

New Hampshire Rail Transit Authority

New Hampshire Department of Transportation, PO Box 483, Concord, NH 03302



Chair: Mike Izbicki
Vice Chair: David Preece

Director's Meeting
March 27, 2015, 10:00 am
LOB Room 203
State Street, Concord, NH 03302

I. Call to Order

Attendees: Tom Mahon, Mike Izbicki, David Preece, Tim Moore, Nancy Larson, William Craig, Richard Cane, Jonathan Edwards, Patrick Herlihy, Carlos Baia, Mike Tardiff, Ray Gagnon, Bob Jaffin, Bob Hall, Dan Kelly and Ted Starkweather.

Quorum present.

Chair Izbicki called the meeting to order at 10:07 AM.

II. Comments from the Press and Public

None.

III. Minutes – Minutes of the January 23, 2015

Richard Cane made a motion to approve the minutes. David Preece made the second. Nancy Larson pointed out her name was misspelled. The motion was amended to correct the minutes and then passed unanimously.

IV. Old Business

a) NHCC

Because of scheduling conflicts and the need to have a majority present, the Agenda items were taken out of order and the Preferred Alternative for the New Hampshire Capitol Corridor (NHCC).

Carlos Baia stated he appreciated the reference to Concord in the Project Committee's recommendation to the Authority. He asked if the Concord resolution could be included as part of the final motion to recommend. Consensus agreed that would be OK.

Patrick Herlihy stated that the current motion keeps the door open for service to Concord.

Jonathan Edwards had questions about the capital and operating costs shown for the Manchester Regional service. It was confirmed that the \$246 M capital cost would likely require a 50/50 federal and state match; thus NH would need to supply \$123 M for the project. It was also confirmed that the \$11 M annual operating cost would include only a 50% fare box recovery and the remainder would need to be found through other sources.

Tom Mahon expressed his gratitude for all the hard work by NHDOT personnel as well as Authority members who volunteered their time. Tom was also thanked for his time.

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David Preece made a motion to select the Manchester Regional option with a continuing interest in the extension to Concord as the Authority's Preferred Alternative for the NHCC. Tom Mahon made the second. The motion passed with a 15-0-1 vote. Patrick Herlihy abstained.

V. Non-public session

Tom Mahon made a motion at 10:15 to go into Non-public session as allowed for in RSA 91:A.

David Preece made the second; a roll call vote was taken with the following results: The following directors voted "Yes": Tom Mahon, Mike Izbicki, David Preece, Tim Moore, Nancy Larson, William Craig, Richard Cane, Jonathan Edwards, Patrick Herlihy, Carlos Baia, Mike Tardiff, Ray Gagnon, Bob Jaffin, Bob Hall, Dan Kelly and Ted Starkweather. There were not any "No" votes or abstentions.

The Chair asked all those present who were not Directors to please leave the meeting room.

The Non-public session ended at 10:37 and the public portion of the Authority meeting resumed. The Chair invited all those who left to room to return for the rest of the meeting.

Richard Cane made a motion to seal the minutes of the Non-public session. David Preece made the second. No discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.

VI. Old Business continued

- b) At an earlier meeting, the Authority agreed to write a letter of support for the Golden Eagle – a privately finance, day time Montreal to Portland service. Mike Izbicki agreed to write a draft letter.
- c) Mike Izbicki reported on the 2 Senate bills – SB63 (NHRTA reorganization) and SB88 (Study committee for Public-Private Partnership). Both have passed the Senate and are currently in House committees.
- d) David Preece reported that the Action Plan will contain action items and next steps for each project.
- e) Dan Kelly stated he would help write the NHRTA Annual Report.
- f) Plaistow project update. Tim Moore reported on the results at the Plaistow Town Meeting that will place the Plaistow project on-hold for the foreseeable future.
- g) Claremont project update. Jonathan Edwards reported that he was selected to serve on the Northern New England Intercity Rail Initiative committee as the representative from Claremont. The goal of the initiative is to reestablish rail connections to Montreal, Quebec. He also reported that there are 32 miles of track in New Hampshire that are used by the Vermonter.
- h) Somersworth project update. Bob Jaffin reported that the team from the proposed Golden Eagle service made a presentation to the Strafford Regional Rail Working Group. Their work to date is pointing to a solution using busses and/or trolleys.
- i) Exeter project update. Bob Hall reported that work is continuing on the Exeter station, but it will take several more years for the project to come to fruition.
- j) The Public Relations committee reported that Montagne is on board and is just waiting for the contract to be signed to begin work.

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VII. New Business

Bob Jaffin reported that he will look into providing GIS capability for the Authority.

VIII. Outreach

Tom Mahon reported that he would continue to be active on the Education and Outreach Committee as time permits

IX. Adjournment

Richard Cane made a motion to adjourn. Tom Mahon seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:07 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Moore

Future Meeting Dates (4th Friday)

March 27,
April 24,
May 22,
Jun 26,
Jul 24,
Aug 28,
Sep 25,
Oct 23,

Future Meeting Date (3rd Friday)

Feb 20,
Nov 20,
Dec 18,