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Minutes

Metropolitan Planning Organization/Rockingham Planning Commission

Kingston Town Hall
Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Members Present: Glenn Coppelman, Chair, Kingston; Barbara Kravitz, Hampton; Phil Wilson, North Hampton; Joan Whitney, Kensington; Phil Winslow, Rye; Michael McAndrew, New Castle; Mike Turell, Atkinson; Gwen English, Exeter; and Glenn Davison, NH DOT.

Others Present: Lisa Wilson, North Hampton and Sunny Kravitz, Hampton.

Staff Present: Cliff Sinnott, Glenn Greenwood, Dave Walker, Scott Bogle and Roxanne Rines.

7:05 p.m. Policy Meeting Opened

1. Welcome/Introductions

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

2. Minutes from December 10, 2014, RPC MPO Committee

Motion: **Whitney** made a motion to approve the minutes of December 10, 2014, as written. **Wilson** seconded the motion. **Motion carried with 1 abstention.**

3. NH Ten Year Plan/MPO Long Range Transportation Plan Project Solicitation

Walker gave a powerpoint presentation reviewing: how the 10-Year and Long Range Transportation Plans interact; DOT's guidance on project prioritization; the solicitation process; project selection criteria; amount of funding; as well as the project selection process.

Discussion ensued about the type of projects that can be applied for. **Sinnott** suggested that members make their town officials aware of the solicitation so they may act on it appropriately.

4. Draft FY 2015-16 Unified Planning Work Program – Overview and Prioritizes Discussion

Walker gave a powerpoint presentation and reviewed the he draft RPC's 2015-16 UPWP, explaining each category. He asked members to contact him by mid-March with any comments. The TAC committee will see the UPWP in March and the MPO Policy needs to adopt the document at their April meeting.

Sinnott reviewed the need for the creation of transportation corridor sub-committees. He asked members to think about which transportation corridors in the region should be studied first or could benefit the most from this sort of focused attention.

5. Coastal Scenic Byway Management Plan – Project Update

Bogle gave an update of the progress made since July 2014. The Regional Master Plan includes the visitor and community survey results; the multi-modal assessments; existing conditions; recommendations; and next steps. The completion date for the Byway plan is March 31, 2015. He continued that there will be a final report and presentation later in the spring or summer of 2015 after the management plan is completed.

6. RPC/MPO as Fiscal Agent for ACT Region – NHDOT/FTA 5310 Purchase of Service Program

Bogle stated the RPC has been asked by COAST to serve as the fiscal agent for a 2 year FTA Section 5310 grant for transportation improvements for seniors and the disabled. He reviewed the 5310 funding program and explained that COAST has been the fiscal agent of the funds in the past, but as such cannot use the funds to provide transit services directly. Having a third party as fiscal agent would remove their restrictions.

7. Plaistow Commuter Rail Extension Study Update

Sinnott gave a powerpoint presentation reviewing the scope, overview, costs, impacts, operating funds, and showed the alternatives for the siting of both the layover facility and train station. He reviewed the next steps needed in the process He said that the layover facility has generated a great deal of local opposition even though well sited to minimize impacts. the public. Discussion ensued.

He encouraged members to visit the NH DOT website for complete project information and to attend an informational meeting on February 24th, at 7 pm at the Plaistow Town Hall.

8. Other Business

- a. Transportation Alternatives Program – project selection from RPC region– **Bogle** stated the projects selected for inclusion into the program are: Exeter (shoulder bike route on Route 111) and Salem (phase 3 of the Salem-Concord bikeway). Our top priority on our list was the Portsmouth East Coast Greenway (there was a concern about the Hampton Branch right-of-way not being purchased, yet). The project is; however, the first project on the reserve list. If one of the projects on the TAP list doesn't move forward or more funding is provided) and the right-of-way is purchased, the Portsmouth project would move forward.
- b. Project Updates - A handout was distributed.

- c. Other – **Davison** stated the State will be collecting new aerial photography at one foot resolution in spring 2015.

9. Adjourn MPO Policy Committee Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne M. Rines
Recording Secretary

(RPC COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES UNDER SEPARATE COVER)