

# New Hampshire Rail Transit Authority - Project Committee

## Minutes

February 10, 2015

Southern NH Planning Commission  
438 Dubuque Street  
Manchester, NH 03104

### **In Attendance:**

Patrick Herlihy	NH DOT
Michael Izbicki	NH RTA Chair
Dan Kelly	NH RTA/Nashua RPC
Tom Mahon	NH RTA
Tim Moore	NH RTA Rep – Rockingham Planning Commission
David Preece	Southern NH Planning Commission/NHRTA Vice-Chair
Ryan Harris	Jacobs
Ken Kinney	AECOM
Julia Suprock	AECOM
Russ Wilder	AECOM
Adam Hlasny	Southern NH Planning Commission

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

Mr. David Preece called the meeting to order at 9:31 AM.

### **II. Minutes – January 6, 2015**

Mr. Patrick Herlihy noted that he should have been listed as in attendance. Also, in section IV, ‘NH RTA’ should be ‘NH RTA Outreach Committee’. The minutes were approved as amended.

### **III. Public Input**

There was no public input.

### **IV. Legislation Status Update**

Mr. Tom Mahon said that there was an issue with omitted language in the NH RTA bill #\_\_\_\_. The issue has been corrected, and three new items have been added.

- The legislative appointee has been removed from the RTA Advisory Board
- Any Governor’s appointee would have to be approved by Governor and Council
- A Somersworth appointee was added as an Advisory Board member

The bill ought to pass as amended, possibly as early as February 11, 2015.

Mr. Dan Kelly reported that the Public-Private Partnership legislation passed through the Senate, and will be going to the House by the end of March 2015. Full legislation for the 2016 session is due by November 2015.

#### **V. NH Capitol Corridor Alternatives Analysis and Recommendation**

Mr. Ken Kinney gave an overview of the findings of the Capitol Corridor final report, and discussed key issues and next steps with the Project Committee. Some points from the discussion included:

- There needs to be a better understanding of the project development phase. AECOM consultants will be meeting with FTA in Cambridge, MA on Thursday, February 12, 2015 to discuss this and other questions. NH RTA Chair Izbicki will also be present.
- Significant progress on a financial plan must be made in 2015. While it is likely that at least 50% of the \$246 million in capital expenses will come federally and perhaps more from MBTA, this rail service will not pay for itself; there must be major public sector funding sources allocated to the project.
- After the project development phase, there will be an engineering phase including:
  - Commitment of 30% of non-New Starts funding
  - Project Management Plan
  - Project Definition
  - Cost estimates/schedule
  - Safety Plan
  - Constructability Assessment
- It is currently unclear whether entrance into the engineering phase comes with a federal New Starts Grant.
- It is currently unclear if/how the passage of the P3 legislation will impact which elements of the project are done in the project development vs. the engineering phases.
- A series of support letters from stakeholders including MPOs, cities, and the NH RTA will more effectively demonstrate to FTA the region's support for the preferred alternative.

After a brief discussion, it was decided to recommend the Manchester Regional Alternative to the NH RTA Board at its February 20, 2015 meeting. It was also noted that Concord, the namesake of the project, should not be ignored going forward. There should potentially be wording added to make known the intent to include Concord as a stop on the Capitol Corridor sometime in the future.

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

Discussion on the Strategic Plan was tabled due to time constraints.

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

Mr. Kinney said that URS/AECOM will be finishing its involvement with the project on March 31, 2015. In the meantime, they will be working on finishing up the reports for FTA and FRA. Mr.

Kinney added that in lieu of being present for the February 20, 2015 NH RTA meeting, he would be able to dial in via telephone.

Mr. Herlihy said that NH DOT will make copies of the Capitol Corridor Summary Report available for the NH RTA meeting as well. Mr. Preece will send a link to the PDF of this report prior to the meeting, and will include the recommendation from the Project Committee in this correspondence to the full board.

**Motion by Mr. Mahon to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Kelly. The meeting stood adjourned at 10:35 AM.**

*Respectfully submitted by Adam Hlasny, SNHPC, 2/10/15; approved 3/24/15.*