

RPC Transportation Advisory Committee Minutes

April 26, 2018

RPC Conference Room, Exeter NH

Members Present: Richard McDermott, Chairman (Hampton Falls); Robert Clark (Atkinson); Tim Moore (Plaistow); Ken Christiansen (Brentwood); Rad Nichols (COAST); Chris Cross, Peter Welch (Newington); Chris Jacobs (Hampton); Dave Sharples (Exeter); Tavis Austin (Stratham); Maria Stowell (PDA); Tracy McAllister, Lucy St. John (NHDOT); Elizabeth Strachan (NHDES)

Guest: Jonathan Evans (NHDOT)

Staff: Dave Walker (Transportation Program Mgr); Scott Bogle (Sr. Transportation Planner); Tim Roache (Executive Director); Christian Matthews (GIS/Transportation Analyst); Annette Pettengill (Business Manager)

1. **Introductions:** Chairman McDermott convened the meeting at 9 a.m. and attendees introduced themselves

2. Minutes of February 22, 2018

Strachan noted there were some typographical/administrative changes and she would send them to Pettengill to be incorporated into the Minutes after the meeting today. *Moore moved to approve the Minutes of February 22, 2018 as presented with administrative changes to be added; Christiansen seconded. **SO VOTED.***

*** Agenda Order changed ***

6. State Freight Plan – Lucy St. John, NHDOT

St. John gave a presentation on the reasons why freight travel is so important in NH and the goals and objectives of completing a State Freight Plan (SFP) for NH. She explained that each state must do a SFP to be eligible for National Highway Freight Program funding. The State Freight Advisory Committee (SFAC) is charged with preparing an SFP and to do so it must develop an understanding of freight travel in NH. Trucks ship more than 95% of all goods in NH.

Transportation costs accounts for 10% of product costs, and our proximity to Boston means a lot of overseas products come into this area, therefore good infrastructure is very important. The SFP reviews documents and data, identifies existing infrastructure status and truck and rail flows, trends, supply chains and looks at all existing deficiencies and restrictions related to the flow of freight travel. She noted that many sources are looked at in the process of doing a freight plan. The State Freight Advisory Committee (SFAC) also conducts public outreach and she encouraged everyone to attend and participate. Discussion followed.

3. NHDOT Noise Policy & Noise Barrier Program – Jonathan Evans, NHDOT

Evans explained that the Code of Federal Regulations requires identification of highway traffic noise impacts; examination and incorporation of potential abatement measures; and coordination with local officials to provide helpful information on compatible land use planning and control. He reviewed three specific types of highway projects, how noise impact is assessed and potential abatement measures that can be used. Questions and answers followed.

5. Bike/Walk to Work Day – Scott Bogle, RPC

Bogle distributed flyers about the events happening in May that highlight Seacoast Bike & Walk Month. This is an effort by the Seacoast Bicycle Riders to coordinate the use of alternatives to single vehicle occupant commutes and promotes riding bikes to work, carpooling, telecommuting or using public transportation.

7. Freight Planning workshop – Tabled until next meeting

4. I-95 High Level Rehabilitation Project – Scott Bogle

Bogle explained that the I-95 bridge rehab project goals include safety improvements, traffic flow improvements and preventative maintenance of bridges along the I95 highway corridor. That means replacing asphalt, safety rails, barriers, providing electric upgrades and adding ITS (intelligent transportation systems) measures. Construction is planned for 2019 & 2020 and totals approx. \$28 million including engineering and construction.

8. Project Updates – distributed

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Pettengill, Recording Secretary