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

MEMORANDUM

TO: SPW MPO Technical Advisory Committee
FROM: MPO Staff
DATE: February 3, 2005
RE: Project Updates

NHDOT LONG RANGE BUSINESS PLAN LISTENING SESSIONS: NHDOT held its Listening Session for the Salem-Plaistow-Windham MPO Region on October 27 at Kingston Town Hall in conjunction with the last meeting of the SPW MPO Policy Committee. A transcript of the wall notes from this meeting, and a summary of key issues discussed, are attached here. Results of these and the other regional Listening Sessions were presented on December 2 at a Listening Summit in Concord. A second round of regional visioning sessions, this round targeting the general public, will begin in February or March.

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: Staff have made presentations to the Selectmen in most of the service area towns this fall, including Plaistow, Danville, Hampstead, Salem, Sandown, Windham, Pelham, and Derry. We expect to have Selectmen-endorsed warrant articles or budget line items for first year municipal funding in each community with the exception of Windham. Staff will make brief presentations at deliberative sessions in support of these warrant articles beginning this weekend.

Rep. Richard Cooney has introduced enabling legislation establishing the Greater Derry-Salem Cooperative Alliance for Regional Transportation (CART). At this point cosigners on the bill include Sen. Chuck Morse, Sen. Bob LeTourneau, Rep. Jim Rausch, Rep. George Katsakioras, Rep. Robert Introne, and Rep. Russell Ingram. The NH Transit Association has endorsed the bill, and we will likely work with the Transit Association on a legislators lunch in February or early March to present the bill and the regional coordination project.

GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION: In September Governor Benson formed a Task Force on Community Transportation to develop a statewide plan for coordinating and expanding access to public transportation. The work of the Task Force will focus largely on updating the 1995 State Transit Coordination plan developed by DHHS, DOT, OSP. NHDOT has applied for and received a \$35,000 planning grant under the United We Ride program.