

MINUTES
Rockingham Planning Commission
Metropolitan Planning Organization
May 13, 2020

Virtual Meeting via Zoom and Public Input

Commissioners/MPO Reps Present: B. Kravitz, Chairman, A. Carnaby (Hampton); R. McDermott, A. Brubaker (H. Falls); P. Wilson (North Hampton); M. McAndrew (New Castle); A. Davis (Hampstead); T. Moore, J. Kiszka (Plaistow); G. Davison (NH DOT); P. Coffin, G. Coppelman (Kingston); L. Plumer, G. English (Exeter); E. Moreau (Portsmouth); R. Donahue (Salem); C. Cross (Newington); J. Doggett, M. Allen (Newton); P. Winslow, J. Grote (Rye); M. Turell (Atkinson); S. Gerrato (Greenland); R. Nichols (Executive Director, COAST); T. White (NHDes)

Guests: J. Bachand (Town Planner, Hampton), S. Meno (UNH Cooperative Extension), D. Moore (Town Administrator, Stratham), B. Warburton (Chief, Hampton Budget Committee and Hampton Master Plan Committee), R. Friedman (NRPC)

Staff: T. Roache (Executive Director), D. Walker (Assistant Director/Transportation Manager), S. Bogle (Sr. Transportation Planner), J. Rowden (Sr. Planner), A. Warhaft (Office Coordinator)

- 1. Call to Order: Chairman Kravitz called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.; introductions and roll call was made for the Zoom meeting attendees.**
- 2. Minutes of February 12, 2020**

*J. Doggett moved to approve the Minutes of February 12, 2020; R. McDermott seconded. **SO VOTED.** 10 abstentions.*

- 3. Public Hearing: Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #4 – D. Walker**

D. Walker opened the presentation of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Amendment #4 by summarizing for attendees what the TIP covers, why there are amendments to the plan and the timeline for the Program.

Walker explained that Amendment #4 to the TIP was noticed for a 10 day public comment period from May 2 – 12, 2020, and that no comments were filed. Overall, Amendment #4 addresses 3 Regional and 1 Statewide project changes (4 total). The changes include one project addition, one scope change and two adjustments to project costs and timing. There is a net increase in cost during the TIP years (2019-2022) of \$10.6 million and \$20.7 million total including all project funds in years beyond 2022. Walker reviewed each of the projects, cost/funding changes and adjustments. He also explained that the Long Range Transportation

Plan is being updated to maintain consistency between the project list in the two documents. Air quality conformity is maintained and will rely on previous conformity analysis. Fiscal constraint is being maintained with a small surplus in each of the four years.

Kravitz Opened the Public Hearing at 7:40 p.m. for the TIP Amendment #4 as presented by David Walker. Comments and discussion followed from the MPO Committee Members and the Public Input attendees.

Comment from David Moore (Town Administrator, Stratham): We are grateful to you and the RPC staff for the effort at making this hearing accessible in this way. I want to also thank the RPC, the MPO, and the MPO TAC for their work on the TIP and preceding plans. We have been following the Stratham project included in this amendment closely. We are grateful to the State for their support in moving this project along more quickly and we would appreciate your support for the improvements proposed for this intersection, which has been a safety concern. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

4. **MPO Discussion and Roll Call Vote on TIP Amendment #4.** *The Technical Advisory Committee met on April 23, 2020 and recommended approval of Amendment #4. L. Plumer moved to approve the TIP Amendment #4 as presented; P. Wilson seconded. **SO VOTED.***

Public Hearing closed at 8:05 p.m.

5. **MPO Operations COVID19 Update.** T. Roache brought the members up to speed on the RPC office and how we are dealing with the COVID crisis. Technology is allowing the office to successfully function as our employees work from home. The crisis has opened up opportunities to engage with our communities in new ways. Examples include: a joint effort between the RPC, the Town of Exeter, and the Regional Economic Development Corporation to assist the community and small businesses with available resources; the RPC has also partnered with the Southern Maine Planning District Commission and the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission to support a tri-state effort to coordinate the opening of beaches so as to not overwhelm any one community. T. Roache encouraged member communities to share comments and experiences with us so that information can be shared with RPC communities.

6. **Other Business/Public Comment.** None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Warhaft
