

 **NRPC APPROVED MINUTES**
NRPC TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
07/14/10

Members Present:

Steve Dookran - City of Nashua
John Cashell, Town of Hudson
Jean Marie Kennamer (A) - City of Nashua
Bill Parker - Town of Milford

Tad Putney, Town of Brookline
Jeff Gowan, Town of Pelham
Jeff Babel - Town of Hollis
John St. Pierre, Town of Amherst

Staff Present

Tim Roache, Assistant Director
Kerrie Diers, Executive Director
Steve Wagner, Regional Planner

Julie Chizmas, Transportation Planner
Karen M. Baker, Administrative Assistant
Patrick Blaisdell, Intern

Others Present

Joe Mendola, City of Nashua
Leigh Levine, FHWA
William Rose, NHDOT

Chris Skoglund, NHDES
Roger Houston, City of Nashua

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Tim Roache opened the meeting at 12:10 with introductions identifying John St. Pierre who notified the group of his recent appointment as a voting member on the TTAC for the Town of Amherst.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 9TH 2010 MEETING

Roache referred to the minutes of June 9, 2010 included in the agenda packet as Attachment 1 and asked for a motion to approve. Babel moved to approve the June 9th, 2010 minutes with a second from Kennamer. All were in favor and the motion passed.

CMAQ APPLICATION SCORES AND RANKS

Chizmas informed the group of that NRPC received 2 applications for funding through the 2009/2010 CMAQ program and gave a brief description of each:

Hudson – proposal to upgrade three sets of traffic lights at the intersections of Ferry Street & Library Street, Library & Highland Streets and Derry Road, and Derry Road and Ferry & Chase Streets. Existing signals are 30 years old and are not coordinated with each other and are not controllable by the Town’s computer system.

Milford – proposal for improvements the Route 13 South, Emerson Road & Armory Road intersection with the addition of turning lanes and signal modifications to relieve congestion and improve safety.

Chizmas said three NRPC staff reviewed and scored the applications using the criteria approved at the April 14th TTAC meeting and the Hudson application was ranked #1, having the greatest air quality reduction. She also said that she would be looking for a motion for approval from the TTAC to then submit to NHDOT. Dookran questioned the 10 year lifespan estimate listed under the Hudson light project. Chizmas explained that all the project life spans were determined through an interagency process with the NHDOT, NHDES and other state MPOs. Gown motioned with a second coming from Kennamer. All were in favor and the motion passed to approve the CMAQ ranking of the project applications submitted. Chizmas concluded by informing the group of the August 12th meeting to rank the projects at the statewide level. Roache reminded the group that unlike TE, the CMAQ has 9 RPC/MPO members on their committee and they will make sure the projects are scored mathematically.

Rose informed the group that the review process to score the applications had already started and to stay tuned for a date for the hearings.

LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP)/AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY ANALYSIS UPDATE

Chizmas passed around a "Projects in the 2011 – 2020 Ten Year Plan and the LRTP" handout and reviewed in detail all of the Not Exempt Projects in NRPC Model, Not Exempt - Off Model, and In Previous Analysis But Not In Current Analysis projects. Exempt projects were not discussed.

Houston asked if the Exit 36S project had elevated in status. Roache said he was working on getting funding for this project with a bunch of folks. Houston felt it was a good Federal project. Roache said the only way it will happen is it is federally funded. Levine asked if the project was in the MA TIP. Roache was unsure, but said it was in their UPWP.

Roache commented on some of the projects and filled the group in on some of them as well. He said that Milford would most likely weigh in on the NH 101 Safety Improvements Project as determined by the corridor study and that the recommendations in the corridor study that are also in our model will stay in there for now.

Chizmas mentioned the Airport Access Road project that is included in our model, but not in our Air Quality Analysis.

Roache informed that there needs to be a Public Comment period open before August 13th in order to have a recommendation from TTAC requesting approval from the full Commission on September 16th of NRPC's LRPT, TIP, and AQ.

Chizmas asked the group to inform her of any changes or differences between the list and what the representing town may have for information in addition to any comments and only on non-exempt projects. She concluded and said this information would be shared with DES, DOT, FHWA, & FTA before hand.

NASHUA REGION EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS REPORT

Roache passed around a copy of the Transportation Emergency Preparedness Plan for the Nashua Region to the group and informed them that copies were also sent to all Police and Fire Chiefs in the NRPC Region.

Chizmas provided a Power Point presentation and reviewed the plan with the group. She said the Plan was funded through and SPR grant and the 2007 Regional Travel Demand Model was used as well.

There were several comments and/or questions during the presentation from Skoglund, Kennamer, Gowan, Levine, Dookran, and Houston. Specifically, Dookran asked if the critical links were determined because it contained a bridge. Both Chizmas and Roache said yes and that the focus was on high capacity bridges.

Roache said that some pieces of the analysis not included in the report were travel time if links were broken. Chizmas also mentioned that she and Ryan Friedman would be looking at hourly roadway capacities and that the current model is 24 hour road capacities. Chizmas asked if there was any feedback from the group. Putney suggested adding the names and phone numbers of key people in each of the towns and adding that communication is a critical issue and that using the Reverse 911 would help in the event of a disaster that required contacting everyone at once.

Skoglund asked if there was any effort to coordinate the hazard mitigation plans with this plan. Roache said he would do an ADHOC committee if there was interest.

Wagner referred to the NH Speedway's method of handling large amounts of traffic heading in one direction. Roache concluded by asking the group to get back any comments to him within a month.

STAFF AND PROJECT UPDATES

Roache informed the group that this agenda item would be on all agenda's going forward and encouraged folks to bring updates from the towns they are representing to share with the group. In addition, Roache would be updating the TTAC on projects in the region. He mentioned the Exit 36S project which is currently seeking a Tiger Grant to do the planning and environmental studies and the feasibility with rail as well as the economic development potential. Roache also mentioned the Broad Street Parkway project saying that the re-environmental evaluation was coming to an end that within in a month or two they should have a revised record of decision to start the design and construction portion of the project. Lastly was the potential to relocate the Bedford Toll in conjunction with the Exit 8 to the Bedford Tolls widening project. Kennamer and Dookran mentioned the Amherst Street sewer project currently going on where westbound traffic is re-routed.

Babel motioned to adjourn with a second from Kennamer. The meeting adjourned at **1:33pm**.