



SALEM-PLAISTOW-WINDHAM TAC Committee Meeting

MINUTES

Friday, June 8, 2001
Windham Town Hall

Members Present: Merylyn Senter, Plaistow; Ellen Faulconer, Kingston; Tom Case, Windham; and Bill Watson, NHDOT.

Others Present: Dave Walker, Scott Bogle, and Roxanne Rines, RPC.

Quorum Calls: Dick Sunday, Salem; and Mary Allen, Newton.

9:40 SPW TAC MEETING OPENED

1. Introductions

Walker introduced Scott Bogle and stated he will be handling the transit and alternative transportation oriented projects.

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

2. Communications

The communications file was distributed for members to review. **Walker** reminded members about the upcoming TE/CMAQ workshop on June 14th, at the Exeter Public Library, at 7:00 p.m. **Watson** encouraged members to attend the workshop.

Walker stated the annual meeting is Thursday, June 28th, at the Ashworth by the Sea. Dan Burden is the speaker, he is very inspiring.

Senter stated the town of Plaistow has approved a plan for extending their waterline on 125. The town is trying to get funding from an EDA grant. REDC had the project listed as a one-year project for \$2.1 million. The town is going to break the project up into five different phases, because an EDA grant requires that the money be in hand.

Faulconer asked if anyone knew of any information concerning off-road vehicles safety factors? **Watson** stated he hasn't heard of any discussions.

3. Approval of Minutes from January 12, 2001, TAC Meeting

Motion: **Senter** made a motion to approve the minutes of January 12, 2001, pending quorum calls. **Faulconer** seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes from March 16, 2001, TAC Meeting

Motion: **Case** made a motion to approve the minutes of March 16, 2001, pending quorum calls. **Walker** seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

4. Introduction of Scott Bogle

This item was previous addressed.

5. Appointment of TAC Chair

Walker reviewed the responsibilities and duties of the chair.

Motion: **Case** made a motion to nominate Ellen Faulconer as Chair of SPW TAC, pending quorum calls. **Senter** seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Motion: **Case** made a motion to nominate Marilyn Senter as Vice-Chair of the SPW TAC, pending quorum calls. **Faulconer** seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

6. Unified Planning Work Program for FY 2002 and FY 2003

Walker stated the Policy Committee approved the UPWP at their last meeting. The item did not make it before the TAC for their approval before it needed to be sent to the state. Members now have the opportunity to look at the document and make any amendments they feel are necessary.

Walker gave an overview of the planning priorities that are contained in the UPWP. **Watson** stated it is of great importance to review and update the Prospectus. He explained how an incident in Nashua was rectified sooner by having an outlined TIP amendment process in place.

Senter commented on the Route 125 project, the town of Plaistow was informed that a new employer is going to build a facility that will employ 500 people. There is not going to be any access onto 125, the state wants the access to be on Old County Road. She continued that the town will probably approve the plan. **Walker** stated he attended a meeting about the above project and that the developer is willing to work out plans that will benefit everyone.

Case asked how to get brochures and other information about vanpools and commuting? **Walker** stated Annette Stoller had received materials, which she distributed. He will contact ride share and have more materials sent to the office. Members discussed the need to gather more information from transit riders about their needs.

Motion: **Senter** made a motion that the FY 2002-2003 UPWP be approved pending quorum calls. **Case** seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

7. Regional Bike Plan

Bogle stated the next phase of the plan is to incorporate the seven regional maps into the state map. The idea of the routes is not that they are the best recreational routes, but that these are the best routes available right now. He continued that the integrated maps should be finished by the end of summer.

Bogle asked Watson is his understanding of identifying the routes (at this point) is just the best of what's out there and will lead into prioritizing upgrades. **Watson** replied yes, the maps are the best routes and roads that exist today.

8. Long Range Plan Update: Proposed Scope, Schedule, Public Process

Handouts were distributed. **Walker** stated the current plan expires at the end of August and the MPO is required to complete an update every three years. He continued that some of the chapters will be re-organized and then the entire document will be re-formatted. To complete a public participation process would require more time than what is available; therefore, staff has asked that the current long range plan be extended with a 12 or 18 month sunset date.

Walker stated the problem is if the plan lapses then the MPO's conformity lapses and projects can not be worked on. If the above happens, the MPO's could possibly use the last conformity findings with updates to the analysis years being completed by August. A new conformity finding would take until August to complete.

Members discussed some ideas of how to get more public involvement. Some of the suggestions were to have a display at different malls within the region and to also have a booth set up at different town festivals (Old Home Days, etc.) with surveys available. **Bogle** stated he will have a draft survey for the next TAC meeting. Members agreed with the outlined scope of work.

Faulconer asked if any work had been done concerning what impacts the upcoming rail will have on surrounding town traffic? **Walker** stated none that he is aware of, initially the rail is not going to be a commuter train.

9. Project Updates

A. Portland to Boston Rail Service

Walker stated the station construction has been advertised, if work hasn't started yet, it will shortly. Operation Lifesaver presentations are ongoing. The speed dispute is going to be resolved by the end of June by the Surface Transportation Board. He continued that there still isn't a start date.

Bogle stated Maura told him that the remaining elementary schools should have their operation lifesaver training completed by fall and asked members for ideas of where to display the two rail kiosks that the RPC has use of. Members again suggested town festivals and added antique car shows.

B. State Rail Plan

Walker distributed the Executive Summary of the plan and stated it has been finalized.

C. Greater Derry/Greater Salem Regional Transportation Council – Transit Planning Grant

Bogle distributed the timeline associated with the grant. He reviewed the timeline as it pertains to the three planning agencies. RPC will handle the overall contract administration; Randall Falkner from Southern will be the project manager; and all three will do data collection within their region. Randall will be organizing the public outreach. Nashua will complete the mapping component and the funding search.

Bogle stated once all the data is collected he will work on devising the system. A project start date is scheduled for July with a kickoff stakeholder meeting in September.

Senter stated a problem with the program is people from New Hampshire have doctors in Massachusetts, and the service does not allow for the transportation of riders into Massachusetts. There needs to be an agreement with someone or some organization so that service is available across the border. **Bogle** stated he will contact the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission (MVPC) and ask them to be a member of the stakeholder group.

Walker stated Merrimack Valley has a very robust and used transit system that stops and turns at the border. However, there are legislative issues along with the issue of Massachusetts residents coming into NH to buy goods.

Walker stated as part of the RPC's Memorandum of Understanding with MVPC there needs to be a section that discusses resolving or working towards improving the current transit issues between the states.

10. Other Business

Walker stated the final scope of the 125 project is completed. In theory, VHB is on board and ready to start work on the project this summer. The final analysis confirms that they have dedicated 350 hours to access management. **Senter** asked how the Louis Berger study is going to be integrated with the NH study? **Walker** stated he does not know.

Walker stated there will be an extension to the River Road TMA using the Londonderry and Windham park and rides, there will be four or five runs in each direction daily.

Faulconer asked what is going on with East Road in Hampstead, are there going to be signals? **Walker** stated he has not heard anything. **Faulconer** asked what is happening on 111 in Danville, there is some clearing going on? **Walker** stated he has seen it, but does not know.

11. Adjourn

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Roxanne M. Rines