



**SALEM-PLAISTOW-WINDHAM
TAC Committee Meeting
MINUTES**

Plaistow Public Library
Friday, August 3, 2001

Members Present: Marilyn Senter, (Acting Chair), Plaistow; Paul Sullivan, Atkinson; Thomas Jameson, NHDOT, Becky Ohler, NHDES; and Dick Lemieux, FHWA.

Others Present: Linda Harvey, Salem; Dave Walker and Scott Bogle, RPC.

Quorum Calls: Ellen Faulconer, Kingston.

9:40 SPW TAC MEETING OPENED

1. Introductions

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. **Senter** reminded members to have their TE and CMAQ applications to the RPC office by August 31st. Also, the Draft State 10-year plan will go to GACIT on August 14th.

3. Approval of Minutes from June 8, 2001, TAC Meeting

Motion: **Ohler** made a motion to approve the minutes of June 8, 2001, pending quorum calls.

Sullivan seconded the motion. **Senter** stated on page 3 there were two grammatical mistakes. **Motion carried with changes, pending quorum calls.**

4. 1999-2020 Long Range Transportation Plan – 2001 Update

Walker stated the current Long Range Transportation Plan expires August 19th or 20th. If the plan expires our air quality conformity will lapse. For the immediate future staff has completed a basic, factual update only, so the current long range transportation plan can be re-adopted until a completed update can be finished.

He continued that two new documents were added at the end and that no new policies were added. The additions are the 2001-2003 Transportation Improvement Program and the most current version of the State 10-Year Plan. Before the public hearing on the 15th, updated maps will be available for review.

Walker stated he is asking that the TAC Committee recommend the approval of the Plan to the SPW Policy Committee for re-adoption with current updates.

Motion: **Sullivan** made a motion to recommend to the Policy Committee that they re-adopt the 1999-2020 Long Range Transportation Plan with current updates, pending quorum calls. **Ohler** seconded the motion. **Motion carried pending quorum calls.**

Harvey asked if snow removal should be included in the traffic calming section of the plan? **Walker** stated snow removal will be addressed in the traffic calming section when the full update is completed. Members discussed related issues to snow removal and a town's reluctance to use traffic calming measures.

Lemieux asked how the update will be approached? **Walker** stated in-house using staff. The goal is to have the updated version of the Long Range Plan completed along with the 10-Year Plan and the TIP so that all three can be adopted together, requiring one air-quality conformity run.

5. **CMAQ and TE Program** -- *Potential Projects/Applications*

Walker stated applications are due by August 31, 2001. The only project thus far is the Town of Salem will be sending a CMAQ application for a coordinated and centrally controlled traffic signal system.

Harvey stated she believes a TE application will be coming from the Salem Rail Committee to conduct a feasibility study. Further discussion ensued about other rail corridors and ideas.

Walker asked if TE funding could be used to fund a study, would the money be available any sooner than if you were doing a construction project? **Lemieux** stated he would caution that thinking because it depends on the selection committee. Funding a feasibility study does not necessarily commit them to funding PE, right-of-way or Construction. He cautioned members that federal funds can be used for a feasibility study to determine whether or not it's feasible, if it's determined not feasible, that is okay.

However, PE (preliminary engineering) is only spent on projects that eventually go to construction. If you apply for money to do preliminary engineering there is a commitment to follow through to construction, if you don't, you must pay the money back.

Jameson stated when trying to have a project built before the projected date, staff should speak with Victoria Chase, DOT. Towns can put up their own money to start a project and when the funding year comes up the town can be reimbursed.

-- *TAC role in Evaluation Process*

Walker stated the evaluation process will not be MPO based, but evaluated by Planning Commissions. Staff will perform a preliminary evaluation, ensuring that applications are complete. The evaluations and a public meeting will happen in September.

6. Meeting Schedule and Locations [Set schedule for the next year]

Walker stated that traditionally meetings are held the last Friday of the month, every other month. The idea is to have a set schedule of meeting dates and places, which possibly would help encourage better attendance by members. He continued that he is going to contact all TAC members for input on dates. The September meeting will be in Atkinson and November will be Salem (tentatively).

Walker stated he likes the new Seacoast agenda format, it gives a couple of paragraphs about each topic. **Ohler** suggested having space available for notes on the agenda. There was discussion between members about sending postcards or e-mails ahead of the packets (with the meeting date and place).

7. Project Updates

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

Bogle stated a kick-off meeting with the Transportation Council will be held on September 20th. The purpose of the meeting is to identify transit dependent people or populations that are potential transit users. Also, mapping the major destination areas and using the information to develop a set of recommendations for a transit system to serve the region.

He continued that a starting point will be to coordinate the scheduling and dispatching of all of these separate para-transit services. There are a couple dozen different agencies that have one or two vans. **Senter** spoke about the different agencies that the Council has approached for funding.

B. Web Site Update

Bogle stated there is now a SPW MPO website, the address is: www.rpc-nh.org/SPW/. There is also a link from the RPC site.

C. Salem-Plaistow-Windham Transit Guide

Bogle stated there is the beginning of a web based version of the guide with updated links to all of the transit providers and their schedules.

There was discussion of printing an updated guide and the possibility of reprinting every three years, but keeping the web version updated with current changes.

D. I-93 Update; RATIS

Jameson suggested that staff invite Sharma of DOT to the next TAC meeting to discuss RATIS, as he is very involved with the project.

Walker stated there was a meeting a week ago to discuss bike and pedestrian access. **Jameson** stated the consultant has a preliminary concept for a bike facility within the corridor.

8. Other Business

Walker stated he has received more Rideshare information and it is available from him. **Senter** stated there is a meeting on Monday, August 13th, at 4:30 in Epping, at Town Hall to discuss Route 125.

Harvey stated there is a problem in Sandown 121A, at the Rockingham Recreational Trail. The problem is caused by people riding ATV's using the trail, it is causing major dust issues. Members discussed that the problem is not eligible for any federal funding because it doesn't follow under the guidelines and that it needs to be handled as a maintenance issue.

Ohler stated there have been a lot of bad air days, particularly June 19th and 20th. All but three of the monitor stations have exceeded air quality in either the one or eight-hour standard. The transit service providers are offering free ridership days on air quality action days.

9. Adjourn

Motion: **Ohler** made a motion to adjourn at 11:00 a.m. **Sullivan** seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Roxanne M. Rines