

**Salem-Plaistow-Windham  
Technical Advisory Committee  
Minutes**

Friday, October 27, 2000  
Windham Town Offices

**Members Present:** Ellen Faulconer, Kingston; Marilyn P Senter, Plaistow; Tom Jameson, NHDOT; Becky Ohler, NHDES; Steve Laurin, Newton; Jim Turse, Salem; and Tom Case, Windham.

**Others Present:** Matt Waitkins, Nashua RPC; Dave Walker, Maura Carriel, and Roxanne Rines, RPC.

Meeting opened at 9:35 a.m.

1. Introductions

Attendees introduced themselves and stated what municipality they were from or the agency they represented.

2. Communications

The communications file was distributed.

A. 1999-2001 STIP Extension

**Walker** stated there was a mix-up on the submittal timeline. There was a gap between when the 99-01 would expire and the 01-03 would be in effect. The 99-01 STIP was extended one month to make sure no projects would be slowed down. Further discussion ensued about why the extension was needed.

3. Approval of the minutes from August 25, 2000 meetings.

**Faulconer** stated on page 3, under the motion, she was opposed. **Ohler** stated on page 2, second paragraph from bottom, "with I-93 project involving *air quality conformity determinations; however, there are other DES divisions that do not get involved until later, i.e. water commission*". **Jameson** stated that Maddali is misspelled throughout the minutes.

**Motion:** **Ohler** made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. **Senter** seconded the motion. Motion carried with Case abstaining.

4. 2001-2003 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

**Walker** stated the final TIP, as submitted to DOT, is attached. The only changes were the ones discussed at the public hearing and the text in the beginning of the document.

#### A. Air Quality Conformity Determination

**Walker** stated the air quality conformity determination is being completed. The submittal date to the state is January 16, 2001; however, there are several other approvals needed along with a public hearing.

He continued there have been a few runs of the model and the results are similar to the conformity that was done in the spring. Year 2020 could be questionable, although overall conformity is in good shape.

**Walker** stated that the I-93 widening project has not been coded into the model. The RPC has been trying to come up with the most likely scenario before adding the project to the model. He continued that I-93 is the last big hurdle to add to the model. Walker explained how the model works and discussion ensued.

**Ohler** stated that DES has asked for 30 days to review (they will need the numbers by December 16), there needs to be a 30-day comment period (that brings the date to November 16), and DES would like one and a half months to review (which means it needs to be done, as soon as possible). She stated that possibly once the entire state is combined, air quality for 2020 will not be met.

**Walker** stated another meeting may need to be held in November to discuss air quality conformity and to complete the 30-day public hearing comment period. **Ohler** stated DOT will hold a 30-day comment period (the MPO does not need to hold a separate comment period).

#### 5. Rail Safety Education Outreach – Portland to Boston Rail Service

**Carriel** stated two rail safety meetings have been held and she spoke about the discussions that were held. She stated that the Kingston meeting is scheduled for November 2, at Kingston Town Hall.

**Case** commented on the flyer that was distributed because neither Windham or Salem were included and that citizens in his town are interested in the schedule of the trains. **Carriel** stated the original intent of the meetings were to create a forum for towns who have grade crossings or schools located within a half mile of the tracks, to make them aware that the service would be passing through their communities.

**Senter** stated that meetings concerning the schedules were held earlier in the process. She discussed some of the safety concerns that were spoke of at the Plaistow meeting and about enforcement of the right-of-way.

**Faulconer** asked who is in charge of enforcement? **Senter** stated she was told that the local police are an arm of Guilford and Amtrak. They can hold offenders for both the Guilford and Amtrak police.

**Faulconer** stated Guilford told the Town of Kingston to stay away from their tracks. **Senter** asked Carriel to find out who will be enforcement on the tracks. **Carriel** stated Amtrak will be completing some emergency training for fire and police starting in January.

**Senter** stated she believes that as April approaches, there should be a meeting about what services will be available.

**Faulconer** stated all of the public meetings have not been completed. **Carriel** stated that Kit Morgan is looking into the public hearing issue between the rail and the town of Kingston. **Faulconer** stated Kingston still has unresolved issues with the rail.

**Carriel** stated Newton has a concern with one of their crossings, she asked Laurin if the town is planning on forwarding the issue to Guildord. **Laurin** stated he is unaware of any issues. **Laurin** asked about fencing around tracks that are close to roadways.

**Carriel** stated fencing was an issue that has been discussed, the standard answer from NEPRA is "budget for this project only includes money to do fencing at the station locations, there are a limited number of other areas where they anticipate any fencing". She continued that the State of Maine is looking into passing State Legislation that would require additional fencing.

**Matt Waitkins, Nashua RPC**, asked if there is currently a freight line that uses the track. **Senter** stated yes, about six round trips a day; however, freight trains make much more noise.

Faulconer further commented about Kingston's concerns with the site distance at the rail crossing. Members continued to discuss safety concerns and who is responsible for policing and emergencies.

## 6. Preparations and proposed timeline for FY 2003-05 TIP/Plan Development

Walker reviewed a proposed timeline that he distributed at the meeting. He continued the timeline was advanced by the DOT at the RPC's Director's meeting. This is a plan of how items will go for the next round of the TIP development. January 2001 is when the next step will begin.

**Walker** stated there was suppose to be a Transportation Plan Update last year (item7D); however, this winter it will be completed. This round will consist of a minor update and the addition of the Regional Bike Plan as a chapter.

**Walker** stated staff is working on a different solicitation program for projects. He continued there were too many projects not chosen in the last round and those should be the first projects included in this round.

**Waitkins** asked if the RPC distributes a list of funding sources and where projects fit into those? **Walker** stated that the RPC does not currently have such, but he has looked into creating such a document.

**Turse** stated in the communication file is a copy of "Road Business" with an article from Victoria Chase about such. Members discussed how beneficial having a list in a document form would be. **Jameson** stated that DOT publishes a document that gives a listing of eligible projects for both CMAQ & TE and that copies are available through DOT.

7. Project Updates  
A. I-93 Advisory Task Force

**Walker** stated the task force has been meeting monthly, the next meeting will be November 9<sup>th</sup>, at West Running Brook School in Derry at 6:00 p.m. The discussion will involve traffic volumes, transit ridership, and mode combinations.

He also attended the last Resource Agency meeting where all the state and federal agencies get together to discuss the project. All of the agencies were being very tough on the DOT, they want to see lots of options for the project and different combinations of available services.

Discussion amongst members included land use concerns with the I-93 widening.

B. NH125 Corridor Study

**Walker** stated he attended a Resource Agency meeting, the topic was the access management portion of the plan, Sinnott presented the Access Management idea and some of the information about the project to the resource agency, they seemed to be very interested in having the access management component added as part of the project.

There were some concerns about how much detail needs to go into the plan when measuring the impact of access roads that will not be built immediately, but will be built by private development; how should this include the potential environmental impacts.

**Faulconer** asked what happened to the RPC developing an access management model ordinance? **Walker** stated he would speak with Glenn Greenwood.

C. Regional Bike Plan

**Carriel** stated this is one of the components that is being updated for the Regional Transportation Plan and the effort is being coordinated with DOT and neighboring planning commissions. She stated the within the last year, the state has updated and revised the statewide bike network.

The state is now asking the planning commissions to look at the bike plans they have in place and see what modifications might need to be made. There is a public session on November 6<sup>th</sup>, the map will be there to review and make suggestions.

**Carriel** stated she will bring the map to the next TAC meeting.

D. Transportation Plan Update

This was discussed under item 6 of the agenda.

8. Other Business

Walker distributed a handout from DOT containing the list for *Urban-Under 200,000 Funds*. This contains the funding for communities to build road projects. The state keeps the funds along with an accounting. The communities in this area are included.

A. TELUS – TIP Project selection and tracking database

**Walker** explained TELUS is a project development and tracking software, which will keep a history of all STIP projects submitted with their amendments. It was developed by the Federal Highway Association with the New Jersey DOT.

He further explained that TELUS will make tracking projects much easier and less time consuming in the future. The software was distributed by FHWA for free.

**Senter** stated the next Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors meeting is on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, at the Plaistow Town Hall at 9:00 a.m. and on December 8<sup>th</sup>, the Board will meet at the Kelly Library in Salem.

**Senter** stated she and Cliff Sinnott have been elected to the Executive Board of NEARC and the annual meeting is October 11, 12 and 13, 2001, at the Portsmouth Sheraton.

**Case** asked what was happening with the Salem Park & Ride? **Walker** stated that DOT is looking into a site at Exit 2. **Jameson** stated that DOT is looking into Exits 2, 3 and 5 as potential park & ride sites.

**Walker** stated the Rout 111 bypass will have a ped/bike bridge for rails to trails use; however, he was not able to find out about the Salem Depot area.

**Carriel** stated DOT will update the Statewide Rail Plan, the last meeting is in Portsmouth in November.

8. Adjourn

**Motion:** **Case** made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 a.m. **Ohler** seconded the motion.  
**Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Roxanne M. Rines  
Recording Secretary