

MINUTES
Rockingham Planning Commission
Transportation Advisory Committee
September 24, 2020

Virtual Meeting via Zoom and Public Input

Per RSA 91-A:2, III(b) the RPC Chair has declared the COVID-19 Outbreak an emergency and has waived the requirement that a quorum be physically present at the meeting.

Members Present: R. McDermott, Chairman (H. Falls), D. Seiglie (Rye), D. Sharples (Exeter), P. Coffin (Kingston), S. Gerrato (Greenland), T. Austin (Stratham), T. Moore (Plaistow), T. White (NHDES), W. Rose (NHDOT), R. Nichols (COAST), J. Walker (Portsmouth)

Staff: D. Walker (Assistant Director/Transportation Manager), S. Bogle (Sr. Transportation Planner), T. Roache (Executive Director), A. Warhaft (Office Coordinator)

- 1. Chairman McDermott convened the meeting at 9:04 am; Introductions and Zoom etiquette were discussed.**
- 2. Minutes of July 23, 2020**

P. Coffin moved to approve the Minutes of July 23, 2020 as presented; T. Austin seconded. Roll Call vote was taken. 1 abstention. SO VOTED.

- 3. Project Selection: Ten Year Plan Candidate Project List (Attachment #2) – Dave Walker**

D. Walker reviews the guidance for the Ten Year Plan and states that the purpose of this meeting is to decide on a single list of candidate projects to put forth to NHDOT. The target funding is approximately \$6.7 million, which includes inflation and indirect costs. Candidate projects will go through an engineering and cost review process at NHDOT, which will then go through the GACIT process. The current and submitted projects were evaluated, classified into “Local”, “Regional”, and “Inter-regional” and were assigned a weighting based on the committee’s feedback. Considerations include: is the project a good fit for the Ten Year Plan, are they feasible and supported by the community, and eligible for Federal funding. There were 127 projects submitted; 30 are currently in the plan; 24 are not feasible at this time, missing scope or funding; leaving 73 projects which were evaluated: 24 local, 27 regional, 22 inter-regional. After scoring with the committees weighting, 15 projects were presented to the committee from which to choose those to be submitted to NHDOT. D. Walker presented several scenarios with combinations of the top rated projects which could fit within the target funding. Discussion of various combinations of projects followed.

R. Nichols moved to select the following projects for submittal to NHDOT: East Coast Greenway project, Epping Route 125 project, Portsmouth-Bartlett Bridge Repair, plus two other projects for review: Raymond and North Hampton projects; seconded by J. Walker. Roll Call was taken. 1 abstention. SO VOTED.

4. MPO Public Participate Plan Update – Scott Bogle

S. Bogle stated that we are currently in the 45-day public comment period on an update to our public participation plan, which began on Sept 1, 2020 and will continue until October 16. There will be a hearing on the draft plan on October 14 at the MPO meeting. All MPOs are required to provide information to the public so that they can have input at key times, as well as complete information on the projects. S. Bogle reviews the plan structure. The four goals are to: provide information, solicit input, inform decision makers, and guide MPO decisions. There are various types of strategies that are used for public participation. The changes that are in this update: incorporate virtual meeting provisions, committee membership, website URL references, glossary, social media details, performance measures and COVID Emergency Order. Staff recommended that the TAC discuss the draft Public Participation Plan, recommend changes as needed, and move to recommend adoption by the MPO Policy Committee following the completion of the 45-day comment period. *J. Walker makes a motion that the TAC Committee recommend the draft public participation plan to the MPO Policy Committee. Seconded by D. Sharples. Roll Call vote was taken. SO VOTED.*

5. Project Updates – Dave Walker/Scott Bogle

D. Walker will send an email to the committee with current project updates. S. Bogel noted that we have gotten counts on the Rockingham Recreation Trail and that he is impressed by the numbers of use.

6. Open Discussion/Comments

No further questions or comments were discussed.

Meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 10:57 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Warhaft, Recording Secretary