

**DRAFT**

**Rockingham Planning Commission/Metropolitan Planning Organization**

**Minutes**

Portsmouth Public Library  
October 11, 2017

**Members Present:** Phil Wilson, Chair, North Hampton; Glenn Coppelman and Peter Coffin, Kingston; Tim Moore and Julian Kiszka, Plaistow; Barbara Kravitz and Fran McMahon, Hampton; Katherine Woolhouse, Exeter; Richard McDermott, Hampton Falls; Richard Clark, Atkinson; Jim Doggett, Newton; Alan Davis, Hampstead; Lucy Cushman and Leo Gagnon, Stratham; Stephen Gerrato, Greenland; Gretchen Gott, Raymond; Peter Merrill, Kensington; Liz Strachan, NH DES; and Bill Watson, NH DOT.

**Others Present:** Lisa Wilson, North Hampton; and Barbara Kiszka, Plaistow.

**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 July 12, 2017, RPC Policy Committee**

**Motion:** Coppelman made a motion to approve the minutes of July 12, 2017, as written. Doggett seconded the motion. **Motion carried with 4 abstentions.**

**Minutes from September 13, 2017, RPC Policy Committee**

**Motion:** Doggett made a motion to approve the minutes of September 13, 2017, as written. Kravitz seconded the motion. **Motion carried with 3 abstentions.**

**3. Review/Adopt the 2010 Long Range Transportation Plan**

**7:04 PUBLIC HEARING OPENED**

a. Plan Summary- Bogle stated a 30-day comment period began on September 8<sup>th</sup> and concludes at this meeting. He reviewed the timeframe for completion of the document. He highlighted the changes made with a powerpoint presentation.

He explained the purpose, funding, goals and strategies of the plan. Several TAC volunteers reviewed the document and provided additional input. Input and comments from resource agencies have been incorporated.

**Bogle** reviewed the edits and new material added subsequent to the July MPO meeting; they included changes in Chapter 2, 3, 4, 6; along with updated maps and general formatting. He reviewed the projects included in the plan. Discussion ensued.

b. Public and Member Comments- **Bogle** stated 2 public comments were received which will be included in the final document. Discussion ensued about funding, project titles, autonomous vehicles, graffiti, bike lanes and etc.

#### 7:40 PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

c. Action on 2010 LRTP

**Motion: Doggett** made a motion to adopt the Long Range Transportation Plan for the MPO for 2018-2040. **McDermott** seconded the motion. **Motion carried with one abstention.**

#### 4. Ten Year Plan Priority Revision

**Walker** stated that there are 2 parts that need addressing: the comments on the draft Ten Year Plan, policies and other related issues; and the MPO recommendations for priority projects. He reviewed staff's policy and transportation comments. Discussion ensued about individual projects.

**Walker** continued that DOT provided staff with updated costs (based on current project costs and inflation to a 2028 construction year) that total over \$18M. The region's budget "target" is \$6.6M, he reviewed the cost changes to the five projects.

The priorities need to be revised to recommend projects that fit into the available funding budget. After a lengthy discussion at the September TAC meeting members recommended a revised list of project priorities: #1, 8 and 10; and recommended that the Seabrook project (#5) be given a fourth priority given its benefits to traffic in Seabrook and the seacoast and the potential for outside funding to cover a portion of the costs. Discussion ensued.

**Motion: Copleman** made a motion to approve projects #1, #8, #10 and #5 as the MPO's priorities for inclusion in the State 2019-2028 Ten Year Plan document along with policy and transportation planning comments to NHDOT and GACIT. **Doggett** seconded the motion. **Motion carried with one abstention.**

**Walker** encouraged members and town officials to attend a GACIT hearing and speak for their project.

#### 5. Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) process update

**Bogle** stated applications are due October 20<sup>th</sup>. Our region received 11 letters of interest. He reviewed the projects and their costs. The planning commission along with DOT will help applicants with their air quality analysis.

The ranking process has changed, DOT will rank the projects, then the Executive Councils will decide on the list of priorities. There will be no ranking by the planning commissions. Staff contacted Councilor Prescott with their concerns. **Prescott** suggested that the RPC proceed with regional ranking parallel to DOT's ranking and forward the regional rankings to him for consideration in GACIT's selection process.

Staff will not have enough time to bring their rankings to the Policy committee for review. However, the TAC committee will see the rankings before it is sent to DOT. Discussion ensued.

**Bogle** stated the Executive Directors of the planning commissions sent a letter to Commissioner Sheehan and the chair of GACIT explaining the regional planning commissions concerns. **Watson** stated DOT is uncomfortable with the changes made and stated they were political. He continued that because of the change, DOT is concerned that their relationships with planning commissions and municipalities will be further strained.

## **6. 2016-2017 UPWP Performance Report**

**Walker** stated the report summarizes the progress that the commission has made in implementing the broad goals, specific tasks, progress on projects and initiatives that the MPO has undertaken as outlined in the FY 2016-2017 UPWP. He gave a brief explanation of the reports content.

## **7. Other Business; MPO Policy Committee meeting topics**

- a. MPO Planning Review- **Roache** reviewed the purpose of the report. TAC members and Commissioners are invited to attend during the lunchtime discussion. More information will be forthcoming.
- b. Project Updates- a memo was distributed.

A handout was distributed.

## **8. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne M. Rines  
Recording Secretary