

MINUTES
Rockingham Planning Commission
Metropolitan Planning Organization
October 14, 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); P. Wilson (North Hampton); T. Moore (Plaistow); G. Davison (NH DOT); P. Coffin, G. Coppelman (Kingston); E. Moreau, P. Britz, J. Tabor (Portsmouth); J. Doggett, M. Allen (Newton); T. White (NHDes); L. Cushman (Stratham); D. Hebert (Newington); S. Gerrato (Greenland); A. Davis (Hampstead); M. McAndrew (New Castle); P. Winslow (Rye); G. English (Exeter); J. VanBokkelen (South Hampton); J. Kiszka (Plaistow); R. Nichols (COAST)

Guests: Laurel Adams (Quinlan Award Recipient)

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 7:05 p.m.; introductions and roll call was made for the Zoom meeting attendees.**
- 2. Quinlan Award Presentation**

Laurel Adams, Executive Director, Regional Economic Development Center, was selected as the recipient of the 2020 Quinlan Award. Ms. Adams joined the meeting to accept the award. B. Kravitz introduced Ms. Adams and spoke about the qualifications and contributions that she has made to the region. T. Roache gave thanks and presented Ms. Adams with the award. G. Coppelman and P. Wilson also gave thanks and spoke about Ms. Adams' achievements.

- 3. Minutes of May 13, 2020**

*J. Doggett moved to approve the Minutes of August 12, 2020; D. Hebert seconded. Roll Call Vote Taken. **SO VOTED.** 4 abstentions.*

- 4. 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 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 selection stage.

There were 127 projects that were put forward for consideration in the Ten Year Plan: 30 are already in the plan, 24 are not feasible, 31 projects were completed in the last five years; which leaves 73 projects to be considered for the Ten Year Plan. These projects were broken down into categories of “Local”, “Regional”, and “Inter-Regional”, and then the weighting criteria approved by the MPO was applied in order to come up with a short list of projects to choose from. The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) discussed the considerations and costs and selected five projects to be put forward to the MPO Committee for approval. The TAC recommended the following projects for submittal to NHDOT for engineering and cost analysis: East Coast Greenway project, Epping Route 125 project, Portsmouth-Bartlett Bridge Repair, plus two other projects for review: Raymond and North Hampton projects. Discussion of the projects and considerations followed.

*J. Doggett moved to approve the selected 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 P. Wilson. Roll Call was taken. Vote to approve was 25 to 2. **SO VOTED.***

5. Public Hearing: Public Participation Plan – S. 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. This meeting constitutes the public hearing on the plan. 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 reviewed 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. The TAC reviewed and recommended that the MPO Committee accept the draft Public Participation Plan as presented. Since the public comment period continues for 2 days after the public hearing, RPC staff asked for the MPO members to allow the final approval of the plan to be carried out by the Policy Committee.

*G. Copleman moved to accept the recommendation that final approval of the Public Participation Plan be carried out by the Policy Committee. G. English seconded. No abstentions. **SO VOTED.***

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

The RPC Team will circulate a memo with a detailed summary of the project updates. S. Bogle informed the MPO Committee that a meeting of the NH Seacoast Greenway Committee will be held on October 21, 2020 at 6:30 pm if any members were interested in attending.

T. Roache discussed that the next RPC Commissioners Meeting will be a Legislative Forum which will be presented in a Webinar format. During the Legislative Forum topics of discussion will be resilience and the COVID-19 experience, economic recovery efforts, the contribution of local farms to enhancing the food chain, and infrastructure. This meeting will be held on November 18.

7. Other Business/Public Comment

No other business or comments.

Meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Warhaft