

MINUTES**Rockingham Planning Commission
MPO Technical Advisory Committee
RPC Offices, 156 Water Street, Exeter NH
Thursday, January 23, 2025, 12:00 PM-2:00 PM**

Members Present: S. Kizza (Brentwood); D. Sharples (Exeter); B. Dion (Greenland); J. Lavacchia (Hampstead); J. Lynch (Hampton); P. Coffin (Kingston); C. Cross (Newington); T. Moore (Plaistow); E. Eby, J. Harris (Portsmouth); J. Shaw (Rye); S. Connors (Stratham); R. Nichols (COAST); M. Whitten (MTA); L. St. John (NHDOT); M. Bevier (NH DES);

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

1. Introductions

Roll call attendance was taken.

2. Minutes of 12/05/2024 Meeting

Minutes of the meetings were approved without discussion. ***Motion: P. Coffin; Seconded by D. Sharples. Approved – M. Bevier and L. St John abstained.***

3. 2025-2028 TIP Update Draft Project List – D. Walker

D. Walker provided an overview of TIP process, timeline, and fiscal constraint. He covered the current status of the various tasks involved in the update process. Also discussed the current status of projects in the 2023-2026 TIP in terms of proceeding as planned or delayed to some degree. The overall level of funding in the region was covered, total funding by project phase and year, as well as the five largest in terms of funding and overall transit funding for COAST, MTA, and the Boston Urbanized Area. Projects newly added to the TIP were listed, an overview of the Statewide Programs was provided. A 30-day comment period will occur between 2/7-3/8 and changes will be identified during that timeframe along with any comments received. These changes will be discussed at the February TAC meeting and March MPO Policy meeting where approval will be requested after the public hearing.

4. 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan – M. Jerominek

M. Jerominek presented on the draft Long Range Transportation Plan update. The presentation began with a walk through of the work completed so far and work left to do. Work completed so far includes a desk review of coordinated plans, mapping, trend forecasting & demographic data analysis, public outreach, goals & objectives drafting, formatting & Plan drafting, and the environmental mitigation component. Work left to do included engagement & review with TAC, the 30-day public comment period, adoption & finalization of the TIP to ensure the plan is fiscally constrained, any final changes as a result of public comment & review, State & Federal Agency submittal & review, and finally, adoption at the March Commission Meeting.

The draft components presented in the meeting included Chapter 1: Introduction, Chapter 2: Regional Conditions, Chapter 3: Plan Goals, and Chapter 4: Plan Implementation & Environmental Mitigation. It was explained that today's presentation would focus on data analysis and more technical components and that an in-depth review of the Plan text would take place in February during the public comment period. Each section's data was pulled out from the Plan and presented to TAC on the slides, including the region's population growth rate through 2050, commuter statistics, and performance-based planning data including VMT and pavement condition. Data in chapter 3 included ridership statistics from public transit providers, revenue generated by a selection of transportation services in the region, and environmental maps. The last major component presented as part of the LRTP discussion was the environmental mitigation component from Chapter 4, which includes several environmental maps and strategies for mitigating the environmental impacts of projects programmed in the LRTP.

Jerominek shared out on the timeline for adopting the Plan. February steps included the Public Comment period, a TAC meeting to vote on a motion to have the policy committee adopt the Plan, and State & Federal Agency review. March steps included the end of the Public Comment period and final adoption by the Commission & Executive Committee on March 12. A short discussion took place to determine the best method for TAC to review the Plan. It was decided that TAC would prefer to review the Plan online in web format. Jerominek shared that the web version of the LRTP would be available on February 7th, and comments or feedback on the Plan could be sent to her via email or by phone or through the PublicInput portal.

5. Agency Updates and Announcements

- P. Coffin shared that the 800,000 square foot warehouse development approved by Kingston a few years ago requested and received a 1 year extension on their permits to allow more time to work through NH 125 improvements being required by NHDOT.
- Dion shared that the railroad bridge that had burned on the Portsmouth Branch RR in December has been rebuilt and the line is available to train traffic.
- M. Bevier shared that applications for NHDES's Clean Diesel Grant Program are due on January 24, 2025.
- R. Nichols shared that CCOAST ridership had increased 10% year over year. They surpassed 400,000 rides.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Walker, Recording Secretary