


**NRPC APPROVED MINUTES**  
**NRPC TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**March 8, 2023**

**Members Present:**

Scott Butcher, Town of Brookline Joan Cudworth, Town of Hollis (remote) Brian Groth, Town of Hudson Kim Kleiner, Town of Litchfield Mark Chamberlain, Town of Lyndeborough Bruce Berry, Town of Merrimack Sam Lewis, Hoyle Tanner/Merrimack (remote) Paul Micali, Town of Merrimack Leo Lessard, Town of Milford Dawn Tuomala, Town of Milford Camille Correa, NTS	Sam Durfee, City of Nashua Wayne Husband, City of Nashua Pete Kohalmi, City of Nashua Matt Sullivan, City of Nashua Nick Germain, Town of Wilton Ricky DiCillo, NH DES (remote) Lucy St. John, NH DOT (remote) Leigh Levine, FHWA Leah Sirmin, FTA
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**Others Present:**

Will Ludt, Town of Amherst Mike Tatro, Town of Wilton Paul Maloney, FHWA	Jason Ayotte, NH DOT Frank Goss, VHB Frank Koczalka, VHB
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**Staff Present:**

Tyrel Borowitz, GIS Analyst Caleb Cheng, Regional Planner III Jay Minkarah, Executive Director Vince Noga, Transportation/Planning Analyst Emma Rearick, Regional Planner II	Matt Waitkins, MPO Coordinator Kristin Wardner, Administrative Assistant
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**1. Call to Order and Introductions**

Matt Waitkins called the meeting to order at 12:01pm and did a roll call of attendees.

**2. Approval of the February 8, 2023, Meeting Minutes**

Waitkins referred to the minutes from February 8, 2023. There were no changes to be made.

***Motion by Scott Butcher, seconded by Wayne Husband, to accept the minutes from the February 8, 2023, meeting as presented.***

***Motion passed by roll call vote, with Eric Slosek, Lucy St. John, and Ricky DiCillo abstaining.***

**3. NH101 Corridor Safety Project Presentation**

Jason Ayotte, NH DOT project manager, who along with representatives from the project consultant (VHB) Frank Goss and Frank Koczalka, gave a presentation on the NH Route 101 Corridor Improvement Project. He explained NHDOT held public information meetings on March 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> in Amherst and Milford. Ayotte gave a general overview of the current project status and outreach completed and reviewed the priorities:

- Priority 1 is in Amherst (13692E): NH101 safety and widening improvements from Blueberry Hill Road to Camp Road.

- Priority 2 is in Milford (13692D): NH101 “Bypass” safety improvements from NH13 Interchange to Old Wilton/Phelan Road.
- Priority 3 is in Bedford (13692F): NH101 safety and widening improvements from Elk Drive to Wallace Road.

Frank Goss, VHB, reviewed crash data for the entire 101 corridor from Bedford to Milford. He explained that rather than looking at total crashes, they looked at the most severe using the KABCO scale: K = killed, A = severe injury, B = moderate injury, using data from 2014-2020; and they broke the road down into sections along the corridor with similar characteristics. In doing the analysis, they provided higher weight to the crashes with deaths and serious injuries and to make the segments equally comparable they divided by MVMT (1 million vehicle miles traveled) on each segment to get the KAB Severity-Weighted Crashes per MVMT. In comparing that to the region and state averages, they could see the segments with elevated numbers of crashes. Ayotte then reviewed the funding for the projects and said the E project was not project until the last TYP.

NH Route 101 Corridor Improvements 13692D Alternatives: Ayotte explained a critical area of emphasis is to address roadway departures and the project purpose is to improve corridor safety. The recommended alternative is to install a 6-foot median buffer (by taking 3 feet out of the shoulder) and low-cost countermeasures to address lane departures and run-off-road crashes. He reviewed the traffic and speed analysis summary which showed that there is no additional widening or capacity improvements needed at this time. Goss reviewed the crash diagnosis summary and contributing factors: cross-centerline crashes, run-off-road crashes, nighttime crashes, and animal crashes. He then reviewed the primary alternatives for centerline crashes and the low-cost countermeasures to address nighttime crashes and run-off-road crashes. With the alternatives analysis they did for each option they came up with a benefit/cost ratio and the best option is the 6-foot median buffer with low-cost countermeasures. That alternative also has no environmental impacts (wetland, stormwater, etc.). Ayotte reviewed the timeline and stated they hope to advertise in August with construction in 2024. For the 13692E Project, data collection is scheduled to start this summer with ROW and construction in 2026-2027. Wayne Husband expressed the safety concerns he has seen in the area being discussed. In response to Will Ludt, Ayotte stated for the E project, there will be a more in-depth look at the safety data. Mark Chamberlain expressed his concerns with the safety along the corridor and stated that he never heard from anyone as to why the safety features that existed before were never put back. Ayotte stated that generally rumble strips are added back during resurfacing - they need to do some follow up on why it wasn't done. They will explore adding the recessed lighting to illuminate roadway. He would encourage communities to continue to push forward projects for interchange improvements, etc. along the corridor through the planning process.

The NH DOT Wilton-Milford-Amherst-Bedford 13692D project page can be viewed here:

<https://www.nh.gov/dot/projects/wilton13692d/index.htm>

The presentation can be viewed here: <https://www.nashuarpc.org/ttac230308item3>

#### **4. Review of NHDOT FY2025-2028 NH Ten Year Plan project recommendations**

Waitkins briefly reviewed the Ten Year Plan (TYP) project solicitation process and the timeline. He reviewed the initial list of prioritized projects with cost estimates and DOT comments. He noted that the first Merrimack project has been removed from the list because it is now eligible for state bridge aid funding. The priority #7 project in Amherst was not reviewed by NH DOT because NRPC was over the regional allocation. With those 2 projects removed, there is over \$200,000 remaining. Waitkins proposed adding in the next Merrimack project (Naticook/Camp Sargent Rd improvements) which would require borrowing from the next TYP allocation. After discussion, it was decided to add the just the PE portion (\$278k) of that project to the list.

The TYP presentation, with the list of projects and costs, may be viewed here:

<https://www.nashuarpc.org/ttac230308item4>

***Motion by Bruce Berry, seconded by Mark Chamberlain, that the Nashua Regional Planning Commission TTAC recommends that the Nashua Metropolitan Planning Organization adopt the Final Prioritized List of Nashua MPO FY2025-2034 NH Ten Year Plan Projects as discussed.***

***Motion passed by roll call vote, with Lucy St. John and Ricky DiCillo abstaining.***

## 5. NHDOT 2025-2028 Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ) Program

Waitkins explained the CMAQ program is a federally funded reimbursement program that provides funds for projects that reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality. Eligible projects include alternative fuel projects, projects that improve traffic flow, transportation-focused bicycle transportation and pedestrian improvements that provide a reduction in single-occupant travel, and transit investments that increase transit capacity, as well as operating assistance for new services. The current round of funding has \$30 million total funds available statewide and there were 6 funding proposals in the Nashua region totaling approximately \$7.3 million.

Waitkins stated that NHDOT has notified NRPC that EV projects have temporarily set aside EV CMAQ applications. That means that all the other projects will likely be considered for funding if they meet the air quality standards.

Vince Noga reviewed the air quality analysis that was completed for each of the remaining 4 projects. He explained the process and reviewed the FHWA CMAQ Emissions Calculator and the inputs that were used for the calculations. The result gives a number for Total Energy Consumption. All the projects had a net positive result and therefore qualify for CMAQ funding.

- Amherst: Baboosic Greenway Expansion
- Nashua: Traffic Coordination Upgrades and Optimization
- NRPC: NTS Service Expansion (Nashua to Milford)
- Wilton: Pedestrian Bridge Connecting Riverside Way to Howard Street

The CMAQ presentation may be viewed here: <https://www.nashuarpc.org/ttac230308item5>

***Motion by Nick Germain, seconded by Eric Slosek, that the Nashua Regional Planning Commission TTAC recommend that the Nashua Metropolitan Planning Organization adopt the Nashua Region FY 2025-2028 Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ) Project Proposals and Associated Air Quality Analysis as presented.***

***Motion passed by roll call vote, with Camille Correa, Sam Durfee, Lucy St. John, and Ricky DiCillo abstaining.***

## 6. Municipal, State and Federal Updates

**NH DES:** Ricky DiCillo, NHDES, presented on the NH Clean Diesel program. He stated that proposals are due 3/31 and he discussed the types of projects that would be eligible and the restrictions. His presentation may be viewed here: <https://www.nashuarpc.org/ttac230308item7>

**Amherst:** Eric Slosek stated that Amherst's Bike/Ped Committee is working on a project application for Congressionally Directed Spending funds. One of the questions on the application is whether the project is in the STIP or TIP and he wondered how that works. Waitkins said the project is not in the current TIP but is in the

long-range plan.

Will Ludt asked about towns requiring new developments to have EV charging; he had remembered hearing something during past presentations. Matt Sullivan clarified that Nashua does not currently require that of developers. They anticipate they may place requirements in future code for future developments.

## **7. Adjourn**

***Motion by Scott Butcher, seconded by Mark Chamberlain, to adjourn.***

***The meeting adjourned at 1:41pm with all in favor.***

**The next meeting will be held on April 12, 2023.**

*Respectfully submitted by Kristin Wardner, Administrative Assistant, NRPC*