

# January 12, 2023

Friday, January 13, 2023

1:16 PM

Notes compiled by Jessica Wilcox (NHDES)

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## **Interagency Conference**

**Remote via MS-Teams**

**NHDOT | 7 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH**

**January 12, 2023, at 1:00 pm**

### **Agenda**

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- Roll Call of Attending Members – In attendance:
  - Andrea Cass (Upper Valley Lake Sunapee RPC)
  - Federick Butler (NH DOT Rail & Transit)
  - Carl Eppich (Southern NHPC)
  - Colin Lentz (Strafford RPC)
  - David Walker (Rockingham PC)
  - J.B. Mack (Southwest RPC)
  - Leigh Levine (FHWA)
  - Matt Waitkins (NRPC)
  - Nate Miller (Southern NHPC)
  - Nicholas Altonaga (North Country Council)
  - Eric Rackauskas (EPA)
  - William Rose (NH DOT – facilitator)
  - Sean Chamberlin (Lakes RPC)
  - Leah Sirmin (FTA)
  - Lucy St. John (NH DOT)
  - Bill Watson (NH DOT)
  - Jessica Wilcox (NHDES)
  
- January Minor Revision
  - No questions or comments regarding the January Minor Revision
  
- Review of IAC materials provided by NHDOT
  - Intending to have a more in-depth conversation/tutorial on materials provided each month on the interagency mailing – will put pin in it for another month when all members are able to attend
  
- 2023-2026 STIP Update
  - No questions or updates

- MPO Public Comment periods:
  - Nashua – begins 01/13/23 and ends 02/14/23, with public hearing on 02/15
  - Southern – will release it on the 19th or 20th for a 30-day comment period ending on 02/21/23, with public hearing on 02/21/23
  - Strafford – ends 02/17/23
  - The RPC – ends on the 6<sup>th</sup>, with a hearing on the 8th – received 3 comments already that will need to be addressed
- FHWA comments received related to Clean Air Act Exempt Codes – whether we should be using the actual exception activity (E Code, like E51), or for those areas that are located in attainment areas, for those projects that are exempt, simply designate them as “ATT” (meaning in attainment)
  - Action: moved to designate as FHWA has requested -- No objections
- Agency Updates
  - NHDES (Jessica Wilcox):
    - [NH Clean Diesel \(DERA\) Grant Program](#) Request for Proposals-Round 3 open – closes on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Open to NH municipalities interested in replacing on-road/highway and off-road diesel vehicles (Class 5-8), engine, and equipment.
  - EPA (Eric Rackauskas) – no updates
  - FTA (Leah Sirmin):
    - FTA funding is available – by 01/31 all program amounts will be publicly available
    - [Areas of Persistent Poverty Program](#) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) has been released. Planning and project development program, applications open until 03/11
    - 2020 urbanized areas census data is available (shapefiles) on the census website
      - 2023 FTA apportionments will not be based on the new census data, that data will be used to inform 2024 programs
  - DOT:
    - CMAQ – Bw. Watson noted that Tom Jameson is working to catalogue applications. 46 total applications were received. Plan to approach AQ analysis discussion in the new few days.
    - Passage of Appropriations Bill will likely not affect the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).
      - There were four congressionally designated spending projects included in the Appropriations Bill. So, between FY 2022 and FY 2023 there are ten earmarks
        - From Round 4 there are projects in Whitefield, Dover, Profile Highschool, and Warner. Those projects will receive funding and will need to be added to the

STIP. Monies need to be obligated by the end of FY2025.

- City of Dover is receiving \$4.5 million in federal funds - federal requirements, current state of project readiness will make implementation challenging within the available time constraints.
- Discussion Regarding TIP and STIP rule amendments and revisions -- the goal to do up to 4 per fiscal year. Goal is to have TIP and STIP updated and approved by end of March. Then, after the STIP is approved, allow for two full STIP revisions during the fiscal year: one for the entire state and the second will be rural only (if necessary).
- FTA (Leah Sirmin) – COAST also received an earmark through the 2023 Appropriations Bill for a facility project. That will need to be added to the STIP as well
- NHDOT Rail & Transit (Fred Butler) – Fred will be meeting tomorrow with FTA (Leah) and others to discuss the transit projects. They will provide an Interagency update next month.
- FHWA (Leigh Levine) – Updates:
  - On 12/09/22, Leigh sent out the template that impacted MPOs can use for their upcoming 2023-2026 TIP (and MTP) updates to help complete and document associated conformity determinations for NH's 1997 Ozone Orphan Area. It needs to be included in the TIP and any public comment documents being provided to the public.
  - There is a new report on travel time-based performance measures
  - There is new FHWA guidance and Q&A info on the National Highway Freight Program formula funds. This is an update of existing guidance addressing changes from the BIL. It includes resources for truck parking. States can also consider obligating up to 40% for intermodal or freight projects for apportionment.
  - On 12/14/22 – USDOT published a NOFO for new round of RAISE funding – the deadline is 02/28/23.
- Other Business
  - Carl Eppich (SNHPC) -- Update: Carl is leaving SNHPC. He's accepted a position in State of Maine as Director of Municipal Assistance Program. His last day with SNHPC is 01/26/23.
- Next Monthly Meeting February 9, 2023

\*\*\*SRPC to take notes (\_\_\_\_\_ on deck)