
Approved Minutes Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC)

Wednesday, May 13, 2026, 12 pm, Public Meeting with Zoom Option

Attendees:

Eric Slosek, Amherst
Will Ludt, Amherst
Ben Gradert, Hudson
Mark Chamberlain, Lyndeborough
Geoffrey Allen, Lyndeborough
Jerid Pretzer, Merrimack
Nicole Crawford, Milford
Wayne Husband, Nashua, DPW, Traffic
Levent Akinci, Nashua, Community Dev.
Mark Saunders, Nashua, DPW, Engineering
Nick Germain, Wilton
Camille Correa, NTS (Zoom)
William Rose, NHDOT (Zoom)
Polly Perkins, NHDES
Justin Howard, LRTA (Zoom)
Amanda Gourgue, BWANH (Zoom)

NRPC Staff:

Matt Waitkins, MPO Coordinator
Emma Rearick, Transportation Planner
Jay Minkarah, Executive Director
Donna Marceau, Regional Mobility Manager
Cassie Cashin, Regional Planner III
Tyrel Borowitz, GIS Analyst
Salem Quinn, Admin./Comms. Coordinator

1. **Call to order:** Waitkins called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm.
2. **Approval of minutes:**
 - **Motion by Chamberlain: To approve April 8, 2026, TTAC meeting minutes, as presented.**
Second by Gradert. A rollcall vote was conducted. **Motion adopted** with Saunders, Crawford, Slosek, and Rose abstaining.
3. **New Hampshire DES Stream Crossing Initiative Program:** Polly Perkins of NHDES presented the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation-funded Crossing Capacity Pilot Project. The NH Stream Crossing Initiative kicked off in January. There are over 20,000 stream crossings in NH. Over 17,000 have been assessed using this protocol, with over 15 years of data. A stream crossing is where body of water crosses a road. NHDOT, NHDES, UNH T2, Fish and Game, HSEM are all part of this initiative. The hope is to determine how to use this data to help people with troublesome stream crossings or problematic culverts. What is a more accessible way to access this data?

Stream crossing projects usually take 5 years on average to complete. Some projects can take up to 15 years. Project costs range from half a million to 1.5 million. The Pilot Project wants to provide capacity for municipalities that have small staff. Perkins will send a [searchable map](#) to Waitkins to distribute to TTAC (and Commissioners). The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF) has a budget of almost 1 million (\$997,685) for June 2025 – December 2027.

There is a Crossing Prioritization Tool to come. They are also planning to create How-To Guides and provide PE technical assistance. They are hoping to generate a project pipeline for future projects seeking funding. The Prioritization Tool will be available in January 2027. Workshops will follow in January - September 2027. They are also hoping for a future Stream Crossing Grant Program from Federal Funding.

Borowitz, of NRPC, is currently scheduling interviews for small, medium, and large towns through June 13, 2026. The questions will be about workload, prioritization, funding, etc. Results from these interviews will be published in a Best Practices Summary on the NHSCI website. Folks can reach out to Borowitz regarding scheduling interviews regarding culverts, i.e. for conservation commission. Dams and fish ladders are a separate team. Slides from the presentation were sent to meeting attendees.

- 4. Lowell Regional Transit Authority Bus Service from Lowell to South Nashua:** Justin Howard, of LRTA, presented about the new fixed route bus service from the Gallagher Terminal in Lowell, MA to South Nashua, NH. Service is expected to begin in July. This new service, called Nashua Connection, is part of the bigger theme of connection for LRTA. In the past, they ran this route for Holiday service in Nov/Dec, which was very successful. The hope is that a full service making the connection between Nashua, NH and Lowell, MA will be a very successful program.

LRTA applied for a MassDOT program called the Connectivity Grant Program. This is a Pilot Program for 1 year of service and was awarded back in the fall. LRTA also plans to apply for another grant this fall to continue the program. LRTA has worked with the City of Nashua staff and NTS to get the program planned. Full service is planned for Mon-Sat. It will connect with NTS at the Pheasant Lane Mall and Market Basket. They are finalizing the effort now, and next steps are a marketing plan to roll out in June. July 6 is the full service start date.

LRTA will start and end at the Gallagher terminal, which also houses the commuter rail for MBTA. All buses are wheelchair accessible. They have a flag system for stopping along the way. Fare is free for now. To get to Lowell General Hospital from the Gallagher Terminal is the Route 7 bus from the terminal. The Nashua to Lowell trip is approximately a one-hour route for each way. There are bike racks on all buses. The route is timed to have quick connections with NTS. There is a rail strategy meeting scheduled for June to build a coalition. Slides from the presentation were sent to meeting attendees.

- 5. SFY2029-2038 NH Ten Year Transportation Plan (TYP) project solicitation (Attachment 2)** Waitkins provided information about the SFY2029-2038 TYP update process. It is time to start thinking about the next iteration of the State Ten-Year Plan. This process is on a 2-year update cycle. Due to financial issues, this year will be a little different. If projects are in the Ten-Year Plan now, they will automatically go into the new plan, but this year we are asking towns and cities to reprioritize their projects. Towns and cities don't need to present the projects again, but a reminder might be helpful. IIJA expires at the end of September. New legislation or continuing resolution thereafter. Not planning to do a subcommittee to score projects. If it does exist, it will look different. NRPC is initiating the Project Prioritization Process. The NHDOT guidance is:

- a. To have a limited selection process.
- b. To consider draft Ten-Year Plan projects with construction delayed as priorities.
- c. To review all Ten-Year Plan projects for scope, cost, and priority.
- d. That towns and cities can substitute an equal sized project if desired.
- e. That they are not soliciting new projects as they have done in previous years.
- f. Develop a reprioritized long-range plan "wish list" of projects.
- g. Be prepared for opportunities that may arise from the new federal surface transportation legislation.

In May/June there will be outreach to Town Administrators, BOS, Planning Boards, MPOs, & TTAC representatives with the request to:

- h. Identify transportation issues and needs that are important to your community.
- i. Review the Ten-Year Plan and Metropolitan Transportation Plan (long-range) projects in your community and provide updated information.
- j. Establish the relative priority of each project to your community.
- k. Identify any listed projects that your community no longer wants to pursue.

Timeline for the Ten-Year Plan Process SFY 2029-2038:

- **Summer 2026:** NRPC summarizes list of projects.
- **Fall 2026:** Review re-prioritized list with TTAC & Policy Committee.
- **Winter 2027:** Submit priorities to NHDOT.
- **Spring/Summer 2027:** NHDOT develops the draft 2029-2038 Ten-Year Plan.
- **Summer/Fall 2027 – Spring 2028:** GACIT/Legislative Process/Adoption.

Other upcoming projects:

- FFY 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP),
- Metropolitan Transportation [long-range] Plan (MTP) update,
- and Congestion Management Plan (CMP).

6. FFY2025-2028 TIP May Minor Revisions (Attachments 3) Waitkins reviewed regional projects affected, which are listed in packet. Informational, no action needed. No questions.

7. Other NRPC project updates Marceau: May 28th is next RCC7 meeting.

8. Municipal, State, and Federal updates

- a. **Slosek (Amherst):** Update on Amherst 42593 project. Just recently completed the study engineering phase. Unfortunately, this was a complex project with a lot of private property concerns. Board decided to go with a no build option. Working with the state now to finalize all the paperwork. Project was hoping to create a multimodal trail along the former rail bed, and this segment is all private property. Addressed ROW issues during PE with lots of public engagement. There will be an opportunity now for Amherst to swap in another project.

9. Meeting adjourned at 1:13 pm.

The next meeting is Wednesday, June 10, 2026.

Respectfully submitted by Salem Quinn, Administrative/Communications Coordinator NRPC