

June 2, 2011

Bill Cass  
Director of Project Development  
NH Department of Transportation  
P.O. Box 483  
Concord, NH 03302-0483

**RE: RPC MPO Approval of FY 2011-2014 STIP Amendment #2**

Dear Mr. Cass,

This letter is to inform you that on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011, the Rockingham Planning Commission, meeting as the MPO Policy Committee, approved Amendment #2 to the MPO's 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Amendment #2 was approved following appropriate public notice, a 30 day comment period and public hearing as required in our Prospectus. The public notice, project information, and air quality analysis can be found at the RPC website ([www.rpc-nh.org](http://www.rpc-nh.org)), and these documents detail the changes that Amendment #2 has made to the RPC 2012-2014 TIP as does the attached project table.

Two sets of comments were received during the 30 day comment period, and a third during the public hearing. All were addressed during the public hearing on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011.

- The first was delivered via a meeting with NH DES Air Resources Division and consisted of edits to the Air Quality Conformity Analysis that accompanies TIP Amendment #2. While the edits were substantive in nature, the changes did not impact the overall finding of conformity as determined below. The requested changes are reflected in the Air Quality Analysis document posted on the RPC website at this time ([www.rpc-nh.org](http://www.rpc-nh.org)).
- The second set of comments was a letter received from a group of three citizens from the town of Hampton that related their concerns regarding the addition of project 20227 [10-06CM] to the TIP/STIP. The full comments will be included with the meeting minutes.
- A third comment was received during the public hearing concerning the Plaistow MBTA extension project 20163 [10-02CM]. David Harrigan of Atkinson raised concerns regarding the proposed location of the MBTA layover facility and expressed frustration with the development of the project to date. His comments and response are included in the minutes as well.

Based on the information provided regarding the movement of projects in time, changes in project scopes and costs, and taking into account the comments received it has been determined that:

- The fiscal constraint of the TIP/STIP is maintained as indicated in DOT provided fiscal constraint documentation.

- RPC, in consultation with its interagency partners, has confirmed that the proposed changes made by Amendment 2 to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Statewide Transportation Improvement Program trigger a new conformity determination of the SE NH 8-hour Ozone Nonattainment Area. Revisions have been made to the air quality analysis for the Rockingham Planning Commission MPO portion of the Ozone Nonattainment Area and to the air quality analyses for the Nashua, Strafford, and Southern New Hampshire MPO portions of the Ozone Nonattainment Area. Those analyses have demonstrated that the proposed changes would conform to the specified emission budgets in the State Implementation Plan.

Based on these points, and after consideration of comments received, the MPO voted to approve Amendment#2 to the 2011-2014 TIP inclusive of the changes to the Air Quality Conformity Analysis and the project changes included in the attached table.

Sincerely,



Cliff Sinnott  
Executive Director

cc: Division Administrator, FHWA NH Division Office  
Bill Gordon, FTA Region 1  
Don Cooke, EPA Region 1  
Chris Skoglund, NH DES Air Resources Division  
MPO TAC/Policy members