

New Hampshire Rail Transit Authority

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



ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes

Inaugural/Organization Meeting

January 29, 2016

10:00 am

Concord, NH

NHDOT Room 114

Members Present: Dan Barufaldi, Mark Brewer, Bob Ducharme, Jonathan Edwards , Bob Hall, Tim Horgan, Bob Jaffin, Dan Kelly, Nancy Larson, Tom Mahon, Tim Moore, Rob Nadler, David Preece, Stan Prescott, Tim Roche, Heather Shank, Edwin Smith, Malcolm Taylor, , Dale Sprague, Ted Starkweather.

Others Present: Patrick Herlihy, NHDOT; Mike Izbicki; Jon Jarvis, Office of Senator Shaheen; Jennifer Kuzma, Office of the Governor; Hannah Basset, Office of Rep. Custer; Brian Vaillancourt, AECOM; E.J. Powers, Montagne Communications; Mark Sanborn, Boston Express/Concord Coach Lines; Victoria Parmele, Strafford Regional Planning; and other members of the public.

Call to Order - The meeting was called to order by Chair Pro Tem Mike Izbicki at 10:03 AM. Mr. Izbicki asked the advisory board members to introduce themselves. It was determined that a quorum was present. Mr. Izbicki asked the members of the public to introduce themselves.

Comments from Press and Public - There were no comments from the press or public.

Old Business - None

New Business

1. NH RSA 238-A, New Hampshire Rail Transit Authority. Patrick Herlihy, NHDOT Director of Rail and aeronautics explained the rationale for the reconstitution of the RTA board and the Advisory Board. A smaller board of 9 members made for easier administration of legislative mission of the RTA and interaction with other agencies.

The 28 member advisory board was used to retain the statewide focus for passenger rail. There are currently three areas where passenger rail affects the state: the Downeaster, the Northern NE Rail initiative in the Connecticut River corridor, and two proposed passenger rail initiatives in the North Country- Golden Eagle and Train Hotel.

The advisory board has the responsibility to appoint one of its members to the RTA Board. This gives the advisory board the opportunity to be directly involved in the work of the RTA Board.

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1 2. Public-Private Partnership (P3) Study Committee (SB 88) – Dan Kelly handed out copies of the
2 LSR 16.2983.1 (now SB 549-FN) for proposed senate legislation to be introduced by Sen. Bette
3 Lasky to establish the framework for public-private partnerships for multi-modal transportation
4 initiatives.

5
6 3. Review of the 2015 Strategic Plan and Implementation–David Preece led the advisory board
7 through a review of the five year strategic plan that was adopted last year by the Advisory
8 Board. It was the consensus of the advisory board to continue to pursue the goals in the plan.
9

10 Mr. Preece updated the board in developments for the NH Capitol Corridor project. The NHDOT
11 has received a \$4M grant from the Federal Transit Authority (FTA) Fast Track program for the
12 necessary engineering study. The grant will require a 20% state match. The grant and study are
13 currently included in the NHDOT 10-year Transportation Plan (HB2016) which will have a
14 hearing before the House Public Works and Highways Committee on 2/4/16 at 9:30AM.
15

16 Mr. Preece then asked for updates on other projects/services:
17

- 18 - Northern NE Rail Initiative: Jonathan Edwards updated the board on the NNE Rail Initiative
19 and reported that the study of the Claremont station was almost complete.
- 20
- 21 - Exeter station: Bob Hall reported that there has been no activity on the Exeter station
22 project.
- 23
- 24 - Downeaster: Daniel Barufaldi reported on the rail upgrades that affected service in 2015
25 and rail upgrades scheduled for 2016. The Brunswick layover facility has been under
26 construction for about 6 weeks. When the facility is complete a 6th scheduled train is to
27 begin service.
- 28
- 29 - Mr. Barufaldi then outlined the development and economic impacts of the Downeaster in
30 Dover terming the service as an economic development lever and a sustaining tool. There
31 has been over \$100M in development in the downtown area. People are living downtown
32 because of the convenience to amenities, the ability easily commute to Boston , and no
33 parking fees. An average of 83 passengers makes the daily commute from Dover to Boston.
34 The city has reserved 50 parking places at the station lot. Dover is now the youngest
35 median age city in the state.
36

37 4. Media Outreach: E. J. Powers, Montagne Communications, explained the relationship between
38 communication and support for the NHRTA. He presented information on the growth of social
39 media contacts regarding the NHRTA and the NH Capitol Corridor. Mr. Powers announced that
40 the RTA has qualified for a Challenge Grant from the NH Charitable Foundation. The grant
41 requires raising \$25K in order to receive \$25K from the foundation. Mark Brewer pledged \$5K
42 from the Manchester-Boston Regional Airport to meet the grant conditions.

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1 Mr. Barufaldi suggested that we look at the demographics in the media data for support. It was
2 also suggested that the board engage businesses outside of southern NH for support for the
3 project.
4

5 Mr. Izbicki thanked the members for their reports and input.
6

Discussion/possible action regarding other items of concern

7
8

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

9
10

11 Mr. Izbicki called for the Election of Officers for the board. The board needs to elect a Chair, Vice Chair,
12 a Secretary, and designate a member to service on the RTA Board.
13

14 Election of Chair: Dan Kelly nominated David Preece, second by Ted Starkweather. There were no
15 further nominations and nominations for Chair were closed. The vote was called and Mr. Preece was
16 elected by a unanimous vote.
17

18 Mr. Izbicki turned the Chair over to Chairman Preece.
19

20 Mr. Preece called for the election of the board's representative to the RTA Board.
21

22 Mr. Mahon nominated the chair. Second, Daniel Barufaldi. The Chair called the question and he was
23 elected by a unanimous vote.
24

25 The Chair called for nominations for Vice Chair.
26

27 Bob Jaffin nominated Dan Kelly. Second,
28

29 There being no further nominations, the Chair called the question and Mr. Kelly was elected by a
30 unanimous vote.
31

32 The Chair called for nominations for Secretary
33

34 Dan Kelly nominated Tom Mahon. Second, Nancy Larson.
35

36 Ted Starkweather nominated Tim Moore. Second,
37

38 There being no further nominations, the Chair called the question. Mr. Mahon and Mr. Moore each
39 garnered 7 votes. The chair cast the deciding vote for Tom Mahon and declared him elected.
40

PENDING LEGISLATION

41

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1 Chairman Preece noted the pendency of several pieces of legislation and suggested that the Advisory
2 Board form a Legislative Action Sub-committee. Without objection, the chair called for volunteers. Vice
3 Chair Kelly, Secretary Mahon, Tim Moore and Bob Jaffin indicated their willingness to serve in this
4 capacity.

5
6 It was decided to delay any further sub-committee action until the By-laws could be reviewed.

7
8 Mr. Izbicki reported that he and Daniel O'Neil, Alderman from Manchester have been nominated by the
9 governor for seats on the RTA Board. The nominations will be considered at the Governor and Council
10 meeting on February 10, 2016.

11
12
13 **NEXT MEETING DATE**

14
15 It was decided that the advisory board would initially meet quarterly with the next meeting in April
16 2016.

17
18 **OTHER ACTIONS**

19
20 The Chair asked if the advisory board wished to take a position on the \$4M Fast Track grant in HB2016.

21
22 Malcolm Taylor moved to direct the Legislative Sub-Committee to enter the board's desire to endorse
23 the inclusion of the grant in the NHDOT 10-year Transportation Plan. Second, Dan Kelly. On the
24 question, the advisory board voted unanimously in favor.

25
26 **Comments from Press and Public - None**

27
28 **Adjourn**

29
30 Ted Starkweather moved to Adjourn. Second, Dan Kelly. Unanimous to adjourn at 11:15AM .

31
32 **Future meetings:**

33 April 2016 – Date, time and location to be determined

34