

RPC TAC MEETING

Minutes

September 28, 2017
RPC Conference Room

Members Present: Dave Sharples, Vice-Chair, Exeter; Robert Clark, Atkinson; Ken Christiansen, Brentwood; Juliet Walker, Portsmouth; Richard Hartung, Hampstead; Chris Jacobs, Hampton; Gregg Mikolaities, Rye; Tavis Austin; Stratham; David Baxter, Seabrook; Maria Stowell, PDA; Leigh Levine; FHWA; Carol Macuch, NH DOT; and Elizabeth Strachan, NH DES.

Others Present: Paul Maloney, FHWA.

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

Meeting Opened at 9:00 a.m.

1. Introductions

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

2. Minutes of August 24, 2017, TAC Meeting

Motion: **Hartung** made a motion to approve the minutes of August 24, 2017, as written. **Mikolaities** seconded the motion. **Motion carried with abstentions.**

3. Ten Year Plan Priorities (redux)

D. Walker stated that there are 2 parts that need addressing: the comments on the draft Ten Year Plan, policies and other related issues; and the MPO recommendations for priority projects.

He reviewed staffs project comments along with the policy & funding comments. The Policy committee approved projects #1, 3, 5, 8 and 10 be substituted for project #2 (due to cost) in the priority list. DOT informed staff that the cost of the projects submitted (based on current project costs and inflation to a 2028 construction year) total over \$18M. The region's budget "target" is \$6.6M, he reviewed the cost changes to the five projects.

A revised recommendation for the MPO project priorities needs to be provided to DOT and GACIT. **Walker** explained project #3 in North Hampton is not as critical as the others and suggested that project be removed. The revised cost of project #5 in Seabrook exceeds the entire budget plus there is some divergence between the town and state as to the scope of the project. Staff is recommending

removing both #3 and #5 projects from the priority list, leaving projects #1, 8 and 10 as the MPO's priorities. Those locations also provide a geographically diverse set of projects.

Discussion ensued about sidewalks vs. bike paths vs. shoulders. **Baxter** stated the Seabrook project has been removed from the list and the town is disappointed. He gave a brief history of the project area and the towns concerns. Discussion ensued. **Baxter** asked that the Seabrook project be put back on the priority list.

Motion: **Christiansen** made a motion that the MPO Policy Committee adopt projects #1, #8 and #10 for inclusion in the State 2019-2028 Ten Year Plan and request that NH DOT substitute them for priority #2 as listed in the draft Ten Year Plan document. **Clark** seconded the motion. Discussion ensued about boundaries.

Motion: **Baxter** made a motion to amend the motion to include adding project #5, the Seabrook project to the end of the priority list. **Walker** stated a note can be added that there are private funds available, which will lower the total cost of funding. **J. Walker** seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Christiansen and **Clark** both accepted the amendment to the motion. Vote on the motion to approve with the amendment. **Motion carried.**

D. Walker urged municipalities to show up at the GACIT hearing and speak for their projects.

Motion: **Christiansen** made a motion that the MPO Policy Committee approve and recommend the project specified, policy and transportation planning comments to be submitted to NH DOT and GACIT along with the project priority additions to the Ten Year Plan. **Baxter** seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

4. CMAQ Update

Bogle reviewed the process for funds. Staff received 11 letters of interest from four communities, COAST, Wildcat and NNEPRA; however, one of the communities will not be applying. Applications are due October 20th. The RPC will work with DOT on the air quality analysis. DOT would like to have the applications ready for GACIT at their December meeting.

He continued that there will be no formal regional ranking in DOT's process. Executive Councilor Prescott has said that councilors would like to see regional rankings to consider in their decision making. The final project decisions will be made by GACIT.

Bogle reviewed DOT's project evaluation process and their scoring. Staff would like to meet with communities and help them make a strong application for consideration.

5. Draft Long Range Transportation Plan

Bogle thanked the members who reviewed the plan and sent comments. He stated a 30-day comment period began on September 8th and will conclude October 11th at the public hearing at the MPO Policy Committee at the Portsmouth Library at 7:00 p.m. He reviewed the changes made and stated staff has identified several areas needing further refinement. No public comments have been received. Discussion ensued.

Motion: **Clark** made a motion to recommend adoption of the Draft Long Range Transportation Plan to the MPO Policy Committee. **Christiansen** seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

6. MPO Title VI Non-Discrimination Plan

Bogle stated the RPC is a recipient of Federal funding for the ACT transit coordination initiative. As such the RPC MPO is responsible for maintaining a Title VI Civil Rights/Non-Discrimination Plan under the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which needs to be periodically updated. The first time the RPC adopted a plan was in 2013. He reviewed the objectives of the plan and the enabling legislation.

Motion: **Hartung** made a motion to recommend adoption of the MPO Title VI Non-Discrimination Plan to the MPO Policy Committee. **J. Walker** seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

7. Project Updates

A handout was distributed with other project updates and discussion ensued.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne M. Rines
Recording Secretary