

MINUTES
Rockingham Planning Commission
MPO Technical Advisory Committee
RPC Offices, 156 Water Street, Exeter NH
February 22, 2024

Members Present: B. Dion (Greenland); J. Hale (Hampton); P. Coffin (Kingston); T. Moore (Plaistow); M. Connors (Stratham); E. Eby (Portsmouth); J. Harris (Portsmouth); S. Kizza (Brentwood); J. Lavacchia (Hampstead); R. Nichols (COAST); V. Partington, (NHDES); W. Rose (NHDOT); L. Levine (FHWA).

Staff: D. Walker (Assistant Director); S. Bogle (Senior Transportation Planner); M. Jerominek (Regional Planner)

1. Introductions

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

2. Minutes of 1/25/2024 Meetings

Minutes of the meetings were approved without discussion. **Motion: T. Moore; Seconded by R. Nichols. Unanimous with W. Rose and S. Kizza abstaining.**

3. Long Range Transportation Plan Public Engagement Survey – M. Jerominek

Jerominek provided an overview of the draft public engagement survey for the Long Range Transportation Plan. She presented a summary of what the Long Range transportation plan is, how it fits into the framework of other major efforts like the STIP and TYP, and how often specific aspects of the Long Range plan are updated. Prior public engagement efforts have included surveys, public forums, focus groups, collaboration with other MPO's, TAC working sessions, and public comment opportunities. Jerominek presented on the goals of the survey which include identifying transportation needs throughout the region, mode preferences, and barriers to the transportation system experienced by survey respondents. The draft survey was presented question by question so that TAC could provide feedback on the survey contents. Feedback was recorded and is to be incorporated into the next update of the LRTP survey.

4. 2025 Project Solicitation and Selection Process – D. Walker

Walker provided an overview of the project solicitation and selection process for the Long Range Transportation Plan and the next iteration of the State Ten Year Plan. He covered the anticipated timeline, the process for communities to submit projects, an overview of the project selection criteria, and the need to have projects undergo a scope and cost estimate from an engineer. TAC will be reviewing and setting weights for project selection criteria at a meeting this spring. A "short-list" of prioritized projects for the State Ten Year Plan will be produced this

summer and sent to the engineering team for development of scope and cost estimates. RPC will set draft priorities in the fall and submit to NHDOT in November. After NHDOT review, final priorities for the State Ten Year Plan will be approved by the MPO in March 2025.

5. Regional Bike & Ped Planning – S. Bogle

Bogle provided a kickoff presentation to introduce TAC to the development process for the RPC's regional active transportation plan. The presentation covered why we're developing a plan now, background on prior bicycle and pedestrian planning activities from the MPO, public engagement needs for the plan, and questions for TAC. Bogle presented on how recent work at the state and federal level to bring more emphasis and funding to bicycle and pedestrian planning plus FHWA guidance makes it an appropriate time to develop the plan. He talked about recent data resources we have from work at the state and federal level and opened the discussion to TAC to discuss what level of interest communities might have, how RPC can be effective in working with individual communities on bike and pedestrian planning, and specific multi-town regional bike/pedestrian connections RPC should work on.

6. Agency Updates and Announcements – Multiple TAC Members

There will be a Public Information meeting regarding the Ocean Blvd Project (Hampton 40797) on March 5, 2024 beginning at 5:30 at the Seashell Complex in Hampton Beach. Construction on the northern portion of the East Coast Greenway is progressing quickly. Focus this spring is adding lighting and safety improvements at grade crossings. Expected to be completed this year.

7. Project Updates

A project updates memo was provided to TAC members no discussion occurred due to lack of time.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 14:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Walker, Recording Secretary
