

# New Hampshire Rail Transit Authority - Project Committee

## Minutes

January 6, 2015

Southern NH Planning Commission  
438 Dubuque Street  
Manchester, NH 03104

### **In Attendance:**

Patrick Herlihy	NH DOT
Michael Izbicki	NH RTA
Bob Jaffin	NH RTA/Strafford RPC
Dan Kelly	NH RTA/Nashua RPC
Tom Mahon	NH RTA Chair
Tim Moore	NH RTA Rep – Rockingham Planning Commission
Peter Griffin	NH Rail Revitalization Association
David Preece	Southern NH Planning Commission and NHRTA Vice-Chair
Adam Hlasny	Southern NH Planning Commission

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### **I. Call to Order**

Mr. David Preece called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM.

### **II. Minutes – November 3, 2014**

Mr. Tom Mahon made a motion to approve the 11/11/14 minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mike Izbicki and carried unanimously.

### **III. Public Input**

Mr. Peter Griffin said that there is a new staff person in Senator Shaheen's office. Also, Maine State Senator Susan Collins has been appointed to the Senate Transportation Committee, and that she could be added to the RTA outreach list.

### **IV. NH Capitol Corridor Alternative Study**

Mr. Patrick Herlihy said that there were some additional edits to be made by URS to the draft report received on December 22, 2014. All of the revised appendices are due back to NH DOT by January 15, 2015, at which time comments will be requested from the NH RTA Outreach Committee with as quick a turnaround as possible.

### **V. Discussion of Proposed Legislation**

Mr. Dan Kelly summarized his meeting with Senator Lasky. Most of the discussion that took place was in regards to the proposed P3 legislation, which the Senator supports fully. Its categorization as a study could transition into enabling legislation going forward. It was advised

that the verbiage in the legislation should resemble the 2009 Mass. P3 law as much as possible. Mr. Kelly said that he would clarify the definition of intermodal to include rail, highways, ports, airports, and buses.

Mr. Kelly added that there was not much discussion about the proposed NH RTA restructuring legislation. As there is no funding involved, this should be a less controversial bill going forward.

Mr. David Preece offered to track the legislative hearing schedule when it is released on January 9, 2015. Mr. Herlihy will also track legislation and send schedules/updates to Mr. Mahon for wider distribution.

#### **VI. NH RTA Strategic Plan**

Mr. Mahon said that the draft strategic plan document that was recently distributed provided a starting point upon which to build. The purposes of the document are to provide the NH RTA with direction, as well as to highlight the most pertinent upcoming issues to be addressed. Mr. Tim Moore suggested the plan answer the question “what should rail in NH look like in 2050?”

After a brainstorming session, it was generally agreed upon to reorganize the existing categories into “Northeast Region” and “New Hampshire” categories, with subcategories including “Seacoast Region”, “North Country”, “Canada”, “Downeaster”, “Plaistow”, and “Claremont/High Speed Rail”. It was also decided to flesh out each bullet point with a paragraph description of work to be done on that particular project/initiative.

Mr. Izbicki suggested clarifying the “Service Development Plan” bullet, perhaps by adding “Rail” to the title of the plan. These plans typically include details such as number of trains, Transit-Oriented Development (TOD), frequency of service, etc. He also suggested keeping the strategic plan document as simple as possible to make public consumption easier.

Mr. Preece said that this draft will not be ready to bring to the full board at the January 23, 2015 meeting. Rather, the project committee will plan to meet again in early February to refine the document in preparation for presentation at the February RTA meeting. Mr. Moore offered to draft a new version incorporating today’s comments and send around soon, as there is some time pressure to complete this before the RTA reorganization bill goes to committee. This could be as early as next Tuesday, January 13, 2015.

#### **VII. Other Business/Next Steps**

Mr. Griffin suggested the group consider broadening the horizon of business people/stakeholders involved in the Capitol Corridor study beyond the corridor itself.

**The meeting stood adjourned at 10:13 AM.**

*Respectfully submitted by Adam Hlasny, SNHPC; 1/6/15. Approved as amended 2/10/15.*