

MINUTES
Rockingham Planning Commission
MPO Technical Advisory Committee
January 27, 2022

RPC Offices
156 Water Street, Exeter
In Person and Virtual participation via Zoom

Members Present: R. McDermott, Chairman (Hampton Falls); R. Nichols (COAST); L. St. John (NHDOT); P. Mahoney (FHWA); P. Coffin (Kingston); T. White (NHDES); D. Seigle (Rye); J. Hale (Hampton); M. Connors (Stratham)

Guests: C. Cross (Newington)

Staff: D. Walker (Transp Mgr/Assistant Director); S. Bogle (Sr. Transp Plnr); A. Pettengill (Business Mgr)

1. **Chairman McDermott welcomed those in attendance and stated that under RSA 91-A:2 III (b) The chair is waiving the requirement of a quorum at the physical location of the meeting. Whereas, in order to ensure an uninterrupted flow of federal transportation funding to the region the RPC must act on Amendment 2 to the Transportation Improvement Program. Whereas, the RPC chair has decided that immediate action is imperative and the physical presence of a quorum is not reasonably practical within the period of time requiring action due to the ongoing pandemic. Therefore, the RPC will invoke this emergency provision and waive requirement of a quorum at the physical location of the meeting.**

Roll Call Attendance was taken.

2. **Minutes of 10/28/21 & 12/2/21 TAC Meetings**

*Coffin moved to approve the Minutes of October 28, 2021 and December 2, 2021 as presented; Nichols seconded. Roll Call Vote was taken. **SO VOTED.***

3. **TIP Amendment #3 – D. Walker**

Walker gave an overview of the planning process and the TIP amendment process. He reviewed 7 regional projects and 5 statewide project changes contained in this amendment. He noted that fiscal constraint of the TIP is being maintained and a large balance of funds remain due to the recent adoption of 11JA and ARP funding. Air quality conformity requirements are met based on the existing analysis from 2013. *Nichols moved to endorse the*

*TIP Amendment #3 and recommend for approval by the MPO Policy Committee; Connors seconded. Roll Call Vote was taken. **SO VOTED.***

4. Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) 2022 Performance Targets – D. Walker

Walker stated that FHWA requires five safety related performance targets must be set and published annually by the State DOT's and MPOs. These targets are set with the intention to coordinate the effort of the State Depts of Transportation, State Office of Highway Safety, and MPOs to assess the safety performance of the transportation system. Walker reviewed the five required target assessments and the findings of each. He noted that the MPO can expand the targets and the RPC did this when they included motorcycle fatalities in the performance targets. Question and answers followed Walker's review. *Coffin moved to approve the RPC 2022 HSIP Performance Targets as presented and recommend approval by the MPO Policy Committee; Nichols seconded. Roll Call Vote was taken. **SO VOTED.***

5. Coordinated Public Transit & Human Services Transportation Plan Updates for ACT Region & Region 8/9 – S. Bogle

Bogle explained that all MPOs are required to develop regional transit coordination plans as a prerequisite for transit agencies in MPO planning regions to access funding under FTA 5310. The requirement is meant to improve the access and quality and efficiency for services. Bogle explained that the RPC provides technical assistance to two Regional Coordination Councils for Community Transportation, the Manchester-Derry-Salem RCC region and the Southeast NH RCC/ACT.

Bogle reviewed the core requirements of the Coordinated Plans. Maloney asked if equity, inclusiveness, and demographics are being included in the requirements for the updates and Bogle replied yes, especially since the recommendations are coming from transportation providers and local welfare workers. Data on minorities has been gleaned from working with COAST and MTA as well. Coffin asked if any Afghan refugees are included in the data and Nichols replied that only one family is known to be in the region and they are being served by the resources. Discussion followed. Bogle stated the completed plan for the Manchester-Derry-Salem area will be ready this Spring and the plan for the ACT region will be ready this time next year.

6. Project Updates: Walker & Bogle

STCVA – Discussions held with Portsmouth, New Castle, Rye, North Hampton, Hampton & Seabrook regarding initial findings and potential impacts on the transportation network due to flooding and sea level rise. There will soon be a draft of adaptation options for 10 of the 25 sites where impacts are anticipated, and site specific analysis for two designated locations.

Route 1 Corridor Hampton Falls Study should be wrapping up soon. Two public information sessions have been held and a final public meeting is planned to cover the recommendations. Based on feedback from Hampton Falls they do not wish to widen Route 1.

Seabrook-Hampton Bridge Replacement draft environmental assessment has been submitted to FHWA for review and permitting. That should be completed by April 2022 and then the design will be finalized.

An annual list of all obligated projects that FHWA and FTA have committed funds to in the RPC region in the last year has been published.

Staff continue to work with the Seacoast Greenway Alliance group; most recent work includes developing a signage plan and planning for community connections by gathering input from town officials. There is an anonymous donation for \$24,000 which will be used for signage and amenities on the trail. There is discussion on installing user counters on the rail trails around the region.

Age Friendly Communities Initiative continues to make progress. Six towns have been chosen for assessment: Exeter, Fremont, Hampstead, Hampton, Portsmouth, and Stratham.

- 7. Discussion:** Several bills of interest were discussed including SB 147 to increase local vehicle registration fee to fund transportation projects; HB 1432 prohibiting State funds and turnpike toll credits to be used for train service; SB 344 public meetings law.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette Pettengill, Recording Secretary