

Minutes

Rockingham Planning Commission Metropolitan Planning Organization January 9, 2019

Rockingham Economic Dev. Center Raymond, NH

Commissioners & MPO Reps Present: B. Kravitz, Chairman, F. McMahon, A. Carnaby (Hampton); N. Reynolds, P. Britz (Portsmouth); M. McAndrew (New Castle); D. Hawkins, M. Rabideau (Seabrook); J. Foley (Epping); L. Cushman, L. Gagnon (Stratham); P. Pelletier, B. Donahue (Salem); J. Kiszka, T. Moore (Plaistow); G. Coppelman, P. Coffin (Kingston); A. Davis (Hampstead); P. Merrill (Kensington); A. Brubaker, R. McDermott (Hampton Falls); M. Allen, J. Doggett (Newton); C. McCarthy (Raymond); L. Plumer, G. English (Exeter); R. Babcock (Fremont); G. Davison (NH DOT); E. Strachan (NHDES)

Guests: M. Dufour (Reource Recovery Assoc.); S. Kravitz, P. Bushway (Hampton); M. Heitz, P. Coombs (Kingston); J. Levenson (Portsmouth); C. Kowalski (Hampstead); A. McAndrew (New Castle)

Staff: T. Roache (Executive Director); D. Walker (Assistant Director/Transp. Manager); A. Pettengill (Business Manager)

1. **MPO Meeting:** Chairman Kravitz convened the MPO meeting at 6:30 p.m. and introductions around the room were made. Kravitz thanked Raymond and the REDC for hosting the meeting and McCarthy gave a brief update on planning projects happening in Raymond.

2. MPO Minutes from October 10, 2018

Doggett moved to approve the Minutes of October 10, 2018 as presented; Coppelman seconded. SO VOTED. (4 abstentions)

3. HSIP 2019 Safety Performance Targets – D. Walker

Walker explained that the Safety Performance Targets document is based on a rule implemented by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requiring

five safety related certain performance targets be set and published annually by each state Department of Transportation. These targets assess and report safety improvements based on number of fatalities, rate of fatalities, number of serious injuries, rate of serious injuries, and number of non-motorized serious injuries. In addition, the MPO's are charged with tracking motorcycle fatalities as an additional safety metric. Walker reviewed various statistics and targets for 2019. Discussion followed. *Doggett moved to approve the Draft HSIP 2019 Safety Performance Target & Methodology report as presented; Plumer seconded. **SO VOTED.***

4. NHDOT Budget Update – D. Walker

Walker noted that in October the NHDOT Commissioner Shaheen came to the Policy Committee meeting to ask the MPO to support their request for more revenue in the SFY20-21 State budget and to bring awareness to the member communities of the unmet needs and looming potential losses in federal funding and how this will affect the State. He reviewed how using turnpike toll credits to match federal highway funds reduces overall resources and if State cash match were used instead it would allow \$197 million of projects to be completed annually. By depending on toll credits only \$158 million, or 20% less, can be completed. Walker further explained that the Technical Advisory Committee endorsed supporting DOT's budget request in December. The request of the DOT specifically includes asking to receive more state revenue adequate to provide cash match on the federally funded highway program releasing the department from being reliant on turnpike toll credits; restoring transit funding to \$200,000/year, and expansion of the Turnpike system along I93 one mile north from Exit 14 to north of Exit 15 in Concord in order to free up \$130 million in federal funds for other priorities in the State. *Moore moved to send an endorsement letter to the Governor's office in support of NHDOT's request to increase their budget in the areas stated above; Britz seconded. **SO VOTED.***

Further discussion followed.

5. Chairman Kravitz adjourned the MPO meeting at 7:17 p.m.

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6. Chairman Kravitz convened the meeting of the Rockingham Planning Commission at 7:17 p.m.

7. Minutes of September 12, 2018

*Doggett moved to approve the Minutes of September 12, 2018 as presented; Coppelman seconded. **SO VOTED.** (2 abstentions)*

8. Presentation: Mike Dufour, Executive Director Northeast Resource Recovery Association: Rising Costs of Recycling

Dufour explained the complexities of recycling and how single stream recycling resulted in contaminated plastics that China, a very important part of the global recycling industry, now refuses to take. China is suffering from a severe environmental crisis with 60% of groundwater unfit for human consumption and 19% of arable land contaminated with heavy metals due to putting economic growth above the environment, a lack of enforcement of existing environmental laws and their staggering increase in urbanization. The reduction of exports to mainland china and other countries has put recycling commodity prices at historical lows. The increased contamination is creating processing costs here that continue to increase as markets demand reduced contamination and this in turn drives up the cost to customers.

He reviewed ways that we can change our thinking about recycling and single stream and ways that communities can clean up their recycle stream and re-use products in other ways. Discussion followed.

9. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Pettengill, Recording Secretary