

BARRINGTON  
BROOKFIELD  
DOVER  
DURHAM  
FARMINGTON  
LEE  
MADBURY  
MIDDLETON  
MILTON



NEW DURHAM  
NEWMARKET  
NORTHWOOD  
NOTTINGHAM  
ROCHESTER  
ROLLINSFORD  
SOMERSWORTH  
STRAFFORD  
WAKEFIELD

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

**July 13, 2012 Minutes**

**Final**

**Present:** Laurel Cox (Lee), Paul Lockwood (NHDES), Leigh Levine (FHWA), Wallace Dunham (Madbury), Dave Sharples (Somersworth), Ed Comeau (Brookfield), Diane Hardy (Newmarket), Jeremy LaRose (COAST) and Jon Hotchkiss (Middleton)

**Staff:** Tammy Butt (Finance Manager), Dan Camara (Senior GIS/Transportation Analyst), Marc Ambrosi (Transportation Planner), Michelle Mears (Regional Planner) and Marilyn Barton (HR Specialist/Events Coordination)

**Guests:** Rick and Mary Hibbard (Dover)

**1. Introductions**

Chairman Hotchkiss opened the meeting at 9 a.m. and introductions were given around the room.

**2. Staff Communications**

M. Barton reminded everyone that letters were sent to all eighteen communities and four voting agencies for recruitment for the fiscal years of 2013-2014. M. Barton noted she had received some already and asked those to remind their communities and or agencies to send them in. M. Barton noted that W. Dunham volunteered to serve as vice-chair and thanked J. Hotchkiss and W. Dunham for their help for the upcoming year.

**3.1 Approval of Draft Strafford MPO TAC May 11, 2012 and June 1, 2012 Minutes**

The Chairman made a motion to approve the draft MPO TAC minutes of May 11, 2012. D. Sharples made a motion to approve the minutes of May 11, 2012. W. Dunham seconded that motion. It was noted there was one abstention – E. Comeau, as he was not a member of TAC at that time. All in favor, motion carried.

The Chairman asked for a motion to approve the draft June 1, 2012 minutes. W. Dunham made a motion and J. LaRose seconded that motion. It was noted there was one abstention – E. Comeau, as he was not a member of TAC at that time. All in favor, motion carried.

### **3.2 Intelligent Transportation Systems Architecture/Plan – Recommendation to Policy**

D. Camara noted the update has been completed and stated that the documents are available on the SRPC website and gave a quick presentation on where the documents could be found on the website: Click on the transportation tab, click on guiding documents and at the bottom of the page is where one can download the updated documents. D. Camara stated final presentations were given to the stakeholders on June 21, 2012 and thanked those that participated. D. Camara stated he thought it was a great experience and was pleased with the final outcome. D. Camara stated there are going to be websites for the ITS Strategic Plan and ITS Architecture and website; however it was still being worked on and gave a quick preview (screenshot) of it.

E. Comeau asked what ITS means and what it is. D. Camara explained that ITS stood for Intelligent Transportation Systems and is required of MPO's. D. Camara explained that it's an effort that aims to improve efficiency and roadway safety across various jurisdictions through increased coordination of stakeholders. It identifies the needs for increased efficiency and safety and proposes possible solutions to meet those needs. E. Comeau asked if the security cameras are part of ITS and was there any legislature or stakeholders involved? D. Camara noted that the cameras are a type of ITS and that any user of the surface transportation system is a stakeholder and that he was not aware of any legislation. There was discussion regarding if a project was required to have this plan in place in order to receive federal funds and if there were mechanisms already in place, why was this being done? It was noted if there is a project with ITS components than the Plan is required to receive federal funds to pay for those ITS components. M. Ambrosi explained that these systems are often a much cheaper way to approach typical transportation issues like congestion rather than proposing costly increased capacity projects such as I-93 widening. M. Ambrosi gave the I-95 open road tolling as an example of a very successful ITS project.

The Chairman asked for a motion to recommend the Intelligent Transportation Systems Architecture/Plan to the Policy Committee for their approval. J. LaRose made a motion and D. Sharples seconded that motion. It was noted there was one abstention – E. Comeau. All in favor, motion carried.

### **4.1 Long-Range Transportation Plan**

M. Ambrosi stated the Metropolitan (Long-Range) Transportation Plan is a federally mandated planning document required for MPOs and needs to extend at least twenty years into the future. M. Ambrosi noted the update involves expanding the horizon year to the year 2040. M. Ambrosi stated by making this change we are safely maintaining a twenty year planning horizon for a number of future planning cycles. M. Ambrosi explained the additional benefit of making this change now is that it will allow NH MPOs to reduce the number of transportation model runs necessary to show Air Quality Conformity from four to three. M. Ambrosi noted this would hopefully result in fewer amendments to the 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program, which in effect would prevent many projects from being stagnant during relatively lengthy amendment periods. M. Ambrosi noted by updating the Metropolitan Transportation Plan's horizon year also provides the SMPO with an opportunity to review the transportation project list existing in our current plan to remove completed or unwanted projects, and to add new projects to the list. M. Ambrosi noted the project list update coincides with the completion of projects lists solicited from communities and agencies through last year's project solicitation.

### **4.2 Transportation Improvement Program**

M. Ambrosi stated the primary focus of work over the summer will be updating the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and performing its consequent Air Quality Conformity Determination. M. Ambrosi explained that the TIP is a short-range, federally required document that lays out an MPO region's

transportation projects over a four year period and noted it needs to be fiscally constrained. M. Ambrosi went over the development process, which includes three primary steps:

1. Create a list of all federally funded or regionally significant transportation projects we can reasonably expect to see over the next four-year period.
2. Create a budget of transportation expenditures on regional transportation projects for the four-year period that shows NH has the funding to cover the anticipated costs.
3. Update the TIP document and making changes to document content to address changes in transportation policy since the last TIP update.

M. Ambrosi reviewed the projects that were on the handout. D. Hardy stated that she liked the new format and noted it would be helpful to have a key for the acronyms and letters. It was also suggested to have a glossary. A discussion ensued regarding public participation and the TIP and that the content of the document needs to be palatable to the public or the document would not have meaning for the public. M. Ambrosi noted the public process currently used by SRPC and included a description of SRPC efforts to make the document more intelligible to the public through use of visualizations, etc. It was also noted that project lists weren't flexible because they come from the first four years of the State Ten Year Plan which is set by the NH Legislature. It was noted that the TYP was updated last year and went through a significant public involvement process that included roughly twenty-seven public hearings around the state to establish project lists and priorities. D. Hardy stated it is sometimes difficult to engage the public at this level at smaller meetings and applauded the efforts by SRPC to engage the public.

## **5. Project Updates**

L. Levine spoke about the handout regarding MAP-21 and noted it would take effect on October 1, 2012. L. Levine noted until that date, current programs would continue to be managed under existing law (SAFETE-LU). L. Levine reviewed some of the highlights from the bill. L. Levine noted funding levels will stay close to current levels. L. Levine stated the difference is there will need to be performance measures established and will be working with state DOT's to set up goals and performance measures. L. Levine stated that some programs would be consolidated such as Transportation Enhancement, Safe Routes to School, and Scenic Byways.

M. Ambrosi stated if any communities are looking to have local traffic counts to contact Dan or himself as soon as possible. M. Ambrosi stated the Access Points Layer has been completed and needs to be QA/QC'd. M. Ambrosi noted Intern K. Davis and Regional Planner, G. Jones have been working on probe runs on NH125 and Route 108 and are going pretty well and staff are doing these runs during peak traffic hours (morning and evening commute hours) and would be sharing that information in the future. J. LaRose stated he would like to see the impact of the data in regards to the Route 2 service expansion.

M. Ambrosi stated SRPC has been working with COAST and Rockingham Planning Commission to locate communities interested in bike racks at bus stops. COAST is willing to purchase the equipment and the community would just need to install and maintain the equipment as the match for the project. M. Ambrosi stated to contact J. LaRose, D. Camara or himself if interested.

J. LaRose stated COAST expanded the Route 2/Trolley service at the end of June and ridership is climbing. J. LaRose noted expanded service for East Rochester as well, operating during the commuter time period. J. LaRose noted the Whittier Street Bridge is being closed for repairs for approximately two weeks and that

will impact bus routes. J. LaRose noted Wildcat has agreed to assist with a detour shuttle service during that time and was thankful for their efforts.

D. Sharples noted Somersworth received funding for a T/E project and sent out requests to five firms and that VHB was selected.

D. Hardy noted the pedestrian bridge project is in the process of survey work and a stakeholders meeting will be in September and the feasibility report should be completed at the end of the year and noted the second mill building is opening on August 1, 2012.

**6. Other Business**

E. Comeau noted this meeting can be seen on his website, [GOVERNMENTOVERSITE.com](http://GOVERNMENTOVERSITE.com) and an email alert can be sent if interested.

M. Mears stated the next Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) meeting will be on Thursday, July 26, 2012 at 8 a.m. at the Rochester Community Center in Conference Room 1A. M. Mears noted the meeting will be discussing the annual update draft plan and noted three projects have been submitted and will be going out for public review in the next month. There was no other business.

**7. Adjournment**

The Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m. D. Sharples made a motion and D. Hardy seconded that motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Minutes submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marilyn Barton PHR". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Marilyn Barton, PHR  
Recording Secretary