

Nashua Rail Transit Committee Meeting
Monday 9-Dec-2019
City Hall
Room 208
Draft Unapproved

Attendance: Steve Michon (chair), Chris Dawe, Bette Lasky, Sarah Marchant, Paul Patti, Michael O'Brien, Jay Minkarah, Dan Kelly, Tim Cummings, Carl Seidel, Jack Madden and Rick Dowd,

Guests: Nikolis Gualco and Komba Lamina

- Meeting called to order @9:04am
- Nick, a Nashua resident joins us. He works in Groton as their Conservation Manager
- 10 year plan just got through GACIT last week.
- Dan: BSRC bankrupt, Amtrak is not funded. Leaves the only option as the MBTA – why should Mass DOT listen? We need to focus strategy on economic development to show MA and NH Governors the benefit.
- Carl: We need to understand the perspective of MA, trying to talk with the governors.
- Jay: There is no moving forward without financial commitment from NH (state = 30 to 50% small start)
- Carl: Get other areas on NH interested, Nashua/Manchester is not enough.
- Mike: Quarterly newsletters, need to “get big”
- Jay: 1) Merrimack/Hudson region communities are different from overall NH. 2) Also need to talk with Northern MA re: benefits such as reduced congestion. How does it benefit them?
- Sarah/Tim/Camille met with MHT Director who is open to discussion about ground transportation modalities serving the airport.
- Rick: Is it possible to have meeting with other cities’ and towns’ rail proponents?
- Jack: All rail service proposed will be in Hillsborough county.
- Steve: Three potential consultants
 - ADG (Stuart Arnett) – <https://adg.solutions/> - Rail as an economic catalyst, get the message down and capitalize on it. Relationship management. More of a business / communications person, not transportation technical.
 - Montagne – E. J. Powers <https://www.montagnecom.com/> - Leverage what he’s already doing. Knows what the message is, could help us develop strategy. More business focused – lobbyists.
 - Louis Karno - <https://www.lkarno.com/> - Jaime, currently working with Harbor Homes and a college. Suggests doing due diligence and talking with people and do the research so we’re not presuming. Two phases: 1) Research the audience, and 2) Deliver.
- Bette: Lobbyists will be needed for sure.
- Sarah: Lobbyists & all for communication.
- Jay: Also need someone who can communicate south of the NH/MA border. Lobby piece, communication piece, yes – but we need to define this all before the RFQ.
- Bette: Firms with NH & MA expertise and connections.

- Sarah: But is our role as a Committee lobbying?
- Steve: Communication/lobbyist - short-term and/or long-term?
- Rick: Does the city of Manchester have a Rail Committee?
- Bette: Someone whose business it is to direct us.
- Steve: Someone to work with us with the expertise to ask the right questions to help focus us as a group.
- Rick: Use the ones we found, or put out an RFQ?
- Motion made by Bette, seconded by Rick: Not to hire but to investigate – a one-page Statement of Work, identify 3 to 5 people to put it out to. Their mission would be to help focus us. They will provide options, a global picture of what we need to do. Voted on by the Committee and passed.
- Steve and Komba will put together a one-page draft and send to the Communications sub-committee for review.
- Sarah and Tim had to leave at 10:00am
- Regarding Regional Authority alternatives, Chris Pappas is very focused on rail and understand the Federal issues.
- Possibly have a consultant give us a step wise approach
- Jack: Reviews findings of NRTC's Regional Authority & AMTK Alternatives Group subcommittee. Their next meeting is on 22-Jan-19.
- Meeting adjourned @10:25am