



ROCKINGHAM PLANNING COMMISSION  
156 WATER STREET  
EXETER, NH 03833  
PHONE: (603) 778-0885  
FAX: (603) 778-9183  
[email@rpc-nh.org](mailto:email@rpc-nh.org) OR [spwmpo@rpc-nh.org](mailto:spwmpo@rpc-nh.org)  
[www.rpc-nh.org](http://www.rpc-nh.org)

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ATKINSON ? DANVILLE ? HAMPSTEAD ? KINGSTON ? NEWTON ? PLAISTOW ? SALEM ? SANDOWN ? WINDHAM

## SALEM-PLAISTOW-WINDHAM TAC Committee Meeting MINUTES

Friday, November 30, 2001  
Salem Town Hall

**Members Present:** Ellen Faulconer, Chair, Kingston; Becky Ohler, DES; Bill Scott, Salem; and Steve Laurin, Newton.

**Others Present:** Tony Komornick and Jim Terlizzi, MVPC; Linda Harvey, Salem; Patrick Tuay, KNC Inc., Plaistow.

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

Meeting opened at 9:50 a.m.

### 1. Introductions

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

### 2. Staff Communications

The communications file was distributed. **Ohler** stated that EPA has re-proposed the eight-hour ozone standard and this is in the very early stages.

### 3. Approval of September 28, 2001, Minutes

**Motion:** **Ohler** made a motion to accept the minutes of September 28, 2001, as written. **Laurin** seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

### 4. Proposed Amendments to the 2001-2003 STIP

**Walker** stated the amendments for this region are minor so a 30-day comment period is not needed. He gave a brief overview of the minor changes.

**Walker** asked if there was any reason not to recommend the amendments to the Policy Committee. There were no comments or objections from the members.

## 5. Long Range Transportation Plan

A handout was distributed with the draft timeline for the update to the long range transportation plan. **Walker** stated staff is working on a major update of the plan with a full public involvement process.

**Bogle** reviewed the timeline and discussed the MPO's requirements. There needs to be an initial public kick-off event for the process, at a minimum, it needs to consist of explaining the MPO Long Range Planning Process and how the plan works. Staff is envisioning the meeting to be a sharing process.

The seacoast region is having an MPO at the mall event and it would be good to replicate at the Rockingham Mall. It would be a display that talks of the different transportation needs of the region, there will also be a survey at the display.

**Bogle** continued that staff would also like to hold several focus type groups. Based on the gathered input, staff will draft an initial set of chapters that will be presented to TAC on March 29<sup>th</sup> and then another set of chapters for the May 31<sup>st</sup> meeting. Hopefully, the full draft plan will be ready for a public release in early August.

New chapters to the plan will be: land use and transportation connections; environmental justice; and are there elements of the community that have equal access to the transportation systems. There will also be a summary of all the public input received and the results of the survey's.

**Bogle** asked members how they want to be involved in the review of the chapters. He stated in the past staff has drafted the chapters and then members review and gave input; another option is to have one to two TAC members work with staff to draft the chapters.

**Faulconer** asked staff what they would like? **Bogle** stated it can work either way, it depends on how much time members want to devote to the development of the chapters. **Walker** stated when chapters are presented, staff would like to have break out groups, where two or three people give input about their chapter review. There was discussion about who will be invited to the meetings.

**Walker** stated the goals and objectives chapter is what drives the rest of the document and the document will be designed to meet the goals and objectives. The January meeting will be to identify some common goals and objectives.

**Scott** asked about the goals and objectives from other agencies i.e. DOT and DES; should the MPO's goals match theirs. **Walker** stated he can foresee the MPO having different goals and objectives that are contrary to DOT's; however, that would lead to other issues. **Bogle** stated the MPO needs to pay attention to the goals and objectives from state agencies and also adjacent MPO's.

**Walker** stated in theory DOT looks at MPO priorities, at the same time they have to look at state priorities and try to balance both of those. **Ohler** stated she doesn't think that DOT, in the past, has paid a lot of attention to long range plans because they didn't represent what towns wanted. She asked if towns in the MPO have Master Plans that talk about land use/transportation planning; this would be a key element.

**Walker** stated there will be a workshop on January 25<sup>th</sup>, after a quick TAC meeting. Members discussed how the workshop could be grouped. **Faulconer** stated the CEDS process went quite well, they gathered a lot of input from different towns.

**Falconer** suggested having surveys available at the deliberative sessions that people can fill out and drop off on their way out. **Bogle** stated he will send out the draft survey to members.

**Walker** stated at the next meeting, staff will be looking for general goals for the plan. **Bogle** asked members if they want one visioning session or more to review chapters? **Falconer** stated it depends on what happens on January 25<sup>th</sup>, and staff comfort level. **Bogle** asked if members were interested in having monthly meetings through the spring? **Falconer** stated all the chapters cannot be reviewed at one meeting and she thinks more frequent meeting would be helpful.

**Ohler** suggested that the meetings have a definite stop time, that way attendees know when it ends. **Walker** suggested that meetings during the off months be for only the long range plan. **Falconer** asked if a letter (other than packet material) could be sent to TAC members explaining the long range planning process and that their input on their town issues are important to voice.

## 6. GACIT Hearings/State Ten Year Plan

**Walker** stated the recommendations were sent to the Governor, with a handful of changes. One of the biggest changes is a new program they are going to implement called "Hazardous Intersection and Roadway Improvements" program. There will be an annual set-aside of \$500,000 statewide to complete small projects on a quicker pace. The projects will be those prioritized by the RPC's.

## 7. State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Amendment Review

**Walker** stated he and Cliff will be participating in the amendment process for TIP and STIP projects. Looking for ways to improve the process and to identify what qualifies as an amendment. Discussion ensued about what would constitute an amendment.

## 8. Access Management Memorandum of Understanding

**Walker** stated DOT has attempted a draft with input from the RPC's. The goal is to have all the towns sign the agreement with DOT. There was a problem with the town of Kingston, DOT gave a driveway permit to a development that wasn't approved by the town and the town did not want access to be where DOT approved.

**Falconer** asked if the memorandum will have an impact on what DOT can and cannot do? **Walker** stated the towns will need to have access management guidelines or standards in place, then the DOT will need to conform to town standards. **Falconer** asked if there is anyway to find out if the memorandum will be effective, because the Kingston Planning Board had a letter of understanding with DOT and DOT still allowed a driveway permit onto Route 125 without checking with the town.

## 9. Project Updates: Informational

**Walker** stated the January 25<sup>th</sup> meeting will be in Hampstead, staff will find two nights to hold public meetings on the long range process in Salem and either Plaistow or Kingston at 7 p.m., with a 30-day legal notice and an article a week before the meetings.

**Walker** gave a brief overview of the projects listed.

**Komornick** stated the first draft of the Route 125 Massachusetts study is complete and a public release will probably be early 2002.

**Walker** stated the state is forming a Route 125 Plaistow/Kingston Advisory Committee and stated they are looking for representatives from the SPW MPO, there will also be members from both towns on the committee. Members stated they were fine with staff be appointed. The appointment begins on January 10<sup>th</sup> and will be for one and a half years.

**Tuay** stated he has concerns about the left turn light at Lake Street and the improvements haven't helped with traffic flow problems. **Walker** stated that the public meetings that will be held in February are a good forum for those concerns and he encouraged Tuay to attend the meetings.

#### **10. Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne M. Rines