

MINUTES
Rockingham Planning Commission
Metropolitan Planning Organization
August 12, 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.

Commissioners/MPO Reps Present: R. McDermott, Chairman (H. Falls); B. Kravitz, A. Carnaby (Hampton); A. Brubaker (H. Falls); P. Wilson (North Hampton); T. Moore (Plaistow); G. Davison (NH DOT); P. Coffin, G. Coppelman (Kingston); E. Moreau, P. Britz (Portsmouth); R. Donahue (Salem); J. Doggett, M. Allen (Newton); T. White (NHDes); L. Cushman (Stratham); D. Hebert (Newington)

Guests: C. Cross

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

1. Call to Order: Chairman McDermott called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.; introductions and roll call was made for the Zoom meeting attendees.

2. Minutes of May 13, 2020

*J. Doggett moved to approve the Minutes of May 13, 2020; Peter Coffin seconded. Roll Call Vote taken. **SO VOTED.** 4 abstentions.*

3. Ten Year Plan Project Selection Process – D. Walker

D. Walker opened the presentation with a review of background information on the progression and process of project solicitation, selection and implementation for the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and State Ten Year Plan. The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is involved with the first 3 and last 3 stages of the cycle of the Ten Year Plan. Currently we are in the project solicitation stage.

Project solicitation requests were sent out to communities and transit agencies; any projects submitted will be added to those that have been identified from data analysis and studies. These projects will then be reviewed and classified according to into “Local”, “Regional” and “Inter-Regional” project, then scoring with the approved criteria weighting will be applied to each project, from which a short list of projects will be gathered. The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) endorsed the breakdown of the weights given to each category and criterion.

*Jim Doggett moved to accept the project selection process, categories and criteria weights as endorsed by the TAC Committee; Peter Coffin seconded. Roll Call Vote taken. No abstentions. **SO VOTED.***

4. Derry/Salem/Manchester Transit Coordination Plan Update – S. Bogle

S. Bogle reviewed changes to the transit coordination plan. The Federal mandate under the FAST Act requires MPOs to develop Coordinated Public Transit/Human Service Transportation Plans, which are a prerequisite for accessing certain FTA funding streams and need to be updated every 5 years. The RPC participates in 2 of the Regional Coordination Council (RCC) Regions: Greater Manchester (Region 8) and Greater Derry-Salem (Region 9). There have been several changes since the plan was last updated in 2016: merger of Region 8 and Region 9, merger of CART & MTA, new regional mobility manager, possible access to flexed CMAQ funding, consolidation of service providers, and short and long term implications of COVID-19. The plan update will include: 3 surveys, demographic analysis, identification of service gaps, update and refine strategies, a public comment period and adoption by the MPO. Bogle reviewed the project timeline for the next year. Discussion followed.

5. Project Updates – D. Walker, S. Bogle

The RPC Team will circulate a memo with a detailed summary of the project updates. Some of the projects reviewed were:

- **2021 – 2030 State Ten Year Plan** – The governor adopted the plan on July 24, 2020.
- **Road Surface Management Systems Data Collection** – This project has been stalled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Data collection requires two people which was difficult to coordinate with current restrictions.
- **Kittery-Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Joint Lan Use Study (JLUS)** – The Implementation phase of this project will begin in the fall and RPC staff will continue to participate
- **Bicycle & Pedestrian Counts** – RPC's EcoCounter has been deployed on several trails in the region. Trail use data shows trail use is up during the pandemic. One issue that may be addressed is a lack of parking at several of the trailheads.
- **PlanNH Webinar** – S. Bogle will participate in a PlanNH Webinar on August 13 to discuss the impacts of COVID-19 on transportation and housing in our region.

6. Other Business/Public Comment

T. Roache discussed the September 2020 meeting and potential agenda items and gave an update on continuing RPC business during the State of Emergency, which has been extended.

Questions and discussion followed.

R. McDermott declared the meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Warhaft