

Transportation Advisory Committee  
Rockingham Planning Commission  
Minutes

July 26, 2018

RPC Conference Room, Exeter NH

Members Present: Richard McDermott, Chairman (Hampton Falls); Robert Clark (Atkinson); Tim Moore (Plaistow); Stephen Gerrato (Greenland); Juliet Walker (Portsmouth); Rad Nichols (COAST); Greg Mikolaities (Rye); Karri Makinen (Salem); Dave Sharples (Exeter); Liz Strachan (NHDES); Tracy McAllister (NHDOT); Mike Rabideau (Seabrook); Chris Jacobs (Hampton)

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

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

2. Minutes of May 24, 2018

No comments regarding the contents of the Minutes were made. Moore moved to approve the Minutes of May 24, 2018 as presented; Clark seconded. SO VOTED. Mikolaities abstained.

3. Stratham Safe Routes to School Project – Scott Bogle, RPC

Bogle gave a brief update on how the RPC assisted the Town of Stratham in applying for the Safe Routes to School Program funds for their elementary and middle schools. Bogle reviewed all aspects of the program and funding, timelines, public involvement and implementation. Discussion followed on the specifics of Stratham's project.

4. TIP Update/Air Quality Conformity – Dave Walker, RPC

Walker reviewed the steps left to develop the TIP that would normally end with adoption in December, but due to the air quality process having to be done and new staff unfamiliar with the modeling process, the process will more than likely be delayed plus/minus 6 months. That may mean an overlap with the Ten Year Plan process. Discussion followed on the air quality requirements.

5. Transportation Alternatives Program; letters of interest – Scott Bogle, RPC

Bogle explained that there is a program called TAP that is a primary source of federal funding for bike safety/pedestrian improvements that provides up to 80% of the cost of eligible projects. Round 3 has \$5.2 million of federal funds available. Three letters of interest were submitted in our region: Portsmouth, New Castle, and Exeter. He noted the timeline and evaluation criteria. The RPC rankings are due to NHDOT November 9<sup>th</sup>. Discussion followed on the use of TAP funds for rail trail projects from Seabrook to Portsmouth. General consensus was that topic be added to a future agenda.

6. Exeter Parking Survey & publicinput.com service test – D. Walker, RPC

Walker stated that the RPC has been working with publicinput.com to enhance its public input capabilities. The RPC was given the use of the software service to test community engagement, so staff did an Exeter Parking & Traffic Survey for the Town. The service seems to provide multiple benefits regarding surveying, including the link to social media and target advertising, as well as targeting the usually under-represented groups, those not coming to meetings. Walker reviewed some of the perceptions and feedback that was received through the study. Discussion followed on how the RPC and it's communities may benefit from purchasing the software and how valuable it would be. Nichols stated that COAST is about to engage in a large project where this service would be very valuable. J. Walker stated Portsmouth would also be interested. Staff will evaluate the cost of the service and update the Committee in the future regarding purchase and opportunities for use.

7. Freight Planning workshop follow up – D. Walker, RPC

Walker reviewed the recommendations on projects in the freight planning corridor.

8. Project Updates (distributed) – No comments

9. Other: Nichols explained the Operations Analysis being performed for COAST. It will launch in September with public forums and stakeholder meetings in October. There will be multiple rounds of public input and hearings. He offered to give a presentation to the TAC in October.

Gerrato stated that Greenland would like the City of Portsmouth to declare a Development of Regional Impact for a Plan that's before the City to increase the Lonza staffing at Pease. He explained that Greenland is concerned this will cause traffic impacts to Route 33 which is already a severely congested. He also stated he would like the Rte 33 congestion added to the 10 Year Transportation Plan as well. J. Walker stated that Portsmouth does not see this as a Development of Regional Impact. She stated that Greenland has

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been notified as an abutter and is free to attend all the meetings and that traffic engineers are doing analysis so that Portsmouth may recommend to Pease any significant impacts and how best to address them. She also stated that Portsmouth would not be opposed to the current traffic issues on Route 33 being added to the 10 Year Plan.

Walker stated that in order to get something on the 10 year Plan the Town of Greenland would need to prepare a letter requesting that. He also stated that the current 10 year plan includes a corridor study on route 33, route 111 and route 125. Discussion followed on asking Senator Prescott to be a proponent of working on the traffic issues on Route 33 as well.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Annette Pettengill, Recording Secretary