

## RPC Transportation Advisory Committee Minutes

May 24, 2018

RPC Conference Room, Exeter NH

**Members Present:** Richard McDermott, Chairman (Hampton Falls); Robert Clark (Atkinson); Tim Moore (Plaistow); Chris Cross (Newington); Chris Jacobs (Hampton); Leigh Levine (FHWA); Stephen Gerrato (Greenland); Dave Baxter (Seabrook); Andre Garron (Salem); Tim White (NHDES)

**Staff:** Dave Walker (Transportation Program Mgr); Scott Bogle (Sr. Transportation Planner); Christian Matthews (GIS/Transportation Analyst);

1. **Introductions:** Chairman McDermott convened the meeting at 9 a.m. and attendees introduced themselves

### 2. Minutes of April 26, 2018

No comments regarding the content of the minutes were made. *Clark moved to approve the Minutes of April 26, 2018 as presented with administrative changes to be added; Jacobs seconded. **SO VOTED. Baxter Abstained.***

### 3. Update on TIP Amendment #4 – Dave Walker, RPC

Walker stated that the MPO was required to revisit TIP Amendment #4 due to a recent judicial decision (South Coast Air Quality Management District vs EPA) that FHWA is interpreting to require that the MPO conduct Air Quality Conformity analyses with major policy actions. As this court decision was handed down prior to FHWA approving Amendment #4, the MPO must reconsider the Amendment and account for air quality impacts of the changes. To address this, projects that would trigger the requirement for conducting the air quality analysis were removed from the Amendment. For the RPC this meant removing Epping 29608 from the amendment, and the changes for that project will not happen until the TIP/STIP update this fall/winter. The MPO processed the re-approval of TIP Amendment #4 via the RPC Executive Committee after a 10 day public comment period during which no comments were received and no TAC action is required at this time.

#### **4. Freight Planning Workshop – Dave Walker, RPC**

Walker gave a short presentation touching on the Freight planning information presented by NHDOT at the April TAC meeting. Revisiting why a State Freight Plan is needed, what the intent is, touching on freight flows and the multimodal freight network in the state. The focus then shifted to freight flows in the RPC region and a discussion of Critical Urban (CUFC) and Critical Rural (CRFC) Freight Corridors criteria and candidates for the region. A small group exercise was held where participating TAC members provided input on maps regarding the locations where freight traffic is prevalent in their communities, the locations of industrial zones, and areas that are problematic for freight movement or safety. Walker will bring the recommended CUFC/CRFC locations to the next TAC meeting.

#### **5. Project Solicitation/Selection Process – Dave Walker, RPC**

Walker presented on the interaction for the MPO Long Range Plan, the State Ten Year Plan, and the MPO/State TIP/STIP documents and how projects move from one document to the next as they progress towards implementation. Walker discussed the guidance expected from NHDOT regarding the upcoming Ten Year Plan process, the anticipated schedule, and how the RPC would be soliciting for projects from communities and transportation agencies. Project selection criteria were discussed as well as opportunities to change how the MPO considers projects to ensure a fair process and a slate of projects for the Ten Year Plan that reflect MPO priorities. After discussion it was decided that Walker would investigate and provide a methodology to bring to the TAC at a future meeting for consideration.

#### **6. Stratham Safe Routes to School Project – Scott Bogle, RPC**

Item was tabled until the next meeting.

#### **7. Bike Month Update – Scott Bogle, RPC**

Bogle distributed flyers about the events happening in May that highlight Seacoast Bike & Walk Month. This is an effort by the RPC, SRPC, commuteSMARTSeacoast, Seacoast Area Bicycle Riders (SABR) and various area businesses to encourage alternatives to single vehicle occupant commutes and promote walking, bicycling, carpooling, telecommuting or using public transportation. Over 320 commuters walking or bicycling to work stopped at one of the ten free commuter breakfasts around the RPC/SRPC region. The commuteSMART Business to Business (B2B) Challenge set new records this year, engaging 54 companies and 1,030 individual commuters, logging 9,042 trips. This represented 176,312 avoided auto miles, 81 tons of avoided CO2 emissions and \$99,903 in avoided driving costs for participating commuters.

---

## **8. Hampton Beach Master Plan – Scott Bogle, RPC**

Bogle covered the concepts presented by VHB and NHDOT at the public input session for the Hampton Beach Transportation Master Plan on May 10, 2018. In addition, Bogle covered comments and recommendations that RPC staff were drafting at that time. Jacobs indicated that Hampton Public Works would be submitting comments on the plan as well. Discussion touched on the choke point at the intersection of Ocean Blvd with Church Street, safe accommodation for people walking and bicycling, the emphasis on parking expansion in the design and alternative locations for parking, drainage and flooding problems, evacuation planning, and the various concepts for roadway improvements presented in the draft plan.

### **Project Updates – distributed**

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Pettengill, Recording Secretary