

Transportation Advisory Committee

Minutes

August 18, 2009

Present: Henry Anderson, Miriam Bader, Frank Claffey, Dean Eastman, Joseph Elgosin, Glenn English, Beverly Raymond, Charles Muller.

Staff: Michael King, Tara Bamford, Mary Deppe, Michelle Moren

Call To Order:

Beverly Raymond called the meeting to order at 3:05. The minutes, agenda and handouts were passed out and members introduced themselves. Joseph Elgosin made a motion to approve the minutes from the 6/17/09 meeting. Frank Claffey seconded the motion, all were in favor and the minutes were approved.

Review / Approve Transportation Enhancement Scoring Criteria:

Draft scoring criteria was handed out, Carl Martland was unable to attend meeting but his comments were submitted and passed out.

Discussion: Has this been used before? Not by NCC but similar scoring has been used by other RPCs. The weighted categories show what is most important to the region. Possibility of the local support category needs more weight.

DOT will rank projects based on the top three priorities from each RPC. When the NCC TE scoring was developed, the DOT scores were taken into consideration along with the priorities of the NCC Regional Plan.

Discussion: Match for this project is 20% and can be cash or in-kind but will need to have approval up front from DOT for in-kind.

Discussion on Comments from Carl Martland:

#1. Points awarded for meeting criteria of the TE program.

TAC Response: The TAC decided that the issue has been covered with letters of intent. If the proposed project doesn't meet the requirements of the TE program, they are not eligible to apply.

#2. Safety, effect on traffic and intermodal benefits should not be considered.

TAC Response: Committee felt safety is important and the purpose of developing a regional scoring system is to include the priorities of the region. The TAC agreed that safety is a priority and that DOT will not support and unsafe project.

#3. Environmental Impact Study should not be a consideration.

TAC Response: If not included could cause cost to change and DOT is expecting detailed cost estimates that will not change significantly.

#4. Award points for "cost validity".

TAC Response: The TAC agreed that this would be a good thing to add if it could be defined and clearly judged.

#5 & 6 Move to numbers 1 and 2.

TAC Response: Agreed

#7 Cost Effectiveness should be a consideration.

TAC Response: Agreed, however it needs to be define clearly. Would that require a cost analysis? If so, not every project can do this before the deadline, therefore penalizing those who can't is not correct. Not enough time to cover it in this round, but can consider the next time the TE scoring is updated.

Other Discussion on TE scoring:

Edit #4.) a.) Typo: construction of the planned

Discussion: Additional points should be awarded for providing more than the required 20% match. There was discussion about some communities being “punished” for not having the option of providing more than the required 20%. The group decided that additional points could be awarded for being a distressed community (below the county’s median household income.) The group decided to add in a category 6c, which would be scored in the following way:

Quantity of the Match (5 points) – Projects will be scored in the following way:

0 = Project meets the 20% match requirement

1 = Project is in a distressed community and meets the 20% match requirement

2 = Project provides match beyond the 20% requirement

3 = Project is in a distressed community and provides match beyond the 20 % requirement

Discussion: Presentation time: 10 minute presentation with 5 minute Q&A. Three presentations will be scheduled each hour to make sure that we stay on schedule. Mary Deppe will schedule presentations on either October 7th or October 14th. Applicants and TAC members will be notified. TAC members will receive phone calls to encourage attendance as a number of regular attendees will not be allowed to score projects. (TAC members from towns that are applying for TE funds may not score applications.)

Ranking Due Date: NCC must submit rankings to NHDOT by December 10th.

Application Deadline: 9/15/09 applications need to be submitted to DOT and NCC

Scoring: Copies of applications will be mailed to TAC and scoring will be completed during the presentations. NCC staff will compile scoring and provide final scores to NCC TAC at the October 21st meeting.

Motion made by Joe Elgosin to approve the changes to the TE scoring criteria and seconded by Glenn English. All were in favor and none opposed.

Review / Approve the Regional Transportation Plan and Coordinated Transit Plan

Public comment period started 7/12 and public meeting was held 8/12. There were some edits to plans (major edits were handed out). Changes were made regarding comments from OEP. DOT comments were received yesterday and some edits were made.

The following policy statement was added based on comments from the public hearing on August 12th:

“Support the maintenance and improvement of the transportation infrastructure necessary to sustain local economies and build subregional job centers.”

Glenn English made a motion to accept the revised policy statements and it was seconded by Frank Claffey. All were in favor and none were opposed.

Mary Deppe asked for additional comments about the edits to the Regional Transportation Plan and the Coordinated Transit Plan.

Glenn English said that Mary Deppe did a great job at Public Hearing and that Tara Bamford provided helpful guidance.

Joe Elgosin made a motion to accept the Regional Transportation Plan with changes and it was seconded by Charles Muller. All were in favor and none were opposed.

Glenn English made a motion to accept the Coordinated Transit Plan with changes and it was seconded by Joe Elgosin. All were in favor and none were opposed.

The plans will go to the BOD at the next meeting for approval.

Other Business TE and SRTS Programs

- TE applications are due September 15.
- Safe Routes to School grant round (4th) will open on September 14 and applications are due to NCC and NHDOT on 11/9.
- Dean Eastman said that applicants should keep in mind that engineering is a part of the application and applicants have been underestimating cost on this.

Other Business Transit Updates Beverly Raymond

- In Carroll County a system manager will be hired in September.

- The Regions 1 and 2 stakeholders groups have voted in support of a merger that will combine both Coos and Grafton Counties into one region.
- NCT is having a new radio system installed to improve communication between the dispatch station and the vehicles.
- Stimulus money has paid for vehicles for the Carroll County system and for replacement vehicles in Littleton and Berlin.
- Looking into funding to train new drivers for the Carroll County Transit system.
- Received BEAS funding to train volunteer drivers.
- Community buy-in is needed in Lisbon in order to put an NCT vehicle in the area to connect to the Tri-Town for people in that area. NCT had the money to expand this year but there was no match, so hopefully it will be possible next year.

GACIT

GACIT public hearings will be held around the state to discuss Ten Year Plan projects in September and October. Mary Deppe will send the schedule to Towns when it becomes available.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Joe Elgosin and seconded by Frank Claffey. All were in favor and none were opposed.

Minutes Approved: 10/21/09