

DRAFT

Rockingham Planning Commission/Metropolitan Planning Organization

Minutes

Kingston Town Hall
January 10, 2018

Members Present: Phil Wilson, Chair, North Hampton; Glenn Coppelman and Peter Coffin, Kingston; Jody Record, Portsmouth; Tim Moore and Julian Kiszka, Plaistow; Barbara Kravitz and Fran McMahon, Hampton; Katherine Woolhouse, Exeter; Richard McDermott and Andrew Brubaker, Peter Merrill, Kensington; Hampton Falls; Richard Clark and Mike Turell, Atkinson; Alan Davis, Hampstead; Stephen Gerrato, Greenland; Gretchen Gott, Raymond; Peter Merrill, Kensington; Robert Babcock, Fremont; Chris Cross, Newington; Mike McAndrew, New Castle; James Van Bokkelen, South Hampton; Liz Strachan, NH DES; and Kevin Russell, NH DOT, Glenn Davison, NHDOT.

Others Present: Sunny Kravitz, Hampton;

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

7:00 p.m. Policy Meeting Opened

1. Introductions

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

2. Minutes from October 11, 2017, RPC Policy Committee

Motion: McDermott made a motion to approve the minutes of October 11, 2017, as written. **Clark** seconded the motion. **Motion carried with 2 abstentions.**

3. Public Hearing Amendment #3 to the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program

7:04 PUBLIC HEARING OPENED

Walker introduced project changes included in TIP Amendment #3. He stated that the RPC initiated a 30-day comment period which concluded in advance of this public hearing. Walker described the details of the amendment including the new projects to be added to the TIP and administrative adjustments to existing projects. Walker provided a summary of the changes to the I-93 project. He concluded his presentation with a summary of the fiscal constraint and air quality requirements.

Public and Member Comments- There was a brief discussion of the innovative incentives project on page 11 of the TIP Amendment. **Davison**, from NHDOT described the project in more detail. There was a clarification on the status of the Route 125 project in Plaistow provided by **Walker**. There was a brief discussion of the content posted on variable message boards after a question by **Davis**. Discussion ensued about funding, project titles, autonomous vehicles, graffiti, bike lanes and etc.

7:20 PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

Action on Amendment #3 to the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program

Motion: **Turell** made a motion to adopt Amendment #3 to the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program. **McDermott** seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

4. MPO Highway Safety Improvement Program Performance Targets.

Walker provided a presentation highlighting the process to establish highway safety improvement program performance targets. He reviewed and explained all measures related fatalities, injuries, rates of injuries for both motorized and non-motorized accidents.

There was discussion about targets being set higher than current rate. **Walker** explained methodology that uses rolling averages can result in targets being set higher. **Walker** went on to provide some explanation of how the information and targets will be used. There was a question about the federal guidelines and if poor weather conditions were considered. **Walker** explained that adequate data was not available to factor in weather conditions. **Davison** added that there is increased awareness and road weather data systems that should improve access to that data.

There was additional discussion regarding data availability, content and quality of data. **Walker** concluded the discussion by informing the members that if no reasonable progress is made towards achieving targets, all Highway Safety Improvement Program dollars must be spent on the program.

Motion: **Kravitz** made a motion to accept the MPO Highway Safety Improvement Program Performance Targets. **Turell** seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

5. Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) wrap up summary

Bogle recapped the CMAQ process. Our region received 11 letters of interest of which 6 resulted in actual project applications. He reviewed the projects and their costs and then recapped the selection criteria and process. The ranking process has changed, DOT will rank the projects, then the Executive Councils will decide on the list of priorities. **Bogle** explained that the process eliminated formal ranking by the RPC's. However, staff did present a project review to the TAC and subsequently passed on comments and recommendations Councilor Prescott for consideration in GACIT's selection process.

Bogle explained that five of the six projects in the RPC region were funded. He then discussed the current and proposed flexing of CMAQ funds. The presentation concluded with a summary of comments submitted to Councilor Prescott and NHDOT for improvements to the process.

6. Draft GACIT Ten Year Plan and Proposed Toll Increase

Roache opened the discussion of the Ten-Year Plan. He stated that the most recent version available to the RPC was adopted on December 20, 2017 at the last GACIT Hearing. This version of the plan included projects and programs funded through a toll increase. Since the approval of this draft plan on December 20, the Governor has publicly stated that he does not support the toll increase. **Davison** informed the members that the NHDOT will meet January 11 to update the plan, removing projects and programs funded through the toll increase. **Roache** reviewed and summarized the proposed toll increase and the benefits and projects that would result from that increase. Walker then provided an overview of the projects in the draft plan. He also summarized comments that the RPC has submitted to the NHDOT. There was a brief discussion of the Route 125 Plaistow Kingston Project. Upon conclusion of the discussion **Coppelman** motioned that the RPC support the toll increase as proposed by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation and Executive Councilor Prescott. There was a second by **Turell**. The motion carried with **Van Bokkelen** opposed.

7. Other Business; MPO Policy Committee meeting topics

Project Updates- a memo was distributed.

8. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Executive Director
Tim Roache