

**MINUTES**  
**Rockingham Planning Commission**  
**Metropolitan Planning Organization**  
**October 9, 2019**

**Epping Town Hall, Epping NH**

**Commissioners/MPO Reps Present:** R. McDermott, Vice Chair, A. Brubaker (Hampton Falls); P. Coffin (Kingston); P. Britz (Portsmouth); G. Davison (NHDOT); E. Strachan (NHDES); A. Davis (Hampstead); M. McAndrew (New Castle); J. Foley (Epping); J. Doggett (Newton); M. Rabideau (Seabrook); J. VanBokkelen (South Hampton); T. Moore, J. Kiszka (Plaistow); G. Gott (Raymond); P. Wilson (North Hampton); B. Donahue (Salem)

**Guests:** R. Nichols (COAST); L. Wilson (North Hampton)

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

- 1. Call to Order: Vice Chair McDermott convened the meeting at 7:08 p.m.**
- 2. Minutes July 10, 2019**

*Coppelman moved to approve the Minutes of July 10, 2019 as presented; Coffin seconded. **SO VOTED.***

- 3. COAST Comprehensive Operations Analysis – Rad Nichols, Executive Director, COAST**

Nichols provided insight into the Mission of COAST which is to provide customer focused public transportation with a commitment to excellence in safety and service. He reviewed how the agency is analyzing its system to meet the challenges and needs of the public and the route changes that are being made to create a more efficient network. He reviewed how ridership numbers have increased and highlighted a new App that gives customers real time bus location. He also noted that COAST received an award of \$4.9 million in federal funds to assist COAST in its transition to a new overall service designed for better cost efficiencies while improving customer service. Nichols stated how excited he is because this has enabled COAST to move forward with a new conceptual service plan and gives a small window to solve the challenge of securing adequate funding to sustain operations in the future. Discussion followed.

**4. Ten Year Plan Process Update – D. Walker, Assistant Director, RPC**

Walker noted that 3 of 4 GACIT Hearings have taken place and there is one more in Kingston on October 28<sup>th</sup> – he encouraged everyone to attend as it's a great way to connect with your legislative reps and be heard. He also reviewed the Draft 10 Year Plan released by NHDOT which includes six priority projects recommended by the MPO and noted there is a virtual public input survey that NHDOT is using to help them with the priority ranking of projects [www.nh.gov/dot](http://www.nh.gov/dot) Bogle explained the project selection process and discussion followed.

**5. CMAQ Update – S. Bogle, Sr. Transportation Planner, RPC**

Bogle stated that CMAQ letters of interest were received and included statewide and RPC region projects for a total of \$2.36 mill in federal funds requested. He listed the proposals for the RPC region and explained the next step is NHDOT reviews the projects for eligibility, scope & budget.

**6. NH Seacoast Greenway Update – S. Bogle, Sr. Transportation Planner, RPC**

Bogle was happy to report that there is a Governor & Council approved contract with PanAm Hampton-Portsmouth Branch Rail Corridor & NH Seacoast Greenway. The design and construction phase is starting and opportunities and/or constraints are being reviewed, such as standing water, fencing needed, etc. Discussion followed.

**7. Other Business**

Walker noted a flyer for three Drinking Water Protection Workshops being put on by the RPC in Stratham, Hampstead and Raymond and the Legislative Forum will be the next meeting on November 13<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Annette Pettengill, Recording Secretary

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