



APPROVED MINUTES
NRPC TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
03/10/10

Members Present:

Wayne Husband, City of Nashua
 Steve Dookran, City of Nashua
 Joe Mendola, City of Nashua
 Jean Marie Kennamer, City of Nashua

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
 Gary Webster, Town of Hudson
 Tad Putney, Town of Brookline

Lucy St. John, City of Nashua
 Mark Sousa, Nashua Transit
 Joseph Izzo, Nashua Transit
 Kristi Gillette, Nashua Transit
 Louise Woodworth, Nashua Transit
 Jeff Gowan, Town of Pelham

Others Present

Tim Roache, Assistant 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 with introductions around the table and indicated to the group that there were items on the agenda that would require approval as well as a presentation from Ryan Friedman on NRPC travel demand model.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 10TH 2010 MEETING

Roache referred to the minutes of February 10, 2010 included in the agenda packet as Attachment 1 and asked for a motion to approve. Dookran moved to approve the February 10th, 2010 minutes with a second from Kennamer. All were in favor and the motion passed.

2009-2012 TIP AMENDMENT #4

Chizmas reviewed with the group TIP Amendment #4. Public comment opened on February 12th and closes on the 15th of March and to date there has been no comments. Various revisions to Statewide projects, including \$2,770,000 in increased funding for the expansion of the Alternative Fuel Vehicle Project (AFVP) and in anticipation of the Jobs for Main Street Act, over \$65,000,000 in increased funding for Maintenance and Operations projects such as Bridge Rehabilitation, Painting, Preservation & Improvement Projects and Pavement Resurfacing, Rehabilitation & Crackseal Program & Related Work.

The Nashua Regional Planning Commission withdrew the proposed changes to Nashua 10136A submitted in Amendment #4 to the adopted Nashua Metropolitan Area 2009 – 2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The reasons for the withdrawal are two fold: 1) the changes initially submitted by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation were factually incorrect, and 2) additional information is required showing that the unfunded balance of the project (approximately \$5 million) can reasonably be assumed to be available for the project. NRPC met with the City of Nashua and the NH DOT regarding this project.

Additionally, many of the projects in the proposed Amendment #4 were advanced in anticipation of the passing of the Federal Jobs Bill. If that Bill does not pass, it is expected that many of the projects in this Amendment would revert back to their previous schedule and funding.

Finally, there were no changes in our region that would impact air quality conformity, so the Air Quality Analysis still holds. Other regions had some changes and therefore made changes to their Air Quality Analysis. Fiscal constraint was maintained.

Roache informed the committee that a recommendation was needed from TTAC to present TIP Amendment 4 to the full Commission on March 17th after the Public Hearing. Sousa moved and Parker seconded the motion to recommend TIP Amendment #4 of the 2009-2012 TIP to the Commission. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Dookran asked how the region was benefiting on statewide projects. Roache said he did not have that type of detail and asked Alexander if he had any input. Alexander said they had a preliminary list that he could pass on to Roache to share with the group.

TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT (TE) PROGRAM UPDATE

Chizmas informed the group that Brookline had a project in Tier 1 and Milford had two projects listed in tier 2, and they would be presenting their TE project applications to TEAC at NHDOT on March 15th. Hudson and Nashua were in Tier 3 and would be presenting on March 26th.

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

Chizmas passed around the updated draft 2009-2010 Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Ranking Criteria. She indicated that there was only one change since the February meeting. Originally there were bonus points for CO but due to it not being consistent for the whole state (applying only to two cities in the whole state; Nashua & Manchester), that criterion was pulled. Additionally it was not important at the State level. Chizmas asked if there were any questions or concerns. There were none.

Roache spoke of new CMAQ projects applications from Hudson, Nashua and Milford. Skoglund asked how the 15 points for air quality benefits were going to be distributed. Chizmas said that would be discussed at the next interagency meeting on how to address that because of the different lifetimes of projects. Roache said once they have addressed the issue with interagency, we would update the group via email and re-address at the April TTAC meeting. Alexander explained how DOT process is. Skoglund asked if NRPC would be scoring the CMAQ applications or if TTAC would. Roache explained that when TE applications were scored, we had different staff with Land Use, Environmental, and Transportation background do the scoring. Skoglund informed that he was available to help with scoring that DES staff was assisting in scoring for another RPC.

Chizmas gave a breakdown of what she had for CMAQ applications:

- 32 Letters of Interest submitted
- 60 million in funds requested with only 12 million available
- Applications are due April 1st to DOT and the RPC's
- RPC Rankings to NHDOT due July 12th
- July through September – NHDOT Statewide project review and ranking

Additionally, there will be bonus points as follows:

- The #1 RPC ranked project will be awarded 20 bonus points
- The #2 RPC ranked project will be awarded 15 bonus points
- The #3 RPC ranked project will be awarded 5 bonus points

NRPC REGIONAL TRAVEL DEMAND MODEL PRESENTATION

Ryan Friedman provided a presentation on the NRPC Travel Demand Model. Some of the questions asked during the presentation are as follows:

Q: Skoglund asked if 2000 population numbers were used in the model or characteristics.

A: Friedman said both for the base year. He added that the new model may be smaller than what NRPC had projected in the current model.

Q: Mendola asked what type of software is out there to design the travel models.

A: Friedman answered that NRPC uses TRANS CAD which is \$10,000 including support fee which is for one license.

Q: Levine asked if a household travel survey was used.

A: Friedman said not since he had worked for NRPC.

Q: St. John asked why LOS D was used in the model.

A: Friedman answered to leave yourself some leeway.

Q: Skoglund asked how long it would take to build a new model for air quality for the NRPC region if you had to start over?

A: Friedman answered 2 years, calibration is the sticking point. It takes about 15 minutes to run each time.

OTHER BUSINESS

EPA Proposal to revise ozone standard

Skoglund informed the group of EPA's proposal to revise the ozone standard on March 22nd from 0.87 to 0.75. Now they are reconsidering the air quality standard of 0.75 because they feel it may not be protective of public health. EPA is now currently soliciting public comment on standards between 0.60 and 0.70 on human health impacts. Comments will be accepted until March 22nd and EPA has until August to come up with a new standard.

Rail Update

Diers was not in the office to provide a rail update. This would be tabled for the next TTAC meeting.

Cashell motioned to adjourn with a second from Kennamer. The meeting adjourned at **1:25pm**.