

MINUTES
Rockingham Planning Commission
MPO Technical Advisory Committee
RPC Offices, 156 Water Street, Exeter NH
August 24, 2023

Recording available on RPC YouTube page here: <https://youtu.be/cz5vHE4YZGQ>

Members Present: B. Dion (Greenland); P. Coffin (Kingston); D. Sharples (Exeter); E. Eby (Portsmouth); D. Seiglie (Rye); R. Nichols (COAST); J. Wilcox (NHDES); V. Partington, (NHDES); L. St. John (NHDOT); L. Levine (FHWA)

Staff: D. Walker (Assistant Director); S. Bogle (Senior Transportation Planner); T. Cheever (Transportation/GIS Analyst); M. Jerominek (Regional Planner)

1. Introductions (0:00-2:30)

Roll call attendance was taken. Walker indicated that the chair was not attending and that he would run the meeting.

2. Minutes of 4/27/23 Meetings (2:30-2:45)

Tabled until next meeting

3. Ten Year Plan Priorities and GACIT Hearings (2:45-29:20) – D. Walker

Walker reminded TAC members of the work that RPC had accomplished in the spring in setting Ten Year Plan Priorities. He provided a quick overview of the project selection process, the feedback provided by NHDOT on the proposals submitted, and the ultimate priorities selected by the Policy Committee in April. Walker shared the draft Ten Year Plan GACIT hearing dates and locations indicating that the list has not been finalized by NHDOT. Format of those hearings would be similar to previous iterations with a 15 minute presentation from NHDOT, 5 minute presentation from RPC and then testimony from the public. Short discussion followed about RPC's targeted funding, impacts of inflation, and the details and timing of the Portsmouth Circle proposal, and redistribution of federal funds. Also discussed how the prioritization process could be improved next cycle.

4. Long Range Transportation Plan Update (29:20-50:10) – M. Jerominek

Jerominek provided an overview of the changes being made to the Long Range Transportation Plan including updating themes, improving document accessibility and public outreach. RPC is looking to develop a transportation system that works for our aging population, is balanced among modes of transportation, and is well funded. She covered how housing location and land

use distribution are impacting the options for improvement and how resilience planning needs to be integrated into the process. The document is being updated to make it more “readable” by reducing the amount of text, improving clarity by using plain language, adding graphics, and ensuring that the document is accessible to people of all abilities. She provided an overview of some potential scenario planning options being discussed internally and how that may be integrated into the document. Public outreach will include a survey or surveys, outreach to specific underserved populations, focus groups, and working to understand barriers to transportation and understanding transportation related decisions.

5. COAST Transit Stop Accessibility Study (50:10- 1:11:20) – S. Bogle

Bogle provided an overview of the COAST Transit Stop Accessibility Study that RPC and SRPC are undertaking. Building off some of the work that was completed around Bicycle Level of Traffic Stress (LTS) a few years ago, this project will evaluate how accessible COAST transit stops are and what improvements may be needed to ensure access to transit. This includes a Pedestrian LTS analysis, a connectivity analysis, outreach, and model site plan review regulations. This includes data collection and development of a Pedestrian LTS analysis model and mapping of outcomes. Heat mapping will be used to identify high frequency locations, concentrations of ADA paratransit service needs, and connectivity between transit stops, commercial, and residential areas will be examined and gaps identified. Model site plan review regulations will be developed to improve the connectivity of developments to the transit network and minimize future gaps in accessibility.

6. Hampstead RSMS Project (1:11:20-1:28:25) – T. Cheever

Cheever provided an overview of the work that RPC is conducting for the Town of Hampstead updating their Road Surface Management Survey (RSMS). She covered the hierarchy of roads and the practice of planning for pavement maintenance and rehabilitation. RSMS provides a database of road conditions and suggested improvements and timeframes for implementation to be efficient and keep costs low. This process involves data collection and forecasting. Surface condition data is collected and a Pavement Condition Index (PCI) is calculated. From this priorities for improvements are estimated. Roadways conditions are mapped by PCI so that the community can visualize roadways in poor condition. RPC works with the community to identify priorities as they may vary from place to place. Short discussion followed regarding how other communities may be able to implement RSMS.

7. Agency Updates and Announcements (1:28:25-1:47:25) – Multiple TAC Members

Dion Shared the discussions that are ongoing to conduct a planning charrette in Greenland discussing the future of NH33 and the needs of the corridor. Portsmouth asked about the status of the US 1 project (Portsmouth). NHDOT indicated that they will be posting the final GACIT Hearing schedule soon. NHDES shared two grant opportunities that are currently open – Granite State Clean Fleets which provides funds for diesel replacement and EV replacements. NH Clean Diesel Grant is also open and also provides funds for replacing older diesel engines (pre-2009)

with newer cleaner diesel or electric vehicles. COAST provided an update on the improvements in ridership and some routes and services are seeing pre-pandemic ridership levels return. The new maintenance facility is progressing through permitting and towards final design. Federal funding has been secured but local match is still in the works. COAST is expecting a fiscal deficit for FY25 and is working with the communities and NHDOT to address that issue. Rye is working on addressing speeding issues in the community. FHWA provided information on a FHWA webinar covering federal requirements related to grants. RPC provided an update on the SS4A grant and notified the TAC that the grant agreement has been signed and RPC has started working on the Request For Proposals to hire a consulting firm to assist in the development of Safety Action Plans for the four New Hampshire MPOs.

8. Project Updates (1:47:25-1:52:43) D. Walker

- Walker provided a brief overview of efforts to try and revitalize attendance at TAC meetings. This includes potentially changing the time of the meeting, providing food, and other opportunities to improve participation.
- A brief discussion of the traffic count program occurred and covered alerting towns to when counts may be occurring in their communities.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Walker, Recording Secretary
