

BARRINGTON
BROOKFIELD
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MIDDLETON
MILTON



NEW DURHAM
NEWMARKET
NORTHWOOD
NOTTINGHAM
ROCHESTER
ROLLINSFORD
SOMERSWORTH
STRAFFORD
WAKEFIELD

**Strafford Metropolitan Planning Organization
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
SRPC Office, Rochester, NH**

May 11, 2012 Minutes

Final

Present: William Hoke (NH DOT), Leigh Levine (FHWA), Nick Alexander (NH DOT), Wallace Dunham (Madbury), Jon Hotchkiss (Middleton), Beverly Cray (UNH), Dave Sharples (Somersworth), Paul Lockwood (NHDES), Rad Nichols (COAST), Steven Ireland (NH DOT-Dist. 6) and Diane Hardy (Newmarket)

Staff: Cynthia Copeland (Executive Director), Dan Camara (Senior GIS/Transportation Analyst), Marc Ambrosi (Transportation Planner) and Marilyn Barton (Executive Assistant)

1. Introductions

As there was no chairman available, D. Sharples volunteered to chair the meeting. D. Sharples asked for introductions around the room.

2. Staff Communications

D. Camara noted three interns would begin working at the end of May and would be working on culvert assessments, traffic counts and assist planners with work they may need help with.

3.1 Approval of Draft Strafford MPO TAC April 6, 2012 Minutes

The Chairman asked for a motion to approve the draft TAC minutes of April 6, 2012. W. Hoke made a motion and P. Lockwood seconded that motion. All in favor, motion carried.

3.2 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program – Amendment #5

M. Ambrosi noted Strafford Regional Planning Commission has gone out for a 30-day public comment period for Amendment #5 (the final amendment before a full TIP update) to the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program. M. Ambrosi stated the public comment period began on Tuesday, April 17, 2012 and ended on Thursday, May 17, 2012.

M. Ambrosi stated this amendment has a number of notable projects, but no significant surprises and reviewed the projects:

- Phase A of the Durham - Newmarket Bike shoulder and roadway reconstruction project has been delayed from Fiscal Year 2012 to Fiscal Year 2013. This shift in construction funding year is due to the limited time left to advertise the project in 2012 and possibly ongoing ROW issues.
- The Newmarket Bike Shoulders project from Newmarket to Newfields has been put on the back burner. This CMAQ project was initiated by District 6 as the Newmarket Main Street TE project was wrapping up. There is some dispute about funding for this project. M. Ambrosi stated from what he understood some amount of funding was not reimbursed by NH DOT upon the completion of the Newmarket Main Street TE project. An agreement was made to use that funding for this bike shoulders project, but the details remain unclear. Follow-up with DOT and Newmarket will be necessary to see if this project remains a priority and if locally the political will remains to complete this locally managed project.
- Construction funding for the Newmarket Sky Bridge Project is moving out to Fiscal Year 2014. Through consultation with Nick Alexander at DOT, it was made clear that this change was for the purposes of financial constraint for the State Transportation Improvement Plan. It was also indicated that if this project moves forward at an accelerated pace (which we are hoping for), funding will be made available to accommodate a revised schedule.
- Funding for the Somersworth-Berwick Route 9 Bridge rehab has been increased significantly. We appreciate the recognition from both the NH and ME DOTs that this is an important bridge that acts as the gateway between these two historic downtowns both of which are in the process of being revamped.

M. Ambrosi stated the SMPO is seeking a TAC recommendation for Policy Committee Approval of 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program, Amendment #5.

The Chairman asked for a motion to recommend S/TIP Amendment #5 to the Policy Committee for their approval. R. Nichols made a motion and J. Hotchkiss seconded that motion. All in favor, motion carried.

M. Ambrosi noted there would be a full TIP update with the public process starting in June and would be seen at TAC for approval around September, 2012.

4.1 Staff recap/run-through of NH Turnpikes Program Presentation for TAC

M. Ambrosi noted at their last Policy Committee meeting on April 20, 2012, Chris Waszczuk of the Bureau of Turnpikes, gave an informative presentation to the group about the turnpike system and the Newington-Dover project. M. Ambrosi went over the highlights of the presentation and noted currently there is no funding available to complete the Dover side of the project. C. Copeland stated it would take an increase to do this and there may be an increase in the tolls and we need to watch this carefully and let our legislators know our needs.

4.2 ITS-Discussion about community ITS needs and solutions

D. Camara stated there have been three meetings to date. D. Camara stated the group has worked on identifying transportation issues and needs at a regional level. D. Camara noted updates to the ITS inventory

have also been developed. D. Camara noted sixty three percent of the projects now exist. D. Camara reviewed the projects.

D. Camara stated the ITS update includes two overarching sections: The *ITS Architecture*, and the *ITS Strategic Plan*.

ITS Architecture:

The “*Architecture defines a framework within which a system can be built. It functionally defines what the elements of the system do and the information that is exchanged between them. An architecture is important because it allows integration options to be considered prior to investment in the design and development of the elements of the system. An architecture is functionally oriented and not technology specific, which allows the architecture to remain effective over time. It defines "what" must be done, not "how" it will be done. The functions the system performs remain the same while technology evolves.*”(US DOT; Regional ITS Architecture Guidance Document)

ITS Strategic Plan:

The Strategic Plan involves creating an implementation plan for the ITS Architecture that includes the sequencing of projects (short, medium, and long term projects) and the specific equipment, or Service Packages, that are necessary for each part of the sequence so that the system of parts works as a whole to achieve the desired goals. The Strategic Plan describes the “how” systems framed in the Architecture will be accomplished.

What are Service Packages? Service Packages are the US DOT approved inventories that “*identify the pieces of Physical Architecture [ITS equipment] that are required to implement a particular transportation service.*” (US DOT; “National ITS Architecture Market Packages” May 2007) In other words, Service Packages are the predefined equipment inventories that identify the key ingredients necessary to create a particular system. The Service Packages also ensure the compatibility of equipment in ITS systems across jurisdictional boundaries.

The Regional Architecture and Strategic Plan will dictate which Service Packages are right for Southeast NH. Up to this point, the Strafford Region has seen significant state level deployment of ITS systems that have primarily focused on setting up the communications infrastructure along with initial deployments of roadway safety equipment, emergency response equipment, and congestion mitigation (high speed tolling) infrastructure.

As the initial NH ITS Architecture objectives are being realized (Route 16, Variable Message Boards, etc...) we now have the opportunity to build on these systems and pursue ITS solutions that will address the issues identified more locally like signal coordination, data collection, and congestion management. Dan Camara has been reaching out to communities and agencies to gather information about the transportation issues that are currently out there (Funding, points of congestion, safety issues, data needs, etc.) so we can identify the most appropriate ITS systems to address these issues. These issues and needs have been coordinated with Rockingham’s issues and needs and have since been included into draft Architecture and Strategic Plan documents.

The draft updates to the Architecture and Strategic Plan are available for review and comment and can be found on the SRPC website at: <http://strafford.org/transportation/transdocsList.php>

5. Project Updates

M. Ambrosi stated the draft NH Rail Plan has been released and encouraged everyone to review it. M. Ambrosi noted Bike Walk to Work Day is next week and the following communities will be sponsoring it on Friday, May 18, 2012: Lee, Dover Transportation Center, Newmarket and Durham.

D. Hardy noted Newmarket is moving into the design phase of their Skybridge project. D. Hardy stated the award was contracted to Dubois-King.

R. Nichols stated that COAST is in public comment period regarding proposed service charges in Dover and changes to the following bus routes: 30, 31, 32 as well as the Dover FastTrans system. R. Nichols noted there would be expansions to Routes 1 and 2. J. Hotchkiss spoke about the North Bus and stated Farmington has now been added, as well as increased frequency (two times a week) and addition locations.

C. Copeland noted the Scenic Mills Byways was submitted to NH DOT this month for acceptance and the next step was working with Nottingham and Northwood regarding a byway for Routes, 4, 152 and 156 in conjunction with Deerfield, Candia and Raymond. C. Copeland noted SRPC is assisting with this by collecting data.

C. Copeland noted the Commissioners Annual meeting is Thursday, May 31, 2012 at the Three Chimneys Inn in Durham.

6. Other Business

P. Lockwood noted Granite State Clean Cities Coalition is having a Green Your Fleet workshop on Friday, June 1, 2012 and handed out flyers.

There was no other business.

7. Adjournment

The chairman asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10AM. D. Hardy made a motion and B. Cray seconded that motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Minutes submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marilyn Barton" followed by the initials "PHR". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marilyn Barton, PHR
Recording Secretary