

MEETING MINUTES

Title	Rail Committee Meeting – Draft Unapproved
Location	Room 208
Date	Jan 24

Time Meeting Called To Order	8:30
Members Present	B. Laskey, J. Minkarah, M. O'Brian, D. Kelly, C. Seidel, J. Madden, and S. Michon
Guests or Others Participating	Peter Schaefer, N. Gualco, T. Giancola and Komba Lamina

General Meeting Highlights/Notes/Brief Description of Meeting

Cost of Rail: Committee members discussed several means through which Rail can be financed. They noted that the feasibility study will highlight financing options, and some of the financing will have to come from local communities. Small Starts is one funding source they identified.

One Pager RFP: members of the Committee reviewed the one pager RFP, which calls for hiring a consulting firm to help the Committee continue its advocacy for rail. Some of the feedback were reduce the strategy to two instead of three. Making sure that the selected firm can demonstrate experience in working with high level elected officials in both Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Legislative update from Congresswoman Kuster's Office by Tom: The Congresswoman along with other law makers are working on a bill in Washington that will reduce barriers for States and towns to tap into funding for rail development. The title of the bill is Invest in American Railroads Acts. As it stands, the U.S Department of Transportation charges a fee (in some cases up to 18%) to borrowers to protect them against the risk of loan default. These fees have become a barrier for borrowers to even apply for the loan. Congresswoman Kuster will host an invent in Nashua to announce Invest in American Railroads Act in the coming months. Additional information will be sent out as soon as details become concrete. Suggestions for the location for this event can be directed to Congresswoman's office.

Any Final Decisions Made

Motion for work session to define scope fo Committee was introduced by Carl 2nd by Dan. Motion passed.

Motion To Adjourn By	D. Kelly
Time	9:35AM
Next Meeting	TBD