



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

Atkinson Town Hall  
Friday, March 28, 2003

**Members Present:** Ellen Faulconer, Chair, Kingston; Merylyn Senter, Plaistow; Tom Case, Windham; Richard Cooney, Salem; Edward Stewart, Atkinson; Becky Ohler, DES; and Robert Lyford, DOT.

**Others Present:** Anthony Komornick, MVPC; and Linda Harvey, Salem.

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

Meeting opened at 9:39 a.m.

### **I. Introductions**

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

### **2. Communications**

Walker distributed several handouts to members. **Walker** stated there is a tri-state transportation safety conference in Fairly, Vermont on April 17-18, 2003. There will be an Achieving Smartgrowth in NH workshop scheduled for May 12, at the New England Center on UNH.

**Bogle** stated the state bike/ped conference is scheduled for May 22, at Waterville Valley. **Harvey** stated there will be a heavy emphasis at this workshop on safe routes to schools and more pedestrian discussion this year.

### **3. Approval of the minutes from September 28, 2002 and December 20, 2002, minutes.**

**Motion:** **Ohler** made a motion to accept the minutes of September 28, 2002, as corrected. **Faulconer** seconded the motion. **Ohler** corrected that "in 2002 there were 13 ozone action days".  
**Motion carried with abstentions.**

**Motion:** **Ohler** made a motion to accept the minutes of December 20, 2002, as written. **Faulconer** seconded the motion. **Motion carried with abstentions.**

### **4. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

**Walker** stated this is the Planning Commissions scope of work for the next two fiscal years. He explained how the RPC will receive it's funding and how the work is distributed amongst employees. Another big change is the update to the regional traffic model; DOT is helping with the cost of switching the software

and the cost of a regional survey because the model is needed for the Dover/Newington project. The model should be completed by December 2003. He reviewed other changes in the document.

**Bogle** reviewed the changes in the transit section. The draft is due to DOT by March 14<sup>th</sup>; and described DOT's suggested changes. He then continued reviewing the change in the rest of the document. **Bogle** stated that the Policy committee and RPC commissioners need to approve the document before it is sent to Governor and Council.

**Motion:** **Senter** made a motion to conditionally adopt the SPW 2004-2005 UPWP as amended, subject to DOT, DES, FTA and FHWA comments and approvals and send the document to the Policy Committee for their approval. **Falconer** seconded the motion.

**Falconer** asked if members could review the corrected version of the document? **Bogle** stated the document will be posted on the rpc's website. **Motion carried with Case, DOT and DES abstaining.**

## 5. State Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #2

**Walker** stated DOT has requested an amendment to the STIP; which will also amend the regional TIP. There are no projects specific to this MPO; however, there are statewide amendments. All of the amendments are minor, which means there is no public comment period or hearing necessary. He quickly reviewed the amendments.

**Motion:** **Case** made a motion that TAC recommend the MPO's approval of STIP amendment #2. **Senter** seconded the motion. **Motion carried with DOT and DES abstaining.**

## 6. Ten Year Plan Project Prioritization & Draft 2005-2007 TIP Approval

**Walker** stated the ten year packets were sent out in January and projects were due March 14<sup>th</sup>. In the SPW region no new project applications were received. Several towns sent letters requesting studies for certain areas, but no actual construction projects were received.

There are three left over projects from previous rounds that were high priorities and those are: North Broadway widening in Salem; 125/121A Hazeltine Avenue in Plaistow; and Main Street intersection improvements in Salem.

**Senter** asked if the Plaistow project should include Cushing Avenue? **Walker** stated yes, NH is waiting for the Massachusetts side of the project.

**Harvey** stated that North Broadway has sidewalks on both sides and asked if those will be replaced after the road is widened? **Walker** stated he is not sure if the project will be a widening until the scope of work gets under way.

**Harvey** stated there are no sidewalks on Old Rockingham Road to Route 111, there are plans for a few hundred apartments on that road and asked staff to remember sidewalks are needed when planning for that road.

**Ohler** stated DOT doesn't want defined projects anymore and asked if the names of the projects should be changed? **Walker** stated yes, they should be and in the future projects will not be defined as "widening or signalization". Project descriptions will provide a lot more details about the project and the issues with the area.

**Walker** stated in addition to the 3 projects there are some other considerations. There is a whole list of projects from the long range plan and letters from communities asking about corridor studies or improvement projects that he would like TAC to prioritize. He briefly summarized the projects on the list.

**Faulconer** asked if towns should review project lists to make sure their projects are still viable? **Walker** stated yes, towns should regularly review the list.

**Motion:** **Cooney** made a motion to keep the Ten Year Project Prioritization list as. **Senter** seconded the motion.

**Harvey** asked if the word "widening" on the North Broadway project was going to be removed? **Cooney** stated it should not be. **Faulconer** stated that DOT asked MPO's to not give solutions any more, but to tell them what needs fixing. **Cooney** stated the project is on the books, it has plans and TAC shouldn't be making changes without the town knowing.

**Faulconer** asked Walker if he could speak with the Salem officials? **Walker** stated he could; he hadn't planned on changing the name of the project. Discussion ensued about how the DOT wants to approach projects in the future.

**Walker** stated he will speak to Bill Scott and ask his opinion about changing the name and stated that all the projects will have more description when the document is given to DOT. **Cooney** stated the only way to improve that intersection is to widen it, there are no other options. **Ohler** again explained what DOT is looking for and gave the Belmont bypass example. **Cooney** stated his experience is that the project is the vision the town wants. **Ohler** stated DOT is really trying to change the way they are doing business. More discussion ensued. **Motion carried with DOT and DES abstaining.**

**Walker** stated he plans on submitting the ten year project list and the draft TIP project list to DOT together and asked if he could submit the TIP projects as a bullet list and not in any priority. **Faulconer** stated she would like more information about the projects on the bulleted list. Members decided that the East Road (Atkinson) project would be added to the list.

**Motion:** **Senter** made a motion to accept the Ten Year Project Prioritization and list the projects and studies as bullets with a note stating the list is not prioritized. **Case** seconded the motion. **Motion carried with DOT and DES abstaining.**

**Walker** stated another part of this agenda item is the draft 2005-2007 MPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which the MPO needs to adopt. The draft needs to be submitted by May 1 and continued to explain the timeframe for approval.

He reviewed tables from the State's draft 10-Year Plan, there are a couple of changes in the area and this only covers the 2005-07 time period. The larger Plaistow-Kingston project is proposed to move to 2007; and the Salem Depot is also proposed to be delayed until 2007. **Faulconer** asked what projects will be moved in 2007 to allow the two projects to proceed? **Walker** stated he does not know, he hasn't had time to review the rest of the list. **Faulconer** stated she does not believe the Plaistow-Kingston project will be completed in 2007 either and until DOT shows her where the \$16 million dollars will come from, she's not going to vote in favor.

**Walker** stated he will speak to Jeff Brillhart, DOT, and try to get Faulconer's question answered before the Policy meeting. More discussion ensued amongst members about the TIP process.

**Motion:** **Case** made a motion to not recommend the Policy Committee adopt the draft 2005-2007 TIP because of the further delay in the Plaistow-Kingston project. **Senter** seconded the motion.  
**Motion carried with DOT and DES abstaining.**

## 7. Long Range Transportation Plan

**Bogle** stated the final draft has been through the public comment period and one substantive comment was received. He briefly reviewed the appendices and the financial plan.

**Walker** spoke about the plan being financially constrained and that he did not include the I-93 project in the highway portion.

**Bogle** stated the estimated cost of the Greater Derry/Salem Service is \$400,000 (capital and 3 years of operating). The SPW portion would be \$200,000 and the balance will be from Derry with FTA funds that have been allocated to the Nashua urbanized area. He continued that as soon as the 2000 census commuter information is available it will be incorporated. **Senter** commented that the hearing for the Greater Derry/Salem project went very well.

**Walker** asked that any further comments be sent to staff. **Ohler** asked if her comments had been incorporated? **Walker** stated yes. He explained that he will make the project lists tables easier to read and add more text to the descriptions.

**Motion:** **Case** made a motion that TAC approve and recommend the Policy Committee's approval of the Long Range Transportation Plan with the change to add chapter titles at the top of pages.  
**Senter** seconded the motion. **Motion carried with DES and DOT abstaining.**

## 8. 2003-2004 TE/CMAQ Round

**Bogle** stated a mailing was sent describing the beginning of round #7; there will be separate workshops held in late April for each MPO, date and time to be determined. The amount of statewide funding is \$8.5 million for CMAQ and \$3.7 million for TE. **Walker** stated there is still some uncertainty about the amounts because TEA-21 expires before the projects will be programmed.

**Ohler** stated there will be more emphasis this round on having consistent air quality information. **Bogle** stated that staff will have applicants give all of their information to staff and staff will complete the air quality section.

**Ohler** explained the diesel engine retrofit program and stated it is a good idea for school bus systems and is also available for municipalities. **Bogle** stated that CMAQ projects will be evaluated by MPO and TE will be by planning commission boundaries.

## 9. State Planning & Research Grant

**Walker** stated the above is a small grant program, in the past the RPC has applied for and been granted funding, which has enabled the RPC to fund some small studies in the regions. Members discussed some ideas for the future.

Members discussed open space issues with staff. **Ohler** stated that at the Nashua Policy committee, town representatives give a short description of what is happening in their town.

**10. Project Updates**

Staff gave brief explanations about ongoing projects. **Ohler** stated that April 1<sup>st</sup>, is the beginning of the ozone season.

**11. Next Meeting**

**Walker** stated the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>.

**12. Adjourn**

**Motion: Senter** made a motion to adjourn at 12:50 p.m. **Ohler** seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Motion adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne M. Rines  
Recording Secretary