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RPC TAC MEETING

Minutes

March 23, 2017

RPC Conference Room

Members Present: Art Ditto, Chair, Rye; Richard McDermott, Hampton Falls; Robert Clark, Atkinson; Tim Moore, Plaistow; Steve Gerrato, Greenland; Ken Christiansen, Brentwood; Richard Hartung, Hampstead; Chris Cross, Newington; Chris Jacobs, Hampton; Tavis Austin, Stratham; Joan Whitney, Kensington; Tom Morgan, Seabrook; Barbara White, Newton/East Kingston; Juliet Walker, Portsmouth; Dave Sharples, Exeter; Andre Garron, Salem; Rad Nichols, COAST; Maria Stowell, PDA; Leigh Levine, FHWA; Carol Macuch, NHDOT; and Elizabeth Strachan. NHDES.

Others Present: Don Woodward, Exeter Rail Committee and David Baxter, Seabrook Planning Board member.

Staff Present: Cliff Sinnott, Dave Walker, Scott Bogle, Christian Matthews and Roxanne Rines, RPC.

Meeting Opened at 9:02 a.m.

1. Introductions

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

2. Minutes of February 23, 2017, TAC Meeting

Motion: Jacobs made a motion to approve the minutes of February 23, 2017, as written. **McDermott** seconded the motion. **Motion carried with abstentions.**

3. 2018-2019 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Walker stated the UPWP guides the work that staff and the MPO undertakes the next two fiscal years. Since the TAC last reviewed the document, it has been revised to include comments from commissioners, NHDOT, FHWA and FTA. The most substantive revision has been a 12% decrease to the budget, which will result in less work; however, this is not finalized.

He reviewed the areas that will be most affected by the adjustment and reviewed the technical edits to the document. Final approval of the document will be at the Policy meeting on April 12th.

McDermott asked if CART will be getting their own management. **Bogle** reviewed the shift in management and structure for CART.

Discussion ensued about changes in funding due to municipality changes, federal match, dues and level funding.

Motion: **Woodward** made a motion to recommend approval of the 2018-2019 UPWP by the MPO Policy Committee. **McDermott** seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

4. Act Coordinated Public Transit/Human Services Transportation Plan for ACT

Bogle explained the legislation, purpose and the core requirements of these plans. The plans must be adopted by MPO's. New Hampshire follows the boundaries of the 10 Regional Coordination Councils for Community Transportation (RCCs). He reviewed the structure of the RCC membership and stated that RPC provides technical assistance to 2 RCCs, the Greater Derry-Salem and the Southeast NH RCC/ACT regions.

Bogle continued with a powerpoint presentation reviewing the 3 key sections for review: table of contents; chapter 2: introduction; and chapter 6: findings and recommendations.

The RPC will hold a public hearing during the Policy meeting on April 12th. **Bogle** then presented a summary of the plans findings and recommendations.

Motion: **Woodward** made a motion to recommend adoption of the 2018-2019 UPWP by the MPO Policy Committee. **McDermott** seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

5. Ten Year Plan Project Prioritization

Walker stated 18 new projects were received and gave brief descriptions. The starting point for this prioritization exercise for the Ten-Year Plan included 169 projects. Forty-seven of these projects are already in the Ten-Year Plan, the Transportation Improvement Program, or otherwise in the construction process.

Walker continued that he viewed 45 projects as not ready because they are not eligible, not feasible, missing aspects of the scope and cost, or are simply not needed at this point. About 32 of the remaining 77 projects are eligible for another type of funding. DOT has given all MPO's a budgetary target which they determined is our "fair share" of funding available for transportation improvements. While the MPO is not guaranteed this funding, our regions budget target is estimated at **\$6,277,000** for the last two years of the Ten Year Plan.

Walker stated staff determined the best approach to prioritizing projects was to examine first the eligibility and feasibility of projects and then score those projects against a set of selection criteria. He reviewed the point values of the criteria and weights that were established at the February 23rd TAC Meeting. He reviewed the project list as prioritized by staff. Discussion ensued.

Based on level of funding, multiple projects in the top 10 fit easily within the targeted budget amount. In 2015, DOT did not simply fund the top projects that fit within the budget amount, but funded 5 of the RPC top 10 projects at the time. Assuming a similar approach is employed in this round, we could expect to see 2-5 projects funded.

Walker stated he would like to add a comment to the recommendations, asking DOT to set aside funding to complete feasibility studies and reviewed some of his concerns. Discussion ensued about bridge projects, using impact fees or private funds to help decrease the total cost for transportation improvements due to large developments and moving projects ahead that have substantial private funding.

Motion: **Sharples** made a motion to recommend approval of the Ten Year Plan Project Prioritized List as presented with Walker's recommendation, by the MPO Policy Committee. **McDermott** seconded the motion.

Nichols stated the program is unfairly biased towards certain types of projects (transit projects) and gave examples.

Nichols stated he would like a friendly amendment that would add a recommendation to the document asking 'DOT to continue serious evaluation of the weighting concerning transit projects before the next round begins'. Both Sharples and McDermott agreed to the amendment. **Motion carried.**

6. Project Updates

A handout was distributed.

Meeting adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne M. Rines
Recording Secretary