

MEMORANDUM

TO: RPC MPO Transportation Advisory Committee
FROM: RPC/MPO Staff
DATE: April 26, 2018
RE: Project Updates

Derry-Salem CART Transit System – C Staff are continuing to work with the Manchester Transit Authority (MTA), Easter Seals NH and SNHPC on the management transition as part of the pilot agreement for MTA to handle most CART administrative functions. Transit operations will continue to be provided by Easter Seals NH under contract. CART will continue to be an independent legal entity with direct responsibilities to the Federal Transit Administration. As such CART will continue to contract with RPC and SNHPC oversee the contract with MTA and handle certain FTA responsibilities, and work with MTA staff to orient them to CART records, policies, procedures and municipal contacts. Following the transition period this will allow RPC staff to reduce their time commitment to CART significantly. (*Scott Bogle - sbogle@rpc-nh.org*)

Rye – Dow Lane Traffic Counts and Assessment: RPC has been assisting the Town of Rye with an assessment of traffic speeds and volumes on Dow Lane, a popular shortcut between US 1 and Washington Road after residents complained of speeding vehicles and safety concerns. RPC conducted automated volume, speed, and classification counts on the roadway, as well as performed turning movement counts at the US 1/Dow Lane, Dow Lane/Washington Road, and US 1/Washington Road intersections. This data will give the community an indication of the type and volume of traffic, as well as the speed at which people are travelling on Dow Lane. Combined with the turning movement counts at the three intersections, this will aid in assessing the feasibility of options to reduce the speed (and possibly volume) of traffic. The study was completed in February and presented to the Rye Select Board in March. The community is working with NHDOT to implement a demonstration project this spring, and to permanently implement some of the permanent changes as part of a paving project on US 1 in the vicinity this summer. (*Dave Walker – dwalker@rpc-nh.org*)

Stratham Safe Routes to School Initiative: The town of Stratham has received word from NHDOT that the three grant applications for Safe Routes to School (SRTS) funding prepared with assistance from RPC have been approved internally. The town applied for \$10,000 in SRTS Start-Up grant funding, a \$30,000 Travel Planning grant that would be developed by RPC with subcontracted conceptual engineering assistance, and a \$10,000 Supplemental Non-Infrastructure grant to support development of a volunteer crossing guard program and supplemental enforcement activities. Project start is awaiting Governor and Council approval of the contract. The SRTS program will include Stratham Memorial School and the Cooperative Middle School. To allow an engineering firm to be selected and begin work prior to the end of the school year, staff have drafted a Request for Qualifications for the town and will assist with that process. (*Scott Bogle – sbogle@rpc-nh.org*)

Hampton Branch Acquisition & NH Seacoast Greenway – In early April staff met with NHDOT Commissioner Victoria Sheehan to discuss the status of the state's negotiation with Pan Am Railways to acquire the 9.6 mile Hampton-Portsmouth segment of the abandoned Hampton Branch rail corridor. The meeting also addressed issues with the draft Trail Management Agreements NHDOT has presented to corridor communities. Meanwhile staff are working to secure funding for a video and print communications package that highlights the rail trail as an economic catalyst. A \$5000 anonymous donation has been received along with a \$500 pledge from the East Coast Greenway Alliance. Staff are also approaching the NH Charitable Foundation and Unifil. (*Scott Bogle – sbogle@rpc-nh.org*)

Stratham – NH 111/Marin Way: RPC staff conducted volume and turning movement counts at the intersection of NH 111 and Marin Way in Stratham. This intersection serves the industrial development that contains Lindt Chocolates and Timberland among other businesses and currently a Stratham Police officer is stationed at the intersection each afternoon to facilitate traffic exiting the site. Turning movement counts were conducted for both the AM and PM peak periods, and were collected at the NH

101/NH 111 interchange adjacent to the site (Exit 12). Findings from the capacity analysis indicates that the intersections all have approaches that are over capacity and causing excessive delay. (Dave Walker – dwalker@rpc-nh.org)

Public-Private Partnership (P3) Infrastructure Oversight Commission: The New Hampshire Legislature passed Senate Bill 549 in 2016 establishing a Public-Private Partnership Oversight Commission to consider and recommend to the Commissioner of Transportation projects that may be suitable for delivery using design-build-finance-operate-maintain or design-build-operate-maintain services. The Commission will also act as an advisory board during the execution of a public-private partnership project. The Commission recently completed a process to solicit letters of interest from parties identifying potential projects in the state that could be implemented via a public-private partnership and responses were received relating to privatizing rest areas on the interstates, privatizing intercity transit terminals and related parking, as well as other proposals. The Commission met on March 23rd, 2018 to hear from the groups submitting letters of interest and any other feedback on proposals. Until April 20th, the Commission is in a public comment period and is accepting written comments on any of the letters of interest received. While the Commission gave some indication of areas that they were and were not interested in pursuing, they will meet on April 20th to review any additional comments received and begin formulating the next steps to move forward in the areas where private and public interests align. The information about the Commission and the letters of interest can be seen on NHDOT's website here: <https://www.nh.gov/dot/programs/public-private-partnership/index.htm>. (Dave Walker – dwalker@rpc-nh.org)

State Freight Plan: NHDOT has begun the development of a State Freight Plan that will define a short and long-term vision for the freight transportation system in New Hampshire. The Freight Plan will be multi-modal and will identify strategies to guide future freight policies, investments and partnerships. A Freight Summit was recently held in Claremont where an overview of the plan was provided along with updates on national trends in freight transportation, and information on the Port of New Hampshire. Additional events, including a meeting in the Seacoast area, are planned for this spring and summer. More information can be found on NHDOT's website: <https://www.nh.gov/dot/org/projectdevelopment/planning/freight-plan/index.htm>. (Dave Walker – dwalker@rpc-nh.org)