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MPO**

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

MEMORANDUM

TO: SPW MPO Technical Advisory Committee
FROM: MPO Staff
DATE: October 15, 2004
RE: Project Updates

REGIONAL TRAVEL DEMAND MODEL UPDATE: The model update to bring the base year up to the Year 2000, change to the TransCad software, and to bring additional capabilities into the model is completed. . The model will be used to assist in the development of future traffic volumes for the Newington-Dover project, the US 1 Bypass improvements, as well as for the US 1 Corridor study. As issues arise from those projects, the model is being refined and fine tuned to ensure a well calibrated and validated traffic model. Staff would like to provide the MPO with a similar presentation at some future meeting if there is interest.

SPR PROGRAM: RPC submitted a proposal for this grant program that would develop a guidebook for communities to assist them with transportation planning and reviewing the impacts of development on their transportation systems. In September, RPC received notice that we had been awarded this grant for \$20,000 in federal SPR funds to be matched with \$5000 in local funds. This project is expected to take approximately 6 months to complete and will begin sometime soon after the new year.

GREATER DERRY-SALEM TRANSIT INITIATIVE: Work on the regional transit initiative is ongoing with three main efforts: municipal presentations to explain the project and secure matching funding beginning in 2005; meetings with provider agencies to define agency participation in the proposed brokerage system; and work with NHDOT, FTA, and the Nashua and Manchester MPOs related to FTA funding for the project and securing an agreement with an existing FTA recipient agency to allow the region to begin accessing FTA funds early in 2005. Recent municipal presentations have included Selectmen in Plaistow, Danville, Hampstead, Pelham, and Windham; and the Derry Town Council. We are scheduled to present to the Salem Selectmen on Monday October 18. Staff level presentations have been made in the other communities, and we expect to meet with each of the remaining towns during October and November.

On a related note, the SE-TRIP (Salem Employment Trip Reduction Integration Project) project was presented to the Salem Selectmen several weeks ago, and generated significant positive press coverage in the Eagle Tribune, Salem Observer, and Derry News. The fixed route bus service proposed as part of the SE-TRIP CMAQ grant will focus on employment transportation, but will be coordinated with the regional transit brokerage project.

WINDHAM SEGMENT OF SALEM-CONCORD RAIL TRAIL: Windham Town officials met with NHDOT Commissioner Carol Murray last week to discuss Town involvement in managing the Windham segment of NHDOT's proposed Salem-Concord Rail Trail. Issues remain to be resolved with the Department of Resources and Economic Development, which currently manages the right of way for

NHDOT, regarding surface material for the trail. While the Town and developers who have offered monetary and in-kind support for trail construction are interested in a paved surface, DRED is arguing for an unpaved surface that will be preferable for snowmobile use. The Town is seeking rapid resolution to these questions in order to take advantage of developers having equipment on-hand for upcoming paving of adjacent subdivision roads that could be used to also construct a stretch of the trail.

PLAISTOW-KINGSTON NH 125 PROJECT (10044-B): The Public Hearing for the project is scheduled for Wednesday, November 3rd at the Pollard School Gymnasium on 120 Main Street in Plaistow. Open public viewing of the plans is scheduled between 5pm & 6:45pm with the formal Public Hearing convening at 7pm. The Hearing is a Joint Hearing involving the ACOE, NHDES, FHWA, & the NHDOT and will be overseen by a Special Committee, consisting of three Executive Councilors. Notices to all the abutting property owners, along with regional and local Officials, state & federal agencies, and other interested groups are in the process of being mailed. A Draft Environmental Assessment has been completed and is available for public inspection at the public libraries and town offices in Plaistow and Kingston. Plans are available for inspection at the J.O. Morton Bldg in Concord for anyone that is interested (they should contact Chris Waszczuk to arrange an appointment). Also the plans will be posted on the Department's website at <http://webster.state.nh.us/dot/projects/index.htm> under the Plaistow-Kingston 10044-B project heading.

NH 111 BYPASS: Construction continues on this project with two contracts underway east of NH 28. Third contract (section west of and including NH 28) will be bid this winter for construction beginning next season. Completion of the project is anticipated for the end of 2006.

I-93: A FHWA Record of Decision (ROD) and the start of final design work is anticipated by the end of this year. Permitting is anticipated to follow the ROD. Construction of the Exit 5 Park and Ride facility is anticipated to begin mid-2005 and the Exit 2 Park and Ride constructed during late 2005/early 2006. Mainline construction is anticipated to begin in 2006 barring any delays during the permitting process. Strategic planning of the Community Technical Assistance Program is planned to happen over this winter.

PLAISTOW 13803: NH DOT is currently setting up a public hearing for this winter. They are planning on bringing two concepts, one that would have a left turn lane at Kohl's / Great Elm Plaza and a continuous raised median from Wentworth to the Kohl's / Great Elm Plaza and to the Walmart intersection. The second plan for discussion would have the left turn lane at Kohl's / Great Elm Plaza and a dual use left turn lane along some of the segment between Wentworth and Kohl's. The project is currently expected to advertise and be constructed during 2006. This will depend on the amount of ROW needed, and the outcome of the public hearing.