

RPC TAC MEETING

Minutes

August 24, 2017
RPC Conference Room

Members Present: Richard McDermott, Chair, Hampton Falls; Tim Moore, Plaistow; Steve Gerrato, Greenland; Richard Hartung, Hampstead; Tavis Austin; Stratham; Andre Garron, Salem; David Baxter, Seabrook; Gregg Mikolaities, Rye; Carol Macuch; NH DOT; and Elizabeth Strachan, NH DES.

Others Present: Tom Morgan, Seabrook.

Staff Present: Tim Roache, Dave Walker, Scott Bogle, Christian Matthews and Roxanne Rines, RPC.

Meeting Opened at 9:01 a.m.

1. Introductions

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

2. Minutes of June 29, 2017, TAC Meeting

Motion: **Moore** made a motion to approve the minutes of June 29, 2017, as written. **Hartung** seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

3. Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) – FY 2017 State Clean Diesel Grant Program

Strachan gave an overview of the DERA grant opportunity. The focus of the program is to either modify current diesel engines or remove older diesel engine vehicles from service. She briefly explained the types of eligible projects and restrictions.

She stated Request for Proposals will be available on DES' website shortly; the first round of applications will be accepted between October 1 - 15. If you have questions, please contact Strachan. Discussion ensued.

4. Ten Year Plan Update

Walker stated staff received 18 new projects, he reviewed the prioritized list that DOT received in May. The regions total budget limit is approximately \$6.6 M for 2 years.

DOT selected projected #2 project (Hampton #6001023, at a cost of \$7,486,250), for addition into the 10-year plan. This option would mean that no other project could be added. DOT indicated that the MPO could instead put forward an alternative package of projects and get the changes made during the GACIT hearings.

Walker reviewed the priority list of 10 projects and explained scenario one and 2. Staff wants to recommend projects of different scales, modes of travel and to have them distributed evenly around the region. The Town of Hampton has two large transportation projects underway. **Walker** stated in order to obtain staff's goal as state above, scenario 2 or something similar is a better fit. Scenario 2 could fund 5 projects: #1, #3, #5, #8 and #10 from the list.

Walker stated staff is concerned about the time given by DOT for comments during the project selection process. DOT was supposed to involve the MPO's.

Discussion ensued about Hampton's lack of support for project #1 and projects that could be funded thru different programs.

Motion: **Baxter** made a motion to consider an alternative to DOT's priority. **Moore** seconded the motion. **Motion carried.** **Baxter** asked if the Hampton project is removed, can they secure funding from another program. **Walker** stated yes, both the TA and CMAQ programs.

Motion: **Baxter** made a motion that the MPO Policy Committee approve projects #1, 3, 5, 8 and 10 as the MPO's priorities. **Moore** seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

5. CMAQ – Projects Submitted and Anticipated Process

Bogle gave an overview of the program and gave a brief description of the letters of interest received, totaling \$15.9M. Statewide there is \$13.5M in funding, statewide 31 letters of interest were send to DOT with the total cost of all projects being \$34.9M.

He stated this round will be have no regional ranking of projects at the MPO level, DOT will decide the rankings. There is concern amongst the planning commissions that both staff and the CMAQ Advisory Committee have been left out of the process. The Executive Directors jointly prepared a letter to GACIT with recommendations, which he distributed. Discussion ensued.

Macuch, NH DOT, gave an update on the CMAQ process progress to date. Discussion ensued. **Walker** stated DOT needs to let them know of the final process with due dates.

6. Long Range Transportation Plan Update

Bogle reviewed the work completed since the last TAC meeting. He stated that the chapters need to be reviewed by persons outside of staff. He asked members if anyone is willing to review a chapter, please let him or Walker know. **Bogle** stated all six draft chapters are complete and are available on the RPC website. The 30-day comment period will start on September 6 and the document will be voted on at the October MPO meeting.

Bogle gave a summary of the chapters and reviewed the remaining work. Discussion ensued. He asked for any comments be sent to either himself or Walker by Friday.

7. Highway Safety Improvement Program – Road Safety Audits

Walker distributed a handout and reviewed the program. The requirement for a HSIP project is that the roadway must have had a fatality within the last 10 years. Proposals/Applications are due December 1. **Walker** is available for help with proposals, crash data and crash data analysis.

8. Project Updates

A handout was distributed with other project updates.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne M. Rines
Recording Secretary