

New Hampshire Rail Transit Authority - Project Committee

Minutes

May 20, 2015

Concord City Hall
41 Green Street
Concord, NH 03302

In Attendance:

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

I. Call to Order

Mr. David Preece called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

II. Minutes – March 24, 2015

Motion by Mr. Dan Kelly to approve minutes as written, seconded by Mr. Bob Jaffin.

III. Public Input

There was no public input.

IV. Legislation Status Update

Senate Bill 63 has been resurrected by the House Transportation Committee. There is an executive session to discuss the bill at 1pm today.

Senate Bill 88 is also being discussed today in the House Public Works/Highways Committee. Messrs. Herlihy, Mahon, and Kelly will be in attendance.

The Senate Budget Committee has had two sessions on House Bill 25 regarding the budget. Sen. D’Allesandro introduced an amendment to restore the proposed \$4 million in funding for rail project development. The next meeting on HB 25 is Thursday, May 21.

V. Strategic Plan 2015

Several changes to the plan were suggested, including:

- Goals:
 - Goal 1 should read: “Work toward connecting major cities and towns in New Hampshire with passenger rail services where tracks and/or rail right of ways exist.”
 - Goal 3 should read: “Passenger rail services should be provided at major gateways to tourist destinations.”
 - A goal should be added, stating: “Improve and add additional layers of detail to existing rail map.”
- New Hampshire Capitol Corridor:
 - Economic benefits should be stressed somewhere in the summary
 - Goal 3 should read: “Explore and pursue funding for construction of the project.”
 - A goal should be added, stating: “Continue outreach/developing relationship with MBTA.”
- Downeaster:
 - Include statement summarizing the Downeaster’s current service
 - Add goal stating: “Continue to monitor and support development around the three NH station areas.”
 - Add goal stating support for service enhancements.
- North Country:
 - Change final sentence to “The NH RTA will continue to support and encourage increased passenger rail operations in the northern tier of NH” and move to top of section
 - Add “At the current time...” to the other paragraph, and include updated progress report
- Appendix:
 - Move mission statement back to main part of document
 - Add sentence at beginning of appendix to the effect of “NH RTA will monitor other projects/initiatives as they develop.”
 - Delete “Pan Am Railways Eastern Branch” section
 - Change “Somersworth” heading to “Strafford RPC Rail Working Group”, as Somersworth has given up on rail for the foreseeable future.

VI. Other Business/Next Steps

It was suggested that someone reach out to the new Director of the Nashua Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Kelly said he was available for this task.

Mr. Preece said that the Pioneer Valley Regional Planning Commission in MA expressed interest in a regional forum on rail initiatives. It was suggested this forum be held in NH, with Sen. Shaheen or Kuster to spearhead this effort.

Motion by Mr. Tom Mahon to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Herlihy. The meeting stood adjourned at 9:52 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Adam Hlasny, SNHPC, 5/20/15; approved 6/24/15.