

## **Interagency Conference Call Meeting Notes – 08/13/2020 by Dave Walker**

### **Roll Call**

Leah Sirmin, FTA; Leigh Levine, FHWA; Matt Waitkins & Gregg Lantos, NRPC; Eric Rackauskas, EPA; Colin Lentz, SRPC; J.B. Mack, SWRPC; Katie Lamb, NCC; Meghan Butts, UVLSRPC; Susan Slack, LRPC; Nate Miller & Carl Eppich, SNHPC; William Rose, Lucy St. John, Linda Dusenberry, and Glenn Davison, Fred Butler, Bill Watson, NHDOT; Chris Skoglund, NHDES; Dave Walker, RPC

### **August TIP Minor Revision**

No questions received via email prior to the meeting. Given the late notification of changes to the minor, William Rose asked if there were any follow up questions on those and there were none. Bill Watson discussed the Keene TAP Project included in the most recent revision to the minor (Project 40439 on Page 9) and the unique circumstances involved. The project is managed by the city and they are eager to advertise and would like to bundle some additional paving work adjacent to the project for cost/time savings of letting just one contract. The TAP project is increasing in cost by \$60,000 but the adjacent paving work would add another \$400,000 in Non-Par funding. The project is not currently included in the TAP programmatic in STIP as it includes non-par funds. The change in the federal funding is well within the thresholds of a minor revision but the non-par funding complicates the matter. If the funding change was all federal it would require a full amendment but the revision procedures do not directly address Non-Par funds. NHDOT asked if there is any concern in continuing to consider this a minor revision to facilitate the project moving forward quickly. Leigh Levine asked NHDOT to further explain how this could be considered a minor given the existing STIP revision procedures. Bill Watson responded that the revision procedures aren't clear about how adding Non-Par funding should be handled. William Rose brought up an example of how an Earmarked project was handled similarly in the past. J.B. Mack stated he felt the intent of the STIP Revisions is to make aware of changes in federal funding. Dave Walker mentioned he had no problem with adding the non-par in a Minor. Nate Miller thought it was a welcome change, and it is encouraging to see towns add non-par. No objections were raised by other planning partners to handle this project change as a minor revision. FHWA needs some additional time to consider the issue.

### **STIP Update Schedule**

The latest version of the schedule was sent with interagency mailing on 8/11. RPC cannot meet this timeline as there is not enough time between the 1/15 interagency and a February policy committee meeting for the required 30-day comment period. William stated that the end of the schedule would be extended to accommodate the additional needed time and that NHDOT will follow-up after the meeting. No other comments.

### **Agency Updates**

- EPA - No updates this month
- FTA – Congratulations to Nashua Transit for a recent grant award.
- FHWA – New FHWA On-demand PEL Webinars that Leigh sent an email about on 7/20. FHWA Virtual Peer exchange on enhancing public involvement with traditionally underserved communities on 8/17. Sent via email on 7/22. ROUTES Applicant Toolkit – guidance for

discretionary grant sent on 8/3. Letter from FHWA to AMPO on concerns related to COVID-19. Reminders on current flexibilities. Provided questions to EPA to verify what conformity requirements will be in place for the TIP/STIP Update. Will send out to MPOs via email and will plan to discuss at next interagency meeting.

**Other Business**

DES – 2<sup>nd</sup> Round of DERA project selection is nearly completed. Deadline for Electrify America grants is this Friday (8/14).

**Next meeting 09/10/2020**