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RPC TAC MEETING

Minutes

November 30, 2016
RPC Conference Room

Members Present: Art Ditto, Chair, Rye; Richard McDermott, Hampton Falls; Robert Clark, Atkinson; Joan Whitney, Kensington; Steve Gerrato, Greenland; Ken Christiansen, Brentwood; Richard Hartung, Hampstead; Tim White, NHDES; Maria Stowell, PDA; and Leigh Levine, FHWA.

Staff Present: Dave Walker, Scott Bogle and Roxanne Rines, RPC.

Meeting Opened at 9:00 a.m.

1. Introductions

Attendees introduced themselves and stated what municipality they were from or the agency they represented.

2. Minutes of September 22, 2016, TAC Meeting

Motion: **McDermott** made a motion to approve the minutes of September 22, 2016, as written. **Clark** seconded the motion. **Motion carried with 2 abstentions.**

3. Draft 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Update to the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Project List

Draft 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Walker gave a powerpoint presentation explaining that both documents are currently in a 30-day comment period which will conclude on December 13th and be voted on at the MPO Policy Committee meeting on December 14th, 2016.

Walker continued that the TIP is a multi-year program of regional, highway, transit, bridge, bicycle and pedestrian improvement projects. The proposed TIP includes approximately \$560 million in funded projects that are split into two tables: Regional Projects and Statewide Programs.

The Regional table includes approximately \$229 million in 19 projects and 2 transit systems. Much of the funding is dedicated to several ongoing large projects: the I-93 widening (\$73 million); the Newington-Dover Spaulding Turnpike Improvements (\$20 million); and the Sarah Long Bridge over

the Piscataqua River (\$65 million, 50% paid by the State of Maine). He gave a brief explanation of the projects included. One comment was received about an error in funding source that he will fix and recheck the table for any other errors. Discussion ensued.

Walker stated the Statewide table contains a variety of project types related to: operations, maintenance and preservation needs along with funding that goes to communities for project implementation. Decisions regarding the specific projects come from programs such as the Highway Safety Improvement Program, Transportation Alternatives Program or through DOT programs that identifies needs such as "Red List" Bridges, or NH DOT District maintenance requirements.

Update to the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Project List

Walker stated the plan addresses the (plus) 20-year planning horizon for transportation projects and is adopted to maintain consistency between the TIP and Plan documents. MPO staff are working on a full revision of the Long Range Transportation Plan.

He continued that the immediate changes to the plan have been limited to: incorporating approved projects and timeframes from the most recent Ten Year Plan Process; updating the fiscal constraint analysis to account for new years and different revenue and cost assumptions; and assignment of projects by year to accommodate both the projects in the proposed 2017-2020 TIP and the 2017-2026 State Ten Year Plan.

Walker gave an overview of the project list included in the plan and the process. The plan contains 119 projects in 26 communities, totally about \$1.5 billion dollars including inflation. The TIP and Plan are both fiscally constrained and staff is recommending that the TAC Committee recommend approval at the MPO Policy Committee meeting on December 14, 2016. Discussion ensued about current projects included in the list.

Motion: **McDermott** made a motion to recommend approval of the Draft 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Update to the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Project List at the December 14th MPO Policy meeting. **Christiansen** seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

4. 2019-2028 Ten Year Plan Process/Project Solicitation and Selection Criteria

Walker stated the MPO will be soliciting communities and transportation agencies to identify transportation needs and projects to be added to the plan and reviewed the process. The five steps to the project solicitation and selection process are: 1) solicitation information from communities and transportation agencies; 2) review current list of projects and establish a need for each project and update information; 3) identify any transportation problems that are not being addressed by the project list; 4) establish a prioritized list of projects using the approved Project Selection Criteria; and 5) forward the list to NH DOT for consideration into the 10-Year Plan.

Walker continued that the project prioritization and selection will follow the same process as used in 2015, which he reviewed. All RPC's will use a common set of selection criteria, projects will be ranked and added to the last 2 years of the Ten Year Plan and each RPC works within a budget target of potential funding for the region.

The current prioritization process has two steps: consider the eligibility of the project for federal funding and the feasibility of the proposal; and apply the project selection criteria to those projects that meet the above standards. **Walker** gave a brief explanation of each. Staff will be sending a project solicitation to the communities and transit agencies early in December 2016 with information due back to the RPC by February 2017.

Walker stated this is the opportunity for TAC members to weigh in on the process concerning: does the current criteria reflect appropriate aspects for prioritizing projects (should they be changed? should there more criteria or less?); and what members think of the relative weights applied to each criteria (should the selection criteria be applied the same way to all projects?). He reviewed the type of changes that could be made.

Discussion ensued concerning: the use of less or more criteria, providing a tie breaker for equally ranked projects, are affluent towns given more weight than others, etc. **Clark** stated the past process has worked and to keep using the same. **McDermott** agreed with Clark. Consensus was to continue using the current process.

5. Long Range Transportation Plan – Objectives and Performance Metrics

Bogle stated staff has been focusing their work on the Long Range Transportation Plan update defining a draft set of performance measures as a requirement of both MAP-21 and FAST Act. This has largely been a part of the multi-MPO SHRP 2 performance based planning effort.

Bogle reviewed the 11 goals of the Long Range Transportation Plan: 1) mobility; 2) transportation choices; 3) land use integration; 4) system preservation & maintenance; 5) energy & environment; 6) safety & security; 7) economic vitality; 8) resiliency; 9) public health; 10) efficient and effective planning process; and 11) resource availability. Discussion ensued.

Bogle asked TAC members to review the goals and identify any questions or gaps or any additional measures the RPC should investigate further. They could be measured within our region or measures to bring back to the SHRP 2 group to be shared. He asked members to send any comments to him within the next couple of weeks.

6. 2017 Meeting Schedule

Walker stated the meetings will continue to be on the 4th Thursday of the month.

7. Project Updates

A handout was distributed.

Meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne M. Rines
Recording Secretary