

MINUTES
Rockingham Planning Commission
MPO Technical Advisory Committee
September 23, 2021

Stratham Town Office
Bunker Hill Ave, Stratham NH

Members Present: R. McDermott (Hampton Falls); J. Hale (Hampton); M. Connors (Stratham); T. White (NHDES)P; P. Maloney (FHWA)P; Leah Sirmin (FTA)P; S. Casella (Portsmouth)P;

Staff: D. Walker (Transp Mgr/Assistant Director); S. Bogle (Sr. Transp Plnr); C. Matthews (GIS/Transp. Analyst)P; T. Roache (Executive Director)

- 1. Meeting convened at 9:00 a.m. and introductions were made.**
- 2. Minutes of August 26, 2021**

*Hale moved to approve the Minutes of August 26, 2021 as presented; Connors seconded. **SO VOTED.***

- 3. Title VI Program Plan – S. Bogle**

Bogle gave a presentation on the draft Title VI Civil Rights Program & MPO Non-Discrimination Policy. As a recipient of Federal funding, the MPO has a responsibility under the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to ensure that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color or national origin be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination in any program or activity carried out by the MPO. Subsequent federal legislation and MPO policy extend these protections on the basis of sex, age, religion and disability. The Title VI Plan is updated every three years and is the document with which the MPO reaffirms our commitment to these policies.

The Title VI Plan includes an analysis of minority populations and the population in poverty in the region with mapping at the Census Tract level to identify concentrations of disadvantaged populations and assess whether any discrepancies exist in access to benefits of the transportation system or exposure to adverse effects of the transportation system. The plan also includes an analysis of populations in the region with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) to ensure that all residents of the region have the ability to participate in the MPO process if they so choose. The LEP analysis found Spanish to be the predominant second language in the region with a concentration of LEP Spanish speakers primarily in Salem. While this population does not

exceed the threshold above which the MPO is required to translate key documents, the MPO has access to on-call interpretation and translation services through Ascentria Care Alliance if needed. RPC has translated several key Civil Rights documents into Spanish and set up the MPO website to use Google Translate for access in different languages. Staff have approached Ascentria for quotes to translate a brochure summarizing the RPC and MPO, and a second brochure explaining the project solicitation and selection process. Staff have recently stepped up outreach to underrepresented communities, including meetings this past spring with the NAACP Seacoast Chapter (Portsmouth based) and the Racial Unity Team (Exeter based).

*Connors moved to recommend to approval by the MPO Policy Committee of the Title VI Program Plan as presented; Hale seconded. **SO VOTED.***

4. COAST Economic Impact Study – S. Bogle

Bogle summarized the Economic Impact Study that RPC and SRPC developed for COAST Transit Services over the past year. This has involved a quantitative element including economic modeling of the direct, indirect and induced economic impacts of COAST spending on operations using an IMPLAN based economic model. The study also used a methodology from the Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP) to estimate of the economic benefits to riders, employers and medical providers of access provided by COAST for employment, medical care, job training and access to basic life needs such as grocery shopping. A qualitative analysis component has included an extensive series of stakeholder interviews with over twenty municipal economic development directors, employers, private developers, chambers of commerce, hospitals and health care providers, housing authorities, and non-profits involved with housing, adult education, and senior services. The two models together estimated a total economic impact of the system on the region of \$24.9 million/year. Discussion followed.

5. Discussion of Regional Transportation System Issues and Need for the Long Range Transportation Plan- D. Walker/ S. Bogle

Item was tabled for a future meeting due to lack of time.

6. Project Updates

Bogle and Walker updated the status of the Age Friendly Communities Initiative, upcoming GACIT Hearings and the Ten Year Plan, and the Rail Trail.

7. Open Discussion/comments: None.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Walker, Recording Secretary
