

3/14/2024
NH Interagency Consultation Meeting
1:00pm
MS-Teams

Roll call of attending members:

NCC: Nick Altonaga, Kevin Driscoll
UVLSRPC: Tim Josephson
LRPC: Sean Chamberlain
SWRPC: J.B. Mack
CNHRPC: Craig Tufts
SRPC: Colin Lentz
SNHPC: Nate Miller & Dave Tilton
RPC: Dave Walker

NRPC: Matt Waitkins
EPA:
NHDES: Jessica Wilcox
FTA:
FHWA: Leigh Levine
NHDOT: Fred Butler, Denise Sherburne, Lucy St. John, Bill Watson, Glenn Davison, William Rose

March minor revision: there were no lingering questions or concerns about the March minor revisions. W. Rose said that all the project estimates had been provided except for Newfield's-Newmarket (28393), which will be sent after today's meeting. W. Rose said that two additional projects would be added to the March minor. Projects that will be added to the March minor revisions:

- Pelham 41751
- Manchester 43826

D. Sherburne noted that revised materials reflecting these changes would be sent out to the Interagency group immediately following the meeting.

Amendment 4 update: W. Rose noted that Amendment 4 had been sent to FHWA/FTA. L. Levine said that he had spoken with Christina Mendoza (Region 1 FTA staff) and that the processing of Amendment 4 is progressing. William thanked everyone for their help processing the Amendment.

Amendment 5: W. Rose explained that NHDOT had provided Draft Amendment 5 to the Interagency group last week. NHDOT had waited for the Amendment 4 public comment period to close before releasing draft Amendment 5 to avoid confusion.

William noted that he had received comments from N. Miller and M. Waitkins about several projects.

- Project 40664 (Bedford) (US3 widening from Hawthorne Drive, north to Manchester airport access road).
 - Nate asked for an explanation for the change in the project schedule and what the current schedule is for the project.
 - William said that he would get back to the group with the explanation.
- Project #42108 (Hudson (Circumferential Highway – plan, engineer, and construct a roadway between Route 3A and Route 111 along the southern portion of the Circumferential Highway ROW).
 - Nate had noted that the project adds capacity, and it takes place in the orphan area so the CAA code should not be ATT. Nate had suggested E-38 as a possibility because the funding is technically for a feasibility study. William said the project scope includes adding capacity so E-38 wouldn't likely be appropriate.
 - Matt said that the Town of Hudson had voted earlier this week (warrant article) to not fund the local match for this project.

- William said that this project had been included in the draft FY2025-34 Ten Year plan through the legislative process and therefore it is not just an NHDOT/Town issue.
- William proposed removing this project from Amendment 5 and then dealing with it after the draft FY2025-34 Ten Year plan is adopted.
- There were no objections.
- The timeline for MPO adoption of the Amendment was discussed using a 10-day comment period for Amendment #5.
 - SNHRPC: Public comment period runs 4/8-4/19 with the public hearing occurring at the 4/23 Commission meeting.
 - SRPC: Public comment period runs 4/9-4/19 with the public hearing occurring at the 4/19 SRPC Policy Committee meeting.
 - RPC: Public comment period runs 3/28-4/9 with adoption at the 4/10 Commission meeting.
 - NRPC: Matt W. confirmed the public comment period running 4/5-4/15 with a public hearing by the Policy Committee on 4/17 with William offline after the meeting.

As always, the NHDOT public comment period will end 1 full week following the close of the final MPO Public comment period. For A5, the NHDOT comment period will run from 4/20-4/30.

Agency Updates:

NHDOT: Fred Butler said that Christina Mendoza had joined Region 1 FTA staff.

NHDES: Jessica Wilcox said that NHDES has been awarded new DERA funding and anticipates releasing a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) by early April. The RFP will be structured and have similar requirements to the prior RFP.

FHWA: L. Levine updated the group on the following items:

- Be on the lookout for Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) that he sends out via email. There are lots of opportunities.
- FHWA has announced August Redistribution planning flexibility.
 - happens every year – an opportunity for States that anticipate having excess Obligational Authority by the end of the FFY to release it to States that can use it before the FFY closes.
 - More Obligational Authority does not mean additional funding, but additional authority or permission to obligate funds made available by the apportionment.
 - FHWA will consider the early estimated amount from December as available for programming in the STIP/TIPS.
 - NHDOT usually takes advantage of additional flexibility.
- NHDOT: Bill Watson referenced a discussion that Jessica Wilcox had with the RPC Directors earlier in the day. The discussion was about the FY2022-23 Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program. The NHDES and NHDOT applications for this round of funding were unsuccessful. NHDES has reviewed grants from around the country that were successful. The review informed NHDES that it should identify specific locations for EV charging infrastructure. The purpose of the RPC director’s discussion was to see if RPCs would be willing to collaborate with DES on future funding applications, and if the RPCs could identify specific locations for EV Infrastructure. The RPC directors agreed to collaborate.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Matt Waitkins, NRPC

03.15.2024