



**Salem
Plaistow
Windham
MPO**



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

Salem-Plaistow-Windham
TAC Meeting
Minutes

Thursday, February 3, 2005
Hampstead Town Hall

Members Present: Ellen Faulconer, Chair, Kingston; Marilyn Senter, Plaistow; Richard Cooney, Salem; Becky Ohler, DES; Alaina Bailey, DOT; and Dick Lemieux, FHWA.

Others Present: Bill Scott, Salem; Leigh Komornick, Plaistow; and Kevin Burke, Kingston.

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

Meeting opened at 9: a.m.

1. Introductions

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

2. Communications

Walker stated there is a Route 125 Advisory Task Force meeting on Thursday February 10th, at 6:30 pm., at the Kingston Town Hall.

Bogle stated Martha Fuller-Clark put forward a resolution that gas tax revenues be used for transit projects. Members spoke of similar resolutions that have been introduced in the past and never made it very far.

Bogle stated another TE/CMAQ round will begin in the spring.

3. Minutes from October 15, 2004

Motion: Ohler made a motion to approve the minutes of October 15, 2004, as written. **Senter** seconded the motion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Faulconer asked if the draft TIP amendment definitions have been determined? **Walker** stated the Executive Directors are working on the definitions, he has not seen anything final

Faulconer asked how the Transportation Business Plan update is progressing? **Bogle** stated there was a summit held where the results from the listening sessions were discussed and stated a summary is included on the project list updates.

Faulconer asked about the SPR grant the RPC received to create a Traffic Impact Manual for communities? **Walker** stated the RPC is in the process of getting a contract signed.

Faulconer asked about whether the Route 111 bypass will be completed by 2006? **Walker** stated he does not have that answer, but will find it.

4. 2005-2007 TIP, 2005-2025 LONG RANGE PLAN, AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY UPDATE

Walker stated as of December 14, 2004, the STIP was approved and it is in effect. The TIP is also going ahead, there will be a couple of amendments coming forth. The air quality conformity was approved, we are in the process of proving conformity for the 8-hour standard, this needs to be done by June 15th.

Ohler stated the conformity years will consist of a 2002 baseline, 2007, 2009/10, 2025, and another year; possibly 2017. She continued that she will know the last year after her meeting on February 17th.

5. MPO PROJECT SOLICITATION PROCESS

Walker stated the December packet included a draft memorandum and letter about soliciting projects for the long range plan, the current packet contained an updated letter. No new projects can be added to the states 10-year plan this cycle; but staff is still asking for projects for the MPO's long range plan.

Faulconer asked why solicit projects when none can be added? **Walker** stated because the MPO does not have many projects waiting to be put onto the list and staff would like to be prepared with projects. The DOT is in the process of revising how they handle projects that are proposed in the 10-year plan. The indication is that there will be a much more intensive project development process on the DOT side.

Walker continued it may be possible to get a project added to the ten year list under the following conditions: an emergency that needs to be addressed or projects that can be fast tracked. Members gave suggestions about how to solicit projects.

Walker stated the second component to the project solicitation is to send the request for projects to the towns through a contact person. This year, staff would like to send the information to the TAC representative from the town and then send cc's to the usual town persons.

Further discussion ensued about what staff will be looking for during the project solicitation process. **Scott** spoke about how Salem uses a program called "design build".

Motion: **Senter** made a motion to approve the general letter with revisions and the process for project solicitation. **Faulconer** seconded the motion. **Motion carried with DES, DOT and FHWA abstaining.**

6. DISCUSSION OF NNEPRA CMAQ PROPOSAL

Bogle distributed a copy of the CMAQ application from NNEPRA (they manage the Downeaster). NNEPRA submitted an application to DOT in the fall for \$1.2 million in CMAQ funding to construct track capacity improvements. He reviewed his cover memo and their application. The matching money would come from the State of Maine.

He continued that the proposal was unanimously endorsed by the state's CMAQ Advisory Committee. It was brought to a GACIT meeting in October, at that meeting there was not enough support amongst members and the application was tabled. Staff's understanding is that Jim Jalbert, from C & J Trailways has been arguing against the project. He has business concerns that this will compete with his commuter bus service. He has voiced some concerns that will need to be addressed.

Bogle continued that the Seacoast MPO Policy Committee voted unanimously to send a letter in support of this project to Executive Councilor Ruth Griffin. **Falconer** asked if funding this project would take money from any town projects who are also waiting for CMAQ funding? **Bogle** stated it is his understanding that this will not bump any other projects; it would link in with the CMAQ funding for the Nashua rail project.

Bogle stated it would also be useful if the three station communities passed resolutions through their town governments. There will be a meeting in the next couple of weeks that will include NNEPRA and C & J, to discuss some of C & J's issues.

Lemieux asked about the air quality analysis? **Bogle** stated benefits are being seen; however, they are not spectacular, but they do exist.

Motion: **Ohler** made a motion that the TAC Committee send their own letter and recommend that the Policy Committee send a letter of support for the NNEPRA CMAQ application to Executive Councilor Ruth Griffin with cc's to the rest of the councilors. **Senter** seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

7. Project Updates

Cooney stated the 111 bypass is under construction. The DOT plans to wait until the project is completed end to end before any traffic is allowed on it. He feels traffic should be allowed on the portion that will be done soon. The entire project will not be done until 2007, why should we wait? Members discussed issues relating to the roadway. **Cooney** stated he has asked the department to reconsider opening portion of the road sooner.

Ohler stated there has been a lot of misinformation in the newspapers about the impending motor vehicle inspection program. The articles the Union Leader has been printing are vastly distorting the facts. DOS will implement an On Board Diagnostic (OBD) testing with the yearly state safety inspection on all cars 1996 and newer. Under the Clean Air Act, NH is required to do tailpipe testing in southern and seacoast NH. New Hampshire refused to use tailpipe testing and agreed to OBD testing.

She continued to explain the differences between OBD and tailpipe testing.

Cooney stated he and other legislators have concerns about OBD testing, even though it seems to be the better way to go. He spoke about some of those concerns. **Ohler** spoke about some of the problems that OBD can find.

Bogle distributed a handout with more updates and briefly reviewed.

8. Discussion of Next Meeting/Meeting Schedule

Walker stated the next meeting will be March 11, 2005. **Komornick** stated she will check with the town hall and give Walker a call to confirm the date.

9. Meeting Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne M. Rines
Recording Secretary