

MINUTES
Rockingham Planning Commission
Transportation Advisory Committee
June 25, 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: P. McDermott, Chairman (H. Falls), P. Coffin (Kingston), L. St. John (NH DOT), D. Seigle (Rye), S. Gerrato (Greenland), T. Austin (Stratham), C. Cross (Newington), T. White (NHDES), C. Jacobs (Hampton), R. Nichols (COAST), B. Landman (N. Hampton), L. Levine (FHWA)

Guests: Shelley Winters (DOT)

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

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

*R. McDermott moved to approve the Minutes of April 23, 2020 as presented; Austin seconded. Roll Call vote was taken. 4 abstentions. **SO VOTED.***

- 3. Draft Congestion Management Process – D. Walker**

D. Walker reviewed the draft document of the Congestion Management Process (CMP). The CMP is a regional approach for managing congestion that is linked to planning and environmental review processes, which will become a part of the Long Range Transportation Plan. The CMP identifies congested sections of roadways, suggests ways to mitigate congestion, and prioritize projects for the Transportation Improvement Plan and Ten Year Plan. Walker reviewed the findings of the draft CMP. Walker and Matthews presented a draft of the CMP StoryMAP which presents data in a user friendly format and will be updated annually. The StoryMAP includes visual representations of traffic patterns in different areas of the region and will be a tool to keep the public and municipal officials informed about where and when and to what extent congestion is affecting travel. Discussion followed.

4. RPC/SRPC takeover of commuteSMART Seacoast – S. Bogle

Bogle explained what the commuteSMART Seacoast program is and how it has helped encourage behavior that will help to reduce congestion and the environmental effects of commuting through “gamification”. Friendly competition between organizations is used to encourage modification to normal commuting practices. The project had been managed by Anne Rugg with COAST from SEMAC funding. A. Rugg is retiring and the SEMAC funding is reaching its conclusion. To continue the effort and positive results seen in the competition in the Seacoast region, the RPC and SRPC will be taking over the management of the program. The hope is to integrate the program with CommuteSmart New Hampshire.

5. Upcoming Long Range Plan/Ten Year Plan Project Solicitation – D. Walker

Walker reviewed the yearly cycle of activities for the Long Range Plan and the Ten Year Plan. In the coming months, focus will be on project solicitation and prioritization. Currently work is being done to update the project selection criteria for local, regional and interregional projects. A survey will be presented to the committee and to the public to gather input on which projects should be prioritized.

6. Project Updates – D. Walker/S. Bogel

D. Walker will send an email to the committee with current project updates.

7. Open Discussion/Comments

B. Landman brought up the current state of telecommuting and increased traffic and problems with broadband communication. Discussion followed.

Meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Warhaft, Recording Secretary
