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MINUTES
ROCKINGHAM PLANNING COMMISSION MPO
April 13, 2016

North Hampton Town Hall
North Hampton, NH

Members Present: P. Wilson, Chairman (North Hampton); D. Marshall (Fremont); G. Coppelman (Kingston); K. Woolhouse, D. Clement (Exeter); P. Coffin (Kingston); L. Cushman (Stratham); F. McMahon, B. Kravitz (Hampton); S. Gerrato (Greenland); M. McAndrew (New Castle); R. Clark (Atkinson); R. McDermott (Hampton Falls); J. Foley (Epping); P. Merrill (Kensington); C. Cross (Newington); M. Turell (Atkinson)

Guests: L. Wilson, D. Derby (North Hampton)

Staff: C. Sinnott (Executive Director); D. Walker (Transp. Program Mgr); S. Bogle (Sr. Transp. Planner); A. Pettengill (Business Manager)

I. Welcome/Introductions

Chairman Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and welcomed all. Introductions were made around the room. Coppelman thanked the Wilsons for providing their usual great snacks.

II. Minutes February 10, 2016 MPO/RPC Meeting

*Turell moved to approve the Minutes of February 10, 2016 as presented; Coppelman seconded. **SO VOTED.** (4 abstentions)*

III. MPO PUBLIC HEARING: 2015-2018 TIP/STIP Amendment #3 – D. Walker, Transportation Program Manager

Wilson opened the Public Hearing for 2015-2018 TIP/STIP Amendment #3. Walker noted that public comment was open from April 1st through April 11th and no comments were received. He stated there are seven changes to the TIP; four regional projects and 3 statewide programs with a net increase of just over \$3.1 million. He noted the TIP still maintains fiscal constraint and since we are in air quality attainment we don't have to deal w/ air quality conformity issues. He noted the Technical Advisory Committee reviewed these changes on March 24th and approved for the Policy Committee review. Walker

reviewed several of the individual changes and answered questions regarding increases on the last three projects.

Coppelman moved to adopt the TIP Amendment #3; Turell seconded. SO VOTED.

Wilson asked for any further comment; seeing there was none he closed the Public Hearing.

IV. Staff Update

Sinnott announced that staff member Tom Falk, Transportation Analyst, will be retiring in May after 20 years at the RPC. He will finish up some projects and continue as part time for awhile, but he is looking forward to this new chapter in his life. The staff is happy for him, but sad to see him go. Wilson sent his and the Commissioners' best wishes to Tom and wanted him to know that the MPO thanks him for his many years of professional service to the organization over the years.

V. Coastal Risks and Hazard Commission – Draft Report

Sinnott referred to Attachment 3 Coastal Risks and Hazard Commission – Draft Report; authored by Anne Shultz. He explained that the purpose of this Draft Report is in response to the State Legislature's establishing the New Hampshire Coastal Risk and Hazards Commission (CRHC) in 2013 to "recommend legislation, rules and actions to prepared for projected sea level rise and other coastal watershed hazards". He noted the CRHC Report reviews scientific conclusions about future flood risk in coastal NH, identifies key areas of vulnerability, and makes recommendations to improve coastal resilience and reduce risk. He further explained that the CRHC consists of 17 tidal communities, state agencies, wildlife agencies, planning agencies, UNH, NHMA, Primex, homebuilders, realtors and others. The CRHC has looked at the science, possible future conditions, impacts and possible response. NHDOT is trying to be proactive in planning and design regarding this topic and has even made a recommendation to themselves that sea level rise and coastal hazards be considered in the planning of future transportation projects.

Sinnott gave a powerpoint presentation on the suggestions and goals that came out of the Report. He noted that public comment will be taken from March 18th through June 30th and the RPC is the clearinghouse for comments. Discussion followed on data and specific areas of infrastructure that might be affected.

VI. Long Range Transportation Plan Update: key issues, challenges & goals – Scott Bogle, Sr. Transportation Planner

Bogle stated that at two past meetings of the TAC, staff reviewed updated components of the Long Range Transportation Plan. Some of the recent review addressed Existing Conditions and Key Issues & Challenges & Goals sections. He reviewed those sections in detail with a power-point presentation. Cross suggested that one of the charts indicating obesity being directly related to transportation/travel changes be edited to give more context and note references to the many leading reasons of obesity in this country. Bogle fielded several other questions. He also reviewed the timeline for this process stating that a Draft Plan should be ready late June or early July. He asked that additional comments be

submitted to him by April 15th to be included in the next draft to be reviewed by the TAC during their April meeting.

VII. UPWP Mid-Contract Amendment – D. Walker

Walker explained that the UPWP is a 2 year contract and we will be entering year 2 in July. It's common for us to make some amendments at this point half way through the contract and amend some tasks. This year's amendments are a minor redistribution of resources and consist of mainly three things: SHRP2 grant; MPO website development; and salary & participation changes. He referred to Attachment 5. The TAC has reviewed and endorsed the amendments and recommended for approval by the MPO. *McDermott moved to approve the amendments to the UPWP as presented; Kravitz seconded. **SO VOTED.***

VIII. Commissioner Roundtable

Commissioners noted items of interest from their Town Meeting results and the various articles that did and didn't pass; Kravitz noted that the Legislative Policy Committee will be following SB 146 Accessory Apartments; Cushman noted that the Agritourism meeting was excellent and Amy Manzelli was a great speaker; Coppelman stated that Bob Goodrich had surgery recently for heart valve issue and he is doing well; Merrill suggested all towns equip their police departments w/ cameras.

IX. Project Updates

Hampton Intermodal Feasibility Study: Bogle referred to the memo of Project Updates and explained that the Hampton Intermodal Study was presented to Hampton Selectmen in February and again in April. There were three main elements to the study: environmental site assessment for the interchange parcel which was deemed a Brownfields eligible site; conceptual engineering for realigning the interchange and siting of an intermodal transit center; and ridership and cost estimates for transit services, which was completed by the RPC. He explained in more detail the transit service options. He noted that at the April meeting there was substantial public comment in opposition to the transit center, but the interchange realignment seems to have support. Sinnott commended Bogle on how well he dealt with very negative & hostile comments at that meeting.

Portsmouth Market Street RR crossing Project Swap: Walker explained that the Ten Year Plan Project Swap Proposal refers to the Market Street railroad crossing in Portsmouth replacing the Woodbury Avenue crossing improvement since it's the only crossing not included in an agreement and would be the only one not improved at all and is a higher priority location for the City. The RPC has submitted a letter in support of the project swap to NHDOT for the Senate Committee hearings on the Ten Year Plan. NHDOT is also in support of the swap.

New & Improved RPC & MPO Website: Sinnott reminded everyone to visit the new website and give the staff feedback. Walker noted that some content is still being added and some glitches have been found. Staff has received questions about the maps and it appears maps are the most looked at and requested item on the site.

Sinnott also noted that nominations for the Hayden & Quinlan awards are due April 25th and you can find the nomination forms on the website.

X. Other Business

NHARPC Annual Meeting: May 12th in Laconia;
RPC Annual Meeting: June 8th Atkinson Country Club

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette Pettengill, Recording Secretary