

Transportation Advisory Committee
Rockingham Planning Commission
Minutes

September 27, 2018
RPC Conference Room, Exeter NH

Members Present: Richard McDermott, Chairman (Hampton Falls); Robert Clark (Atkinson); Tim Moore (Plaistow); Juliet Walker (Portsmouth); Rad Nichols (COAST); Greg Mikolaities (Rye); Lucy St. John (NHDOT); Mike Rabideau (Seabrook); Chris Jacobs (Hampton); Maria Stowell (PDA), Leigh Levine (FHWA), Chris Cross (Newington)

Staff: Dave Walker (Assistant Director); Scott Bogle (Sr. Transportation Planner); Tim Roache (Executive Director); Christian Matthews (Transportation/GIS Analyst)

1. Introductions: Chairman McDermott convened the meeting at 9 a.m. and attendees introduced themselves.
2. Minutes of July 26, 2018

A question was raised regarding the discussion of corridor studies in the State Ten Year Plan from the last paragraph. Clarification was provided by Walker that there are no corridor studies in the Ten Year Plan at this time however NHDOT has included funding in the Ten Year Plan to conduct corridor studies starting in FY21. RPC priorities for corridor studies in the region include NH 33, the western portion of NH 111 and a portion of NH 125 that was not included in either of the two previous studies conducted on that corridor. Rabideau moved to approve the Minutes of July 26, 2018 as revised; Clark seconded. **SO VOTED.**

3. Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Grant – Liz Strachan, NHDES

Strachan provided an overview of DERA and the grant program, including what types of projects are eligible for funding. The program is intended to protect human health and reduce harmful emissions from diesel emissions. A little over a million dollars is available this year for community grants. This is a combination of DERA funds, Volkswagen settlement funds, as well as some additional bonus funds from EPA. Communities can apply for diesel engine replacement or vehicle replacement on older model year for both highway and off-road vehicles such as loaders and backhoes. 25-50% of total cost is

covered by grant funds depending on the type of vehicle being replaced and the type of replacement vehicle. Engine replacement, idle reduction, and emissions control improvements costs are covered at a higher percentage. Vehicles scheduled for replacement within the next three years are not eligible. Vehicles being replaced must be destroyed. Full information is available at:

<https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/air/tsb/tps/msp/diesel-vehicles/dera.htm>

4. COAST Comprehensive Operations Analysis – Rad Nichols, COAST

Nichols provided an overview of the Comprehensive Operations Analysis that COAST will be undertaking over the next 21 months. COAST has received a number of grants to undertake services that are coming to a close and this is providing an opportunity to look at the entire operation and assess service needs. COAST will be collecting data and input from communities, riders, and other stakeholders to identify those areas that are or are not performing well and opportunities to provide improved service. A small steering committee is being formed to guide and shape the project. There are no preconceived notions of the outcome of this effort and services will be designed according to the input and outcomes with the intent of implementing the changes beginning in 2020.

5. Transportation Alternatives Program; Project Ranking – Scott Bogle, RPC

Bogle provided an overview of the scoring process that was utilized as well as a summary of the scope, cost, and expected benefits of each of the three projects received from regional communities. \$1.87 Million in funds requested by Exeter, New Castle, and Portsmouth. Projects were scored and ranked by MPO staff and three TAC members from communities that did not submit projects for consideration (Moore, Clark, Jacobs). Discussion followed on the merits of three projects. Clark made a motion to recommend approval of the three projects prioritized with New Castle first, Exeter second, and Portsmouth third based on the outcome of the scoring process. Rabideau seconded. **SO VOTED.**

6. Pavement and Bridge (PM2) and Travel Time Reliability (PM3) Performance Measures – D. Walker, RPC

Walker summarized the development of performance targets for the nine performance measures in the Pavement & Bridge Condition (PM2) and Travel Time Reliability (PM3) areas. These measures are focused exclusively on the portion of the regional highway and bridge network that is included in the National Highway System. This includes Interstates 93 and 95, NH 16, US 1 Bypass, NH 101, NH 125 as well as portions of US 1, NH 28, and NH 111. Measures cover pavement and bridge condition (percent good/poor), travel time reliability and truck travel time reliability on the interstates as well as pavement and bridge condition (percent good/poor) and travel time reliability

on the non-interstate NHS. The State of NH was required to establish targets for each of these measures in May, 2018 and the MPO has 180 days from that point to either state support for the State targets or adopt our own. In this first iteration, MPO staff believes that it makes sense for the MPO to adopt the state targets and lend support to programming projects that will help the region and state progress towards meeting them. Jacobs motioned to recommend the MPO adopt the PM2 and PM3 targets established in the Draft Pavement and Bridge Condition and Congestion Performance Targets (September, 2018). Nichols seconded. 1 Abstention. **SO VOTED.**

7. Ten Year Plan Project Prioritization and Selection Criteria – D. Walker, RPC

Walker reviewed staff proposal for managing the prioritization of projects and recommendations for the State Ten Year Plan. He covered the interaction between the Long Range Transportation Plan, The Ten Year Plan, and the Transportation Improvement Program. The state is starting development of the 2021-2030 Ten Year Plan (TYP) and as part of that the regions are developing their priorities for projects to add to the TYP. Walker covered the guidance received from NHDOT for the process and particularly the requirement that all proposed projects go through engineering and cost review prior to being added to the document and that NHDOT will add the region's priorities to the draft Ten Year Plan as presented. The projects will still need to go through the GACIT process as well as Governor's and legislative review which may change things. Definitions of each criteria were discussed and how projects are assessed against each was discussed. Projects will be separated into three groups based on scale (local, regional, inter-regional) and criteria weights will be set for each group as different criteria are more (or less) important at each scale. Criteria weights will be set at the October TAC meeting and the initial prioritization effort to produce a draft candidates list will be finalized at the December 6th TAC meeting. DOT will review the projects and return the results to the MPO to finalize the priorities in March and April, 2019. Jacobs motioned to endorse the project selection process as presented. Nichols Second. 1 Abstention. **SO VOTED.**

8. Project Updates (distributed) – No comments

Moore motioned to adjourn. Jacobs Seconded. SO VOTED. Meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Walker