

MEMORANDUM

TO: RPC MPO Transportation Advisory Committee
FROM: RPC/MPO Staff
DATE: February 22, 2018
RE: Project Updates

UPWP Performance Report for FY 2016 & 2017: The UPWP Performance Report summarizes the progress that the Rockingham Planning Commission has made in implementing both the broad goals and specific tasks outlined in the FY 2016 - 2017 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) covering the MPO region. It is submitted in part to comply with 49 CFR 18.40 - Monitoring and Reporting Program Performance, and in part to provide communities, MPO Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) and Policy Committee members, and the public, a report of progress on projects and initiatives that the MPO has undertaken as part of the UPWP for the region. This report is due to NHDOT, FHWA, and FTA 90 days after the close of the UPWP Contract and was submitted on October 2, 2017. The report can be found on the MPO website in the "About the MPO" part of the Transportation section. <http://www.rpc-nh.org/transportation/about-mpo/upwp-performance-report>. (Dave Walker - dwalker@rpc-nh.org)

Derry-Salem CART Transit System – Staff have just finished working with CART's auditor on CART's FY17 audit, and are now completing CART's FY17 National Transit Database Report. These are the last two major tasks before CART record-keeping is handed over to Manchester Transit Authority (MTA) as part of the pilot agreement for MTA to handle most CART administrative functions. Transit operations will continue to be provided by Easter Seals NH under contract. CART will continue to be an independent legal entity with direct responsibilities to the Federal Transit Administration. As such CART will continue to contract with RPC and SNHPC oversee the contract with MTA and handle certain FTA responsibilities, and work with MTA staff to orient them to CART records, policies, procedures and municipal contacts. Following the transition period this will allow RPC staff to reduce their time commitment to CART significantly. (Scott Bogle - sbogle@rpc-nh.org)

Rye – Dow Lane Traffic Counts and Assessment: RPC has been assisting the Town of Rye with an assessment of traffic speeds and volumes on Dow Lane, a popular shortcut between US 1 and Washington Road after residents complained of speeding vehicles and safety concerns. RPC conducted automated volume, speed, and classification counts on the roadway, as well as performed turning movement counts at the US 1/Dow Lane, Dow Lane/Washington Road, and US 1/Washington Road intersections. This data will give the community an indication of the type and volume of traffic, as well as the speed at which people are travelling on Dow Lane. Combined with the turning movement counts at the three intersections, this will aid in assessing the feasibility of options to reduce the speed (and possibly volume) of traffic. Data has been collected and RPC staff completed the documentation of results in January, 2018. (Dave Walker - dwalker@rpc-nh.org)

Hampton Branch Acquisition & NH Seacoast Greenway – In late January staff and corridor community representatives met with regional staff from the Trust for Public Land (TPL) to discuss a possible role for TPL in reinvigorating the negotiation between NHDOT and Pan Am Railways to purchase the 9.6 mile Hampton-Portsmouth segment of the abandoned Hampton Branch rail corridor. RPC staff, TPL staff and municipal representatives will meet with NHDOT Commissioner Victoria Sheehan in early March. Meanwhile staff are working to secure funding for a video and print communications package that highlights the rail trail as an economic catalyst. A \$5000 anonymous donation has been received along with a \$500 pledge from the East Coast Greenway Alliance. Staff are also approaching the NH Charitable Foundation and Unital. Staff also recently provided input at the request of Sen. Dan Feltes on legislation to implement recommendations of the 2015 SB80 Rail Trail Study Committee. These include an update to the State Trails Plan and a companion study of the economic impact of rail trails in New Hampshire. (Scott Bogle - sbogle@rpc-nh.org)

Stratham Safe Routes to School Initiative: The town of Stratham has received word from NHDOT that the three grant applications for Safe Routes to School (SRTS) funding prepared with assistance from RPC have been approved internally. The town applied for \$10,000 in SRTS Start-Up grant funding, a \$30,000 Travel Planning grant that would be developed by RPC with subcontracted conceptual engineering assistance, and a \$10,000 Supplemental Non-Infrastructure grant to support development of a volunteer crossing guard program and supplemental enforcement activities. Project start is awaiting Governor and Council approval of the contract. The SRTS program will include Stratham Memorial School and the Cooperative Middle School. To allow an engineering firm to be selected and begin work prior to the end of the school year, staff have drafted a Request for Qualifications for the town and will assist with that process. (Scott Bogle – sbogle@rpc-nh.org)

Stratham – NH 111/Marin Way: RPC staff conducted volume and turning movement counts at the intersection of NH 111 and Marin Way in Stratham. This intersection serves the industrial development that contains Lindt Chocolates and Timberland among other businesses and currently a Stratham Police officer is stationed at the intersection each afternoon to facilitate traffic exiting the site. Turning movement counts were conducted for both the AM and PM peak periods, and were collected at the NH 101/NH 111 interchange adjacent to the site (Exit 12). In the coming weeks, staff will be documenting the findings of the counts and providing the town an assessment of level of service at the intersection and potential options to improve safety and traffic flow without the need for a police officer to control traffic. (Dave Walker – dwalker@rpc-nh.org)

Annual List of Obligated Projects published: In December, 2017, the MPO published the Annual List of Obligated Projects which identifies those projects that federal transportation funding has committed to funding. Obligated” projects are those that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) or Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have committed to reimbursing a share of the cost of construction or implementation. Pursuant to Federal Regulations in CFR §450.332, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO’s), as the entities responsible for maintaining the metropolitan transportation planning process, must make public an annual listing of projects for which federal transportation funds were obligated in the preceding fiscal year. These are generally projects that have been recently completed, are under construction, or are nearing construction, where federal transportation funds have been officially committed with a signed project agreement. The 2017 Annual listing identified \$37 million in roadway construction, and \$16 million in transit funding. The Annual Listing of Obligated Projects can be found on the RPC website: <http://www.rpc-nh.org/transportation/annual-list-obligated-projects>.