



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

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

Windham Town Hall
Friday, May 14, 2004

Members Present: Merylyn Senter, Co-Chair, Plaistow; Tom Case, Windham; Lesley-Ann Hume, Kingston; Becky Ohler, NH DES; and Alaina Bailey, NH DOT.

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

Meeting opened at 9:35 a.m.

I. Introductions

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

2. Communications

Walker stated he is adding an item to the agenda as 5A. **Ohler** stated DES is into the second year of their Diesel Capacity Idling project. This year they are concentrating in the southern region and asked members to give her the names of any diesel fleets they know of.

3. Approval of March 16, 2004 minutes.

Motion: **Case** made a motion to accept the minutes of January 16, 2004, as written. **Ohler** seconded the motion. **Motion carried with Hume abstaining.**

4. Greater Derry-Salem Regional Transit Initiative

Bogle reviewed materials that were presented to Board of Selectmen in the regional transit area. There isn't a recipient within the region to serve as the FTA recipient for the initiative. The Town of Salem had said they would be the recipient, but DOT stated the process for establishing a new agency recognized by the FTA is a very long process.

The current plan is that maybe COAST can be the recipient on an interim basis. The COAST Executive Board has some concerns, but they are willing to consider the idea.

5. Ten-Year Plan Status Report

Walker stated the plan was adopted with amendments on May 6th, by the Senate, it now goes back to a conference committee. Once the amendments are resolved the plan goes to the Governor for signature.

The Senate used the GACIT version of the plan, plus 3 or 4 red listed bridges. The bill recognizes that the plan extends past ten years and no new projects, except emergencies will be added until the plan is constrained to 10 years.

Walker continued that included in the plan is a provision that establishes the ability to use GARVEE bonds for I-93 or any other construction project.

Hume stated the original construction dates for projects are back because of the GACIT version being passed. **Bailey** stated she does not know if the dates changed, but the projects were put back in the plan. Discussion ensued about the process and how it works.

Members discussed some of the issues with the current MPO model.

5A. CMAQ & TE Report

Bogle reviewed the process for project submissions to both CMAQ and TE. The Seacoast TAC suggested that both Executive Directors draft a memo explaining what happened with the selection process and to develop recommendations for the MPO with regard to the process.

The only TE project submitted was from Sandown for downtown sidewalk improvements, this project was recommended. Also, a CMAQ project from the town of Salem was recommended at a lower dollar value than requested. Two DOT projects were recommended for funding: the I-93 Expanded Commuter Bus Service and a late addition project (that was added after the ranking process was complete); the construction of the three park & rides lots along I-93.

Bogle explained the addition of CMAQ funds from the Nashua project and the addition of the four projects from DOT. The MPO Directors recommended actions were: 1) the four late addition projects be formally submitted to the MPO's for air quality analysis; 2) the decision not to score the projects by several members were meant to be treated as a score of zero; 3) the four projects should be considered as contingent projects to be funded only to the extent necessitated by potentially lapsing funds; and 4) the minimum benefit/cost criteria for air quality benefits should be established for future CMAQ project evaluations.

Ohler added a comment to recommendation #4, the cost/benefit criteria, the minimum should establish a uniform methodology for use by all applicants, before the next round. **Bogle** stated the Seacoast MPO is currently starting to develop CMAQ projects for the next round, using innovative regional projects for submission. More discussion ensued about the four DOT projects and how they were added.

Motion: **Hume** made a motion to forward the above list of recommendations with **Ohler's** comment of establishing a methodology; to the SPW Policy Committee for their approval and forwarding to the NH DOT. **Case** seconded the motion. **Motion carried with DOT and DES abstaining.**

6. NH 125 Status Report

Walker stated the Hunt/Newton Junction Road portion of the project is under construction, there will be a public hearing in either late June or early July. The next Advisory Task Force meeting is scheduled for June 10, at the Plaistow Town Hall at 6:30 p.m. **Senter** stated the work on the lower portion of Route 125 has started.

7. NH 111 Bypass Status Report

Walker spoke with Bill Cass, DOT, the project has four contracts and the first is underway.

Walker stated the I-93 EIS has been finalized. The Federal Highway Administration will issue a record of decision shortly and this will allow the final design to go forward.

8. Project Updates

Walker stated the RPC has submitted an SPRP application to create a manual for communities to help evaluate traffic impact studies and the impacts of transportation on land use decisions.

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Case asked about the Wall Street project? **Walker** stated the Wall Street project is still floating around; DOT has stated they will fund a study.

9. Discussion of Next Meeting/Schedule

Walker stated the next scheduled meeting is Friday, July 9th.

10. Adjourn

Motion adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne M. Rines
Recording Secretary

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