

**Transportation Advisory Committee
Rockingham Planning Commission**

**December 6, 2018
RPC Conference Room, Exeter NH**

Members Present: R. McDermott, Chairman (Hampton Falls); M. Rabideau (Seabrook); M. Stowell (PDA); L. St. John (NHDOT); D. Sharples (Exeter); K. Christiansen (Brentwood); R. Clark (Atkinson); S. Gerrato (Greenland); E. Strachan (NHDES); T. Austin (Stratham); C. Cross (Newington); T. Moore (Plaistow)

Staff: T. Roache (Executive Director); D. Walker (Assistant Director); S. Bogle (Sr. Transportation Planner);

1. Chairman McDermott convened the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

2. Minutes of October 25, 2018

*Moore moved to approve the Minutes of October 25, 2018 as presented; Christiansen seconded. **SO VOTED***

Discussion followed regarding Robert Clark attendance and Randy Clark as guest. (1 abstention)

3. Ten Year Plan Candidate Projects List – D. Walker

Walker explained that the next step in prioritizing projects for the Ten Year Plan is to identify candidate projects from the Long Range Transportation Plan and others recently submitted. A preliminary list was submitted to the TAC in October. NHDOT committed to adding all of the recommended projects to the Ten Year Plan, but the list still must go through the GACIT process. Walker reviewed the selection criteria that was set by the TAC in October and used by him to score each project. NHDOT has asked that the candidate list include two extra projects for review. Once the review is complete, NHDOT will provide any updated cost information and scope issues to the RPC. At that time the RPC TAC & Policy Committees will produce a final priority listing constrained to the allocation target to be submitted by NHDOT next Spring. Discussion followed on weights tallied from prior surveys and applied to categories and projects. Walker reviewed each project and its scoring briefly. Gerrato asked about the Greenland project and Walker stated that the application came in too late after deadlines.

Roache suggested that Greenland and Stratham and Portsmouth should have a meeting about the Rte 33 Corridor and work on a project for the next cycle. Walker suggested they do a corridor study and then once they have a vision for the corridor that will address the congestion, they can submit a project for review. Ranking of projects in the Attachment continued and Walker adjusted his proposed ranking.

*Sharples moved to approve the Candidates Projects List as re-prioritized by the TAC; Austin seconded. **SO VOTED** (L. St. John abstained)*

4. NHDOT Funding Proposal from October Policy Meeting – S. Bogle

Bogle stated that in October the NHDOT Commissioner Victoria Sheehan and Deputy Commissioner Chris Waszczuk came to the Policy meeting to discuss funding challenges for NH Transportation. They asked for the MPO's support for a request to generate additional revenue and raise awareness to communities of the unmet needs and looming potential losses in Federal funding and what that means for NH. Bogle stated that the presentation was difficult to understand. Bogle referred to Attachment 3 for an explanation of the issues and reviewed the key problems: use of turnpike funds to match federal highway funds reduces the overall resources, therefore the transportation system is falling behind; and the lack of fuel tax increases weighed against inflationary increases in construction have eroded the buying power of the Highway Trust Fund, as has the increased fuel efficiency and growing use of alternative fuel vehicles. Discussion followed.

Suggested Resolutions to include: Congressional action; increase revenue in the State Highway Fund via state gas tax and vehicle registration increases; restore general funds for State match for public transportation; and expand the turnpike system to free resources in the federal program and revisit toll increases. Bogle noted that he's asking this Committee to endorse the NHDOT request and have the Policy Committee endorse as well. Then it would be suggested that the Policy Committee members bring the resolutions to their municipalities to educate and effect change.

*Sharples moved that the TAC support NHDOT's request to restore \$200,000/year in State operating assistance for public transit and expand the turnpike system along I93 approximately 1 mile north from Exit 14 to North of Exit 15 in Concord. More information is needed before making a decision to support new State revenues to provide cash match on the federally funded highway program; Christiansen 2nd. **SO VOTED** (L. St. John abstained)*

5. Annual Safety Performance Targets – D. Walker

Walker referred to Attachment 4 "Methodology Behind Safety Performance Targets for the Highway Safety Improvement Program as required by FHWA". Walker reviewed the number of fatalities and 2019 target development at the

State and MPO levels. Targets include: work with State and safety stakeholders to address areas of concern within the MPO area; coordinate with the State to include the safety performance measures and HSIP targets for all public roads in the MPO area; integrate the safety goals, objectives and performance measures and targets described in other state transportation plans and processes into the MPO planning process; and include a description in the TIP of the anticipated effect of the TIP toward achieving HSIP targets in the MTP. *Rabideau moved to approve the MPO Targets as presented; Moore seconded. **SO VOTED.** (L. St. John abstained)*

6. Project Updates – Walker distributed Project Update Memo

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette Pettengill
Business Manager