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WAKEFIELD

**Strafford Metropolitan Planning Organization  
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting  
Special Meeting  
150 Wakefield Street, Suite 12, Conference Rm. 1A  
Rochester, NH 03867**

**Friday, April 10, 2015  
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM**

**FINAL MINUTES**

Jon Hotchkiss opened the meeting at 9:01 am.

**1. Introductions**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jon Hotchkiss (Middleton), Martin Laferte (Farmington), Rad Nichols (COAST), Paul Lockwood (NHDES), Chris Parker (Dover), Gretchen Young (Dover), Seth Creighton (Rochester), Wally Dunham (Madbury), Bill Watson (NHDOT), Bob Jaffin (Rochester), Marcia Gasses (Barrington), Steve Pesci (UNH), Diane Hardy (Newmarket), Larry Brown (Milton)

**STAFF PRESENT:** Chris Scheiner (GIS & Technical Analyst), Tom Brown (Planning Technician), Natasha Leuchanka (Regional Planner), Sarah McGraw (Planning Technician), Cynthia Copeland (Executive Director)

**2. Staff Communications**

No staff communications

**3. Action Items**

**3.1 2017-2027 Statewide Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan-Project Listing-Recommend to Policy**

C. Lentz said that the motion was to append the letter to the NHDOT to the project listing.

C. Parker commented that the letter captured the comments made at the previous meeting. He said he thought that the comments should still be included in the scoring.

P. Lockwood said he went to Nashua Regional Planning Commission and the same topics came up.

J. Hotchkiss said the letter was well written and adequately summarized the concerns from the previous meeting.

B. Watson addressed the letter sent to NHDOT. He said that the nine regional planning commissions came to agreement of the criteria used for the Ten Year Plan Update. The Commissioner's Office of the NHDOT strongly focuses on preservation and maintenance of road ways. He said they don't have

enough money for even that. He said the current New Hampshire legislature does not support transit and rail. They eliminated the State Aid Bridge Program and State Aid Highway Program. He said the NHDOT is not the policy maker but they can make recommendations. The biggest influence that TAC, the Department and Commissioners have is the funding received from the Federal Highway Administration. B. Watson emphasized that the NHDOT never said don't talk about transit or rail and local priorities. The NHDOT has influence with about 150 million dollars per year, that they have influence over. He said two years ago they looked at environment, local support, and economic development which were the lowest weighted criteria. When the RPCs and NHDOT staff got together to talk about criteria they dropped environment, local support and economic development as a criteria. They decided those were all important things. The process does not address transit funding and very little of highway dollars address transit funding. B. Watson recommended that there are statewide C-MAQ projects already in the Ten Year Plan to upgrade the state fleet which would allow other publicly owned fleets to use C-MAQ dollars. The NHDOT has very little control over state policy makers and no control over what Congress can make available to the state for transit planning. He said to be asked to make considerations goes against what the RPCs have decided on. There isn't enough awareness for transportation investments. It was offensive to NHDOT that the NH Legislature would vote to cut jobs at NHDOT. Busses can't run on a road system that doesn't work and the NHDOT is managing funds they receive in the best way. The RPCS decided on the criteria.

S. Creighton made a suggestion to add the nine RPCs to the receiving line. In the second paragraph the last two sentences separated by a couple of lines.

S. Creighton commented on the Environment and Public health part of the letter, to add more to it reference mostly on emissions and air quality, look at flood control, water quality and habitat restoration.

S. Pesci commented that the root of the issue was funding and the letter does not imply NHDOT has been negligent. He recommended sending it to the Policy Committee chair. To not send the letter as it accepts the status quo. The criteria used for weighting is not perfect but to let the public know that they are thinking holistically and the legislature knows that there is a break down.

C. Parker commented that he appreciated B. Watson's comments and that Glenn had also made those issues clear. He recommended to change the "to" line to Policy and RPCs and cc Bill, Glenn and Nicholas.

L. Brown added that what he heard was to get over that there is no funding.

B. Watson said it was not his intent to say that this is the way it is, and recommended adding where they are not investing in transit and rail and state why. Another recommendation is to include the Executive Councilors in the letter as the list of projects were not sent to them.

R. Nichols commented that he does not agree with the scope of the Ten Year Plan and that NHDOT is not doing everything they could do.

V. Parmele said that there are people not involved in this process that are affected.

*C. Parker moved to table the discussion for one week with staff sending out the scoring to TAC members and address this item in one week with the conditions that TAC will vote on an editorial edition to accompany the ranked project list, second by L. Brown. VOTE: Unanimous*

**4. Discussion Items:**

**4.1 Complete Streets Committee**

C. Lentz said he will be talking with Liz to talk to communities and see how they can improve walkability.

**5. Project Updates:**

**5.1 Building Permit Inventory**

T. Brown said he collected permit data and compiled into a smaller report to express a regional outlook. He created methodology to organize the data. The building permit report is complete and they are working on getting the mapping portion out.

**5.2 Scenic Byways**

N. Leuchanka and S. McGraw have organized two meetings one each for the Mills Scenic Byway and the Branch River Valley Trail Scenic Byway. The Mills Scenic Byway meeting will take place on April 14, 2015 at 5:30 pm at the Madbury Town Hall. The Branch River Meeting will take place on April 28, 2015 at 6:00 pm. The meetings will serve as way to learn about the Byway and start an advisory committee.

**5.3 Park n Ride toolkit-Pilot with Community**

**Determining a community and also talked with Durham about possible locations. C. Copeland said they have been making an effort to find a community to work with.**

**5.4 Performance Measures**

N. Leuchanka said that the project timeline that was handed out is a draft timeline that will be given to workgroup members. N. Leuchanka has continued the stakeholder interviews in March with Paul Lockwood at DES, Mike Izbicki with the NH Rail Transit Authority, and Eagle Companies, representing warehouse and distribution. Next week she is meeting with Public Transit Operators, intercity operators, New Hampshire Motor Transport Association, and the State Coordinating Council. N. Leuchanka commented that in light of the conversation on the budget, performance measures work justifies the work being done currently and that's where it starts to figure out the direction to go in. The interviews show different perspectives from the various transportation groups to make a comprehensive and wholesome report.

**6. Other Business:**

R. Nichols reported on the public hearings on route 7. They heard from riders that will be severely affected by the route closing. R. Nichols asked about amendment one in the STIP and leadership positions in the NHDOT.

G. Davison said that Bill Cass is the current assistant commissioner.

G. Young commented on the Silver Street project starting up in Dover. The City Transportation Advisory Committee voted to recommend a complete street project on Chestnut Street and revamp the Upper Square and Lower Square.

L. Durfee commented on SRPCs work to integrate complete streets and public health and discuss these issues with the Public Health Advisory Committee and Healthy Living Active Living (HEAL). L. Durfee said in the future they would like to speak also with members of TAC.

C. Copeland said there is money available for disaster relief from the winter. Copies are available on the funding.

D. Hardy noted that there is a public information Meeting on May 20, 2015 regarding bikeway enhancement.

**7. Citizen's Forum-**

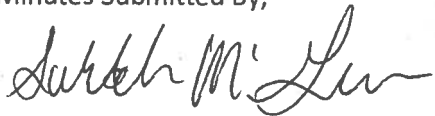
No citizens were present to comment.

**8. Adjournment**

L. Brown motioned to adjourn, second by W. Dunham. VOTE: Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Minutes Submitted By,



Sarah McGraw, Planning Technician



Jon Hotchkiss, Chair

