

**Transportation Advisory Committee
Rockingham Planning Commission**

**September 26, 2019
RPC Conference Room, Exeter NH**

Members Present: R. McDermott, Chairman (Hampton Falls); T. Moore (Plaistow); T. Austin (Stratham); K. Makinen (Salem); D. Sharples (Exeter); L. St John (NHDOT); E. Strachan (NHDES)

Staff: D. Walker (Assistant Director); S. Bogle (Sr. Transportation Planner); A. Pettengill (Business Manager)

- 1. Chairman McDermott convened the meeting at 9 a.m.**
- 2. Minutes of June 27, 2019**

*Sharples moved to approve the Minutes of June 27, 2019 as presented; Austin seconded. **SO VOTED.***

- 3. CMAQ Project Prioritization- S. Bogle, RPC**

Bogle noted that September 6th was the deadline for submittal of CMAQ letters of interest. The pool of funds for CMAQ projects is \$13.5 million. The RPC region received 12 letters and 4 full proposals, plus 3 from outside the RPC region that could impact our region. Bogle reviewed some of the projects and noted that NHDOT is reviewing all projects for eligibility. The RPC will complete its air quality analysis and then will prioritize the projects.

*Moore moved to endorse all projects submitted; Sharples seconded. Discussion followed on why the TAC is endorsing the projects since it is not required. General consensus was the vote was an endorsement of the projects, generally stating this Committee likes all the projects and is not a prioritization. **SO VOTED.***

- 4. GACIT Ten Year Plan Hearings – D.Walker, RPC**

Walker stated that the GACIT Hearing process has started. The last hearing was well attended by public and legislature as well. The RPC role in the 10 year plan is to give recommendations and prioritization of projects and we did recommend six projects. He encouraged attendance at GACIT Hearings.

5. NHDES Clean Diesel Grant Program – Liz Strachan, NHDES

Strachan explained the Clean Diesel grant program is funded by EPA through the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA). The program is managed by the Air Resources/Technical Services Bureau of NHDES. The goal of this grant program is to reduce the emissions from older diesel engines in the state. Projects eligible for funding include idle reduction technologies, engine replacement, vehicle and equipment replacement, exhaust controls, and aerodynamic technologies. Grant funding is available with a required match by the grantee; the match requirement depends on the project. She stated there is \$700k to spend on replacement, upgrades, or retrofits. All the old engines are destroyed. Applications are open from October 1 through mid-November and awards will be made in December. Discussion followed.

6. East Coast Greenway Update – S. Bogle, RPC

Bogle stated that an agreement has been made between NHDOT & PanAm to purchase the remaining 9.6 mile segment of the Hampton Branch from Hampton to Portsmouth. He explained that a CMAQ construction piece will be a stonedust trail and NHDOT has assigned preliminary design to a consulting firm and a separate contract to a consultant for environmental review. No concrete dates are set for construction to begin as yet, however it will take 18-24 months for the environmental permitting and then the target is another 20-22 months for construction. Multiple meetings will be held along the way for municipal officials and public comment through the design and planning process.

7. **Project Updates:** Bogle noted there is a public input survey available at NHPed/BikePlan.com in conjunction with the preparation of the Statewide Pedestrian/Bicycle Transportation Plan, and public meetings being held as well.

St. John noted there is an online survey for the Draft Transportation Plan and NHDOT encourages towns to participate and engage in the process. McDermott asked Walker to email this survey link to TAC & Policy members.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette Pettengill, Recording Secretary