

Minutes
RPC MPO Policy/Commission

Epping Town Hall
October 8, 2014

Members Present: Glenn Coppelman, Chair, Kingston; Tim Moore, Plaistow; Barbara Kravitz, Hampton; Francis Chase, Seabrook; Bob Goodrich, Stratham; Don Clement, Langdon Plumer and Gwen English, Exeter; Phil Wilson, North Hampton; Mike Turell and Robert Clark, Atkinson; Rick Taintor, Portsmouth; Stephen Gerrato, Greenland; Jim Doggett, Newton; Carsten Springer, Danville; Brian Deguzis, COAST; and Glenn Davison, NH DOT.

Others Present: Don Woodward, Exeter and Lisa Wilson, North Hampton.

Staff Present: Cliff Sinnott, Dave Walker, Scott Bogle, Robert Pruyne and Roxanne Rines.

7:04 p.m. Policy Meeting Opened

1. Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions

Attendees introduced themselves and stated what municipality or agency they represented. **Coppelman** thanked the Town of Epping for hosting the meeting. He pointed out the several handout that were that were available that will be referred to during the meeting.

2. Minutes from July 9, 2014, RPC Policy Committee

Motion: **Doggett** made a motion to approve the minutes of July 9, 2014, as written. **Turell** seconded the motion. **Motion carried with seven abstentions.**

3. Release of Draft TIP/STIP (State Transportation Improvement Program) for FY 2015-2018

Walker reviewed the handout and gave an overview of the projects included. The total project amount for the document is about \$450 million; of which \$382 million is for three large projects: Newington-Dover/Spaulding Tpk, Sarah Long Bridge replacement and I-93 expansion. Discussion ensued.

He continued that a 30-day comment period will commence and the TIP/STIP will be ready for adoption at the December 10th MPO meeting.

4. **Transportation Alternatives Program update: Letter of Intent and Project submissions from the RPC Region**

Bogle reviewed the program and process, and differences between the new TAP program and the Transportation Enhancements program which it partially replaces. NHDOT has indicated their intention to invite project submissions and make project selections on a biennial basis. Twelve Letters of Intent were received from communities within the RPC region, but only 6 project applications were submitted. Staff will complete application reviews and scoring and explained the criteria being used (reviewed at the prior MPO meeting) how the scoring process will work. **Bogle** then gave a brief explanation of each application and the NH DOT application ranking process. Discussion ensued about funding availability and amount.

5. **Regional Master Plan – Review of Transportation Chapter**

Bogle reviewed the changes made since the April viewing and the comments from the transportation survey. He then reviewed the goals in the chapter. Discussion ensued about word changes for some of the goals.

Springer asked **Bogle** to find out how many of the surveys were completed by Danville residents. **Bogle** stated yes.

Bogle then reviewed the changes made to the existing conditions section; the key issues and discussion ensued. **Goodrich** asked why Pease has not become a hub for air freight. **Sinnott** stated that Manchester developed as an aviation freight hub before Pease because a public airport. During the Pease redevelopment process the surrounding communities strongly opposed freight aviation uses, which may have impacted freight carrier interest. Also, its location, while strategic for international freight from/to Europe, it is a poor location for domestic air freight, with no 'destinations' to the east.. Discussion ensued about the current and future use of Pease.

Bogle stated there have not been substantial changes to the recommendations since April, but quickly reviewed them again. **Taintor** suggested that a couple of terms should be clarified for non-planners. Discussion continued about freight movement within the state. **Walker** stated there has been more talk of freight within NH DOT recently and feels that the conversation will continue to increase.

Discussion ensued about modernization and preservation of existing infrastructure and the influence for towns to create public-private partnerships. **Bogle** asked members to get any additional comments to Walker or himself by October 20th. **Clark** thanked staff for their good work.

6. **Scenario Planning for the Regional Master Plan**

A. Modeling transportation impacts from population & employment scenarios

Walker gave a summary of the document, which included new results; outline purpose; regional travel demand model; projections; population and employment; migration history; and a future scenario of the region's population and employment.

Discussion ensued about how population and employment figures were computed; how the model works and how it makes projections; the reliability of the numbers; slow

growth scenario; current regional centers; land use outcomes; concentrated growth; initial conclusions. **Walker** reviewed the next steps and that the outcomes will be included in the Land Use chapter. He concluded that the model is very generalized. **Sinnott** clarified that the scenarios are not projections of expected outcomes, but rather an examination of how those outcomes would impact certain things – in this case, transportation, employment and buildout. Please send comments to Walker by October 20th.

B. Regional Land Use Buildout Presentation

Pruyne reviewed his powerpoint presentation that contains updated information from the previous presentation. The buildout is a planning tool concept that shows the current land uses on the ground and what can be done with the existing resources in the future.

Discussion ensued.

7. **Plaistow Rail Project Update – Project Status**

Coppelman stated there is a public informational meeting about the Plaistow/MBTA commuter rail extension study tomorrow evening, October 9, 2014, at the Plaistow Town Hall at 7:00 pm. **Sinnott** distributed a handout, reminded members that this is not just a 'Plaistow' project but one with regional transportation significance and encouraged members to attend the Public Information meeting tomorrow night.

8. **Project Status/Updates/Information Items – no discussion**

9. **[RPC Commission Business: Summary & Comments: Regional Master Plan Economic Development Chapter]**

Sinnott stated there is no further chapter update at this time.

10. **Next Meetings**

October 22nd – Regional Master Plan meeting
November 12th - Legislative Forum; topic: State Energy Strategy
December 10th – MPO meeting

11. **Public Comment**

None.

12. **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne M. Rines
Recording Secretary