

MINUTES
Rockingham Planning Commission
MPO Technical Advisory Committee
August 26, 2021

Stratham Town Office
Bunker Hill Ave, Stratham NH

Members Present: T. White (NHDES)P; L. Levine, P. Maloney (FHWA)P; L. St. John (NHDOT); J. Hale (Hampton); M. Connors (Stratham); M. Stowell (PDA); R. Nichols (COAST)P; P. Coffin (Kingston)P; D. Sharpes (Exeter)P; S. Casella (Portsmouth); D. Seiglie (Rye)P

Staff: D. Walker (Transp Mgr/Assistant Director); S. Bogle (Sr. Transp Plnr); C. Matthews (GIS/Transp. Analyst)P; A. Pettengill (Business Manager)

1. Meeting convened at 9:00 a.m. and introductions were made.

2. Minutes of June 24, 2021

*Coffin moved to approve the Minutes of June 24, 2021 as presented; Stowell seconded. **SO VOTED.***

3. 2023 – 2032 Ten Year Plan – D. Walker

Walker noted that NHDOT is expected to release the 2023-2032 State Ten Year Plan in September and it will include the priority project recommendations of the MPO as well as the unfinished projects that were already part of the document. The dates of the public hearings will be released at the September 1st GACIT meeting. The hearings provide the public with an opportunity to hear NHDOT's presentation on the process and funding constraints, selection process and priorities as well as receive feedback on the draft plan. It also provides the RPC to present its process for planning and prioritizing. Walker reviewed some of the comments from previous GACIT hearings regarding funding levels, changing transportation needs in the region, complete streets approach, and train service. A new topic this year will be climate change, adaptation and resiliency. Discussion followed. Bogle suggested its important to get your legislator to attend the GACIT hearings. Walker will email the schedule of hearings when available.

4. NH Seacoast Greenway Update & Nat'l Park Service Grant Scope- S. Bogle

Bogle stated that a grant from the Nat'l Park Service Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) will provide technical assistance on a series of tasks associated with the NH Seacoast Greenway (NHSG) rail trail project on the Hampton Branch corridor. The project includes Community Connections; trailhead design; trail signage; NHSGA development and community strategy. At this point all the crossings along the Hampton Branch have been reviewed and the State has secured the remaining miles of the Branch from Pan Am. There is also construction and design phase happening now with a target for construction to be in the Fall of 2022. There is no money to actually build trailheads so the municipalities will be charged with funding that, however trailhead access analysis and possible locations have been presented. Workgroups will be meeting in the coming year to work on all the tasks as outlined in the grant. Discussion followed.

5. Long Range Transportation Plan-S.Bogle

Bogle explained that the Long Range Plan is one of the two most important MPO documents, and the last full update was back in 2017. Only minor updates have been done since 2017 with the new TIP and project lists. A full update is needed and intended to include a baseline for transportation systems; minimum 20 year planning horizon; forecasts for future conditions; fiscal needs for construction vs. revenue to support new investments; a range of policies for infrastructure; and federally defined performance measures. Bogle reviewed the current plan structure and the overall planning process and public input. He noted he will be looking at the Goals for the Plan and will come up with a revision that is smaller and more streamlined than the list of the 2017 Goals. The timeline is to start in the Fall with focus groups and surveys in the winter, public forums and updating goals in April/May, project solicitation in the summer months, update the Plan in the Fall of 2022 and adoption in March 2023. Seiglie thanked Bogle for the information and applauded the goal to make revisions. She suggested that trying to reduce the amount of travel for an aging population will mean addressing traveling differently instead of increasing traffic capacity. Perhaps focusing more on hubs for people to park and ride together or rideshare. Discussion followed on designing for less driving and improving transit system access. St. John suggested combining Goal #3, 4 & 5 to address a multi-modal perspective. Walker agreed that he would like to shift away from mobility goals to a more balanced system for all users that shows how to get there vs reducing travel times in a system that has no other options than driving. Levine noted that federal dollars equal accessibility and equity (underserved population). Bogle added that the age friendly communities project the RPC is engaged in will result in more racial equity and outreach, as well as the disabled and aged groups involvement that was previously under-represented.

6. Project Updates

Bogle and Walker updated the status of Seacoast Transportation Corridors Vulnerability Analysis (STC), Seabrook-Hampton Bridge Replacement, Age Friendly Communities Initiative, and the Transit Economic Impact study.

7. **Open Discussion/comments:** Nichols noted that there has been a suspension of some COAST service since there is a lack of drivers and they are short staffed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette Pettengill, Recording Secretary

DRAFT