 9 being Federal regulations with the first 7 coming out of SAFTEA-LU. Additionally, 10-14 were region specific,

then local factors and under each criteria there were general characteristics with high, medium, & low impacts as a factor as well. She concluded that there would be bonus and negative points. Roache informed that when considering a project for a community, long term projects will be taken into consideration. He added that this is an ongoing process between the MPO's to develop this. Sousa asked if the DOT process was being replaced so the MPO's can handle the funding. Roache provided a little more detail but said the long term goal would be that we program and prioritize our own projects with DOT having the final say. Sousa asked if this would resemble a model previously worked on by past Executive Director Williams and Roache said along those lines. Alexander said this was a first good step for the MPO's and to also when evaluating projects keep in mind transit vs in-kind vs new projects.

#### **TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT (TE) PROGRAM UPDATE**

Chizmas informed that the TE Advisory Committee decided on January 27<sup>th</sup> that they want to hear presentations from the TE applicants. There would be 2 dates; March 15<sup>th</sup> & March 26<sup>th</sup> both starting at 8:00am, to present projects using a 3 Tier system they adopted. Tiers 1 & 2 would present on March 15<sup>th</sup>, while Tier 3 would present theirs on March 26<sup>th</sup>. The Tier system is described below:

- Tier 1 will be the top 9 projects as ranked by NHDOT with the RPC rankings factored in.
- Tier 2 will be projects 10 through 30 as ranked by NHDOT with the RPC rankings factored in.
- Tier 3 will be projects 31 to 53 ranked by NHDOT with the RPC rankings factored in.

Roache was unsure of where every project in the region ended up as far as tiers go. He added that in the past each RPC had facilitated on the project presentations but it seemed to be more on the applicant this time and to pay attention to the dates so that if you have a project to present, you are available that day. Chizmas informed that there would only be a few minutes for presentations & questions. Roache said something like 10 minutes will be the allotted time.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

##### ***2010 TTAC Meeting Schedule & Annual List of Obligated Projects***

Chizmas informed TTAC that the 2010 TTAC meeting calendar along with the Annual List of Obligated Projects was now available on the NRPC website. Roache explained the reason for the meeting date changes for TTAC

##### ***Other***

Roache informed the group that there would be a few more presentations at future TTAC meetings, one being a demonstration of NRPC's "Travel Demand Model" which would be presented by Ryan Friedman. Additionally, Roache said as the CMAQ process furthers, he would keep everyone up to date. He added that any community experiences would be good as well to share with the group.

Diers informed the group of Smart Commute Week which takes place from May 17<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup>, which promotes biking, walking or finding alternate ways to get to work and around town. A kickoff event would be held in the Milford Oval on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, NRPC would be working with other businesses in Hudson, Nashua City Hall & Merrimack to promote the week. Anyone interested in being on a team should let NRPC know. More information is available on our website.

Chizmas briefly reviewed NRPC's new website designed by Jill Longval and informed that TTAC Agenda Packets would now be available on line.

Chizmas informed TTAC of TIP Amendment 4. The public comment period would open on Friday in the Telegraph and run for 30 days. It would also be available on the web and included 2 projects for the Nashua region.

Babel motioned to adjourn with a second from Berry. The meeting adjourned at **12:47pm**.