

RPC TAC MEETING

Minutes

January 28, 2016
RPC Conference Room

Members Present: Art Ditto, Chair, Rye; Richard McDermott, Hampton Falls; Robert Clark, Atkinson; Joan Whitney, Kensington; Steve Gerrato, Greenland; Juliet Walker, Portsmouth; Richard Hartung, Hampstead; Brian Deguzis, COAST; Carol Macuch, NH DOT; and Leigh Levine, FHWA.

Others Present: Carol Gulla, TASC Director.

Staff Present: Dave Walker, Scott Bogle, Jenn Rowden and Roxanne Rines, RPC.

Meeting Opened at 9:01 a.m.

1. Introductions

Attendees introduced themselves and stated what municipality they were from or the agency they represented.

2. Minutes of October 22, 2015, TAC Meeting

Motion: **Gerrato** made a motion to approve the minutes of October 22, 2015, as written. **McDermott** seconded the motion. **Motion carried with abstentions.**

Discussion ensued about members getting the meeting materials a week in advance. **Walker** stated staff will aim for one week before the meeting.

3. TASC Overview

Carol Gulla, TASC Director, she handed out their brochure and then gave an overview of the program with a powerpoint presentation. The program provides rides for eligible residents age 55 or older or the disabled with volunteer drivers. The service is available in 9 Seacoast towns. When drivers are available, TASC will provide rides for social service appointments, some recreation and social events.

She reviewed how TASC is funded and gave examples of both volunteers and users. She stated that more drivers are always needed.

Bogle stated staff will working on developing a volunteer driver program (similar to TASC) for the central part of the RPC region. He reviewed the current transportation systems available in other parts of the region. Volunteers for the TASC Board are needed from the towns that they serve. Discussion ensued.

4. 2015-2018 TIP Amendment #2

D. Walker stated the comment period ends on February 9th and on February 10th, the Policy Committee will meet before the Commission meeting to hold a public hearing and vote on TIP Amendment #2. He reviewed the summary table included in the packet.

J. Walker asked if COAST funding for the Spaulding Turnpike service is being removed. **Deguzis** stated that the listing is just a wind down of CMAQ funds. **J. Walker** asked if there was any opportunity to retain the funding. **Deguzis** stated that Rad Nichols (COAST Executive Director) is speaking with NH DOT about trying to find future funding for the project, but no resolution has been made yet. **J. Walker** asked if a comment could be added to the motion about future funding for the project. **D. Walker** stated yes, a comment can be part of the motion.

Clark asked if the New Castle-Rye Bridge is going to be fixed or movable. **D. Walker** stated Bill Watson of DOT told him a final position has not been taken, everything is moving towards a fixed bridge. Discussion ensued.

D. Walker reviewed the remaining projects included in the amendment. He continued that net funding in the region is decreasing and that the plan is fiscally constrained according to DOT. Discussion ensued.

Motion: **J. Walker** made a motion to approve the 2015-2018 TIP Amendment #2 with the comment that NHDOT retain the CMAQ funding for the Spaulding Turnpike service with COAST through the construction phase and recommended the MPO Policy Committee approve. **Clark** seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

5. Ten Year Plan Update

D. Walker stated the Governor has passed the plan update to the Legislature with changes to the draft which he reviewed along with staff's comments. Discussion ensued about rail crossing updates in Portsmouth. **Clark** asked D. Walker if he can get a copy of the scope of work for the Ocean Boulevard updates in Hampton, because he has a problem with the drainage system along the beach. **D. Walker** stated he would look into whether a scope for the project is available.

J. Walker asked if there would be another opportunity to resubmit comments. **D. Walker** stated yes, DOT will hold public meetings in the spring.

6. Annual List of Obligated Projects

D. Walker gave a quick review of the document included in the packet.

7. Long Range Transportation Plan Update

Bogle distributed a handout and gave a powerpoint presentation. He stated the last full update to the plan was in 2012; he reviewed the transportation chapter of the master plan and how it will be incorporated into the plan; the federal and state requirements of the Long Range Transportation Plan; create a shared set of performance measures for all MPO's to use; TAC preferences of how to solicit information and projects; and update the financial plan.

Bogle stated the public comment period of the plan will be held in August and the approval will be at the October 2016 MPO meeting. He gave an overview of the new FAST Act transportation legislation. He gave a timeline for reviewing Plan chapters on a monthly basis at TAC meetings that will proceed through the summer. Discussion ensued with members.

Clark asked how many public comments are usually received during a comment period. **Bogle** gave numbers of public comments received in the past. **Clark** stated MPO members should be educated about public comment periods, so they can pass the information on to their towns. Discussion ensued about the criteria and weighing of projects to be included in the Long Range Transportation Plan.

8. Project Updates

A handout was distributed with other project updates.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne M. Rines
Recording Secretary