

## RPC MPO Policy

### Minutes

#### Hampton Falls Town Hall

October 14, 2015

**Members Present:** Phil Wilson, Chairman (No.Hampton); B. Kravitz (Hampton); Robert Clark (Atkinson); Glenn Coppelman, Peter Coffin (Kingston); Chris Cross (Newington); Michael McAndrew (New Castle); Donald Clement, Katherine Woolhouse, (Exeter); Mike Turell (Atkinson); Joan Whitney (Kensington); James Vanbokkelen (So.Hampton); Richard McDermott (Hampton Falls); Jim Doggett, Mary Allen (Newton); Stephen Gerrato (Greenland)

**Guests:** Shawn Hanson, Ted Tocci, Lori Ruest, Charlyn Brown (Hampton Falls)

**Staff:** Cliff Sinnott (Executive Director); David Walker (Transp. Manager); Scott Bogle (Sr. Transp. Planner); Jenn Rowden (Regional Planner); Annette Pettengill (Business Mgr.)

#### I. Call to Order, Welcome & Introductions

Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Attendees introduced themselves, and Wilson welcomed everyone and thanked Hampton Falls for hosting and providing the open house and snacks. He gave a special thank you to Marietta Tocci for providing snacks also. Wilson thanked Ted Tocci for attending this meeting and recognized him for his long term participation in the RPC. Sinnott also recognized Ted and noted that Ted's idea that you should always do the best job you can and give as much as you can, has remained in commissioner's and staff's minds and has resided as a goal with the organization. Wilson also thanked Richard, Charlyn, and Laurie for their hospitality.

#### II. Minutes July 29, 2015 RPC/MPO

*Doggett moved to approve the Minutes of July 29, 2015 as presented; Turell seconded.* Kravitz asked that the words "101 interchange" be added to the detail of the approval of the April 8<sup>th</sup> Minutes, to read: ..... "Kravitz questioned one item regarding the 101 interchange in the Minutes and Walker reviewed the details." *The amended motion carried. **SO VOTED.** 1 abstention*

#### III. Hampton Falls Planning Update

Charlyn Brown gave a brief update on the status of planning projects in Hampton Falls, such as the rezoning of some areas of the Route 1 Corridor in order to create a village area and a

separate light industrial area. The Town has revamped their wetlands ordinance and the buffers required, and is currently working on their MP. Ted Tocci noted that as a member of the Commission for 15 years and Chairman for two of those, he suggests that all towns become involved and attend the RPC meetings. He stated he enjoyed every year and misses it. Laurie Ruest commented on how valuable the RPC is and how much it contributes planning resources to the Town.

**IV. Project Update: RPC Regional Stream Crossing Assessment Program – Jenn Rowden, Regional Planner**

Jenn Rowden began by clarifying what constitutes a Stream Crossing and explained the project purpose is to identify stream crossings that may fail and identify barriers to aquatic organisms. She explained some of the assessment parameters and how a field assessment is done. She detailed how the data and findings will be incorporated into hazard mitigation plans and Tides to Storms sea level rise, and eventually out to public works and road agents.

**V. 10 year Plan GACIT Hearings & Comments – Dave Walker, Transportation Manager**

Dave Walker referred to Attachment 2 Draft Comments on the 10 Year Plan. He explained that NH Department of Transportation has released the 10 Year Plan Draft and has held public hearings around the State. Attachment 2 is a compilation of key points the RPC has made at the hearings as well as additional comments based on the testimony of others at those hearings. The intent is to compile all of this information and format it into a letter to the NHDOT and Councilor Sununu. He noted there are 5 comment areas: 1) Project Selection Process; 2) Funding Policies & Priorities; 3) Project Specific comments; 4) Adapting the Transportation System to Future Needs; and 5) Transportation Funding

He reviewed specific information presented by the DOT regarding the Turnpike System & toll increase scenario. Discussion followed on the topic of tolls and possible diversion that occurs due to cost increases. Both Whitney and Clark suggested that language be added regarding limiting any turnpike funded soundwall construction along major highways to existing development to limit private owners from scooping up land and trying to get the state to build soundwalls for newly constructed developments.

Discussion followed on how COAST and other local and regional transit agencies count on the availability of CMAQ funds to assist with acquiring new rolling stock and how diverting those funds to road and bridge maintenance is not the best use. Downeaster Rail ridership was also discussed including whether CMAQ funds or 5307 funds should be used in support of the Downeaster Rail service. Kravitz suggested stronger language against the Flexing of CMAQ funds be incorporated into the letter.

Wilson suggested the MPO comments be that the Committee agrees with the suggestions presented here as a whole, with the addition of toll language and sharper language about flexing CMAQ funds, and the use of CMAQ funds in support of the Downeaster.

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*Turell moved to authorize the RPC to use the Draft Comments on the 10 Year Plan as submitted for review, and to also list: 1) support for the Downeaster through CMAQ funds; 2) sharpen the language to read “we are opposed” to flexing of CMAQ funds; 3) include increase of tolls to effectuate the funding of the projects listed in the 10 year plan; 4) no approval for soundwalls for new land development projects; VanBokkelen seconded. Allen stated it’s her opinion that the tolls increase and gas tax implementation language should not be in this document as they are legislative decisions. **The Motion carried with 3 opposed.***

**VI. Coastal Scenic Byways Management Plan – Scott Bogle, Sr. Transportation Planner**

Bogle referred to a Memo he distributed that reviewed the scope of work for the Corridor Management Plan update which began in 2013 and the background. He noted that it follows Route 1A & 1B which is a major visitor destination to the Seacoast. He noted the six corridor communities (Seabrook, Hampton, No Hampton, Rye, New Castle & Portsmouth) and other advisory entities that make up the Advisory Committee. He spoke to each of the five Plan Goals. He noted that the next step is to present the completed recommendations of the project to each town Board and formalize a Scenic Byways Council to implement recommendations.

**VII. FY 13-14 UPWP Performance Report – Dave Walker, Transportation Manager**

This item was tabled and can be reviewed on the RPC website

**VIII. RPC & MPO Website Preview – Dave Walker, Transportation Manager**

Walker reviewed the overall design of the new website and noted that content is still being developed. Any photos from towns will be appreciated.

**IX. Project & Program Updates – several memos & GSF flyers were distributed.**

**X. Other Business – Legislative Forum will be held November 18<sup>th</sup> at Unitil**

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Pettengill  
Recording Secretary