

BARRINGTON  
BROOKFIELD  
DOVER  
DURHAM  
FARMINGTON  
LEE  
MADBURY  
MIDDLETON  
MILTON



NEW DURHAM  
NEWMARKET  
NORTHWOOD  
NOTTINGHAM  
ROCHESTER  
ROLLINSFORD  
SOMERSWORTH  
STRAFFORD  
WAKEFIELD

**Strafford Policy Committee Meeting & Public Hearing**  
**October 19, 2012**  
**Rochester Community Center, Rochester, NH**  
**Minutes**

**FINAL**

**SMPO Policy Members Present:** Paul Lockwood (NHDES), Tom Clark (Dover), Rad Nichols (COAST), Robert Jaffin (Rochester), Victoria Parmele (Northwood), Tom Crosby (Madbury), Marcia Gasses (Dover), Kenn Ortmann (Rochester), Carol Vita (Middleton), Lou Vita (Middleton), Bill Watson (NH DOT), Brian Tapscott (Somersworth), Ed Comeau (Brookfield) and Sandra Keans (Rochester)

**SMPO Staff Present:** Cynthia Copeland (Executive Director) Marc Ambrosi (Transportation Planner) Dan Camara (Senior GIS/Transportation Analyst), Marilyn Barton (HR Specialist/Events Coordinator) and Greg Jones (Regional Planner),

**1. Introductions**

Chairman Vita opened the meeting at 9: 05 a.m. and asked for introductions around the room.

**2.1 Open Public Hearing**

The Chairman opened the public hearing at 9:07 a.m. M. Ambrosi gave a presentation on the three documents up for approval. He spoke about the TIP project list, programmed funding and anticipated revenue. He also discussed the project type and cost summary for TIP.

M. Ambrosi explained what the Metropolitan Transportation Plan is and showed a project list example and explained the financial constraint aspect of the Plan.

There was a question regarding oversight for the transportation air quality monitoring and who was the responsible party for validating model outputs. P. Lockwood noted there were twenty monitoring stations throughout the state that provide on-the-ground air quality measurements in real time which are used to validate our model outputs. He explained that our model was a way of estimating what future levels of air pollutants to ensure we are meeting future EPA pollutant standards for mobile sources. P. Lockwood explained a budget is established for the whole state than through the [interagency consultation] process budgets are established for MPO regions. P. Lockwood noted we are in conformity with all pollutants at this point and after July 2013, the EPA will re-designate NH's "non-attainment" area to "in attainment." This results in eliminating air quality analysis for future plans; however monitoring will still be done.

E. Comeau asked where this model was run. P. Lockwood stated in the NH DES office and runs constantly. A discussion ensued as to who calibrates the rates on the machinery and who does the peer review of the data. P. Lockwood stated the EPA does a very thorough review of the data received. There was a discussion

regarding that information governed by the EPA is also the same agency that reviews the data. It was noted that it is the most accurate tool we have currently and are able to analyze amazing things with it. There was also discussion on whether the model was valid. B. Watson stated no one in attendance at the meeting is authorized to state that. B. Watson noted the model is the best we have and is showing consistent and accurate information and the data around the state is showing trends and noted we are not developers but are the users of the model.

## **2.2 Close Public Hearing**

After hearing no other comments, the Chairman closed the public hearing at 9:30 a.m.

## **3.1 Staff Communications**

C. Copeland reviewed the Rules of Procedure that was included in the meeting packet. C. Copeland noted this was presented to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) at their October 5, 2012 meeting. C. Copeland stated any comments or changes can be sent to her. It was noted these procedures were necessary as there was a lot of cross talk and stress at recent meetings and these procedures were set up to keep meetings civilized. The Chairman asked for a motion to adopt the Rules of Procedure. K. Ortmann made a motion and B. Tapscott seconded that motion. There was one “no” vote. All others votes cast in favor, motion carried.

M. Barton reminded those Commissioners in attendance the next Commissioner’s meeting would be on November 8, 2012 at 7 PM at the Rochester Community Center in Conference Room 1A. There were no other staff communications.

## **3.2 Other Communications**

There were no other communications.

## **4.1 Draft MPO Minutes of September 21, 2012**

The Chairman asked for a motion to approve the draft September 21, 2012 minutes as presented. K. Ortmann noted two corrections that needed to be made: Under 4.4 it reads “Allow for new projects to be added to the Strategic Plan at any time barring...” K. Ortmann stated barring should be changed to pending. He noted the other correction is under number 8, regarding the time the meeting adjourned should be changed from 10:3 to 10:30. There were no other corrections. K. Ortmann made a motion to approve the minutes with changes. B. Tapscott seconded the motion. It was noted there was one abstention – T. Crosby as he was not in attendance at that meeting. Motion carried.

## **4.2 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program**

M. Ambrosi stated the Strafford Metropolitan Planning Organization is seeking Policy Committee approval of the 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program.

M. Ambrosi stated through the Transportation Improvement Program process Strafford MPO has shown that the federally funded and regionally significant transportation projects planned for in the Strafford Region over the next four year period (2013-2016) can be implemented using current revenue sources.

M. Ambrosi noted Strafford MPO staff has received a limited number of comments since the beginning of the thirty-day public comment period (beginning September 17, 2012). M. Ambrosi noted the comments have been documented and addressed for this meeting. M. Ambrosi stated comments have pertained to

providing more information about acronyms included in the document, providing definitions for language that may not be easily understood by the public, and including more and different types of visualizations to help illustrate topics in the document.

The Chairman made a motion to approve the 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program. T. Clark made a motion and R. Jaffin seconded that motion. All in favor; motion carried.

#### **4.3 2013-2040 Long-Range Transportation Program**

M. Ambrosi stated the Strafford Metropolitan Planning Organization is seeking Policy Committee approval of the *2013-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan*.

M. Ambrosi noted updating the Metropolitan Transportation Plan provided the Strafford MPO with the opportunity to review the transportation project lists existing in the current plan, to remove projects that have been completed or are no longer needed, and add new projects to the list. M. Ambrosi stated the project list update coincided with the completion of project lists solicited from communities and agencies through 2011's project solicitation.

M. Ambrosi stated prior to the public comment period, lists of projects to be included in the *Metropolitan Transportation Plan* were distributed to communities for confirmation of accuracy and to provide the chance to add additional "Vision" projects to the *Metropolitan Transportation Plan* update. M. Ambrosi noted the SMPO received and addressed a number of comments requesting minor changes to project descriptions and to add additional projects.

M. Ambrosi stated The Long-Range Plan update was significant as many projects have been added, completed, or were no longer needed. M. Ambrosi noted this was the first major overhaul to the project list in a number of years. M. Ambrosi also noted updates to the text of the document were minor and technical in nature. M. Ambrosi stated the Strafford MPO is planning to more thoroughly update the Metropolitan Transportation Plan chapters over the coming year to ensure the content in the chapters remains up-to-date.

The Chairman made a motion to approve the 2013-2040 Long-Range Transportation Program. R. Jaffin made a motion and T. Crosby seconded that motion. All in favor; motion carried.

#### **4.4 Air Quality Analysis and Determination**

D. Camara stated the Strafford Metropolitan Planning Organization is seeking Policy Committee approval of the *Air Quality Conformity Analysis & Determination*.

D. Camara noted federal regulations require that Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) in areas designated as non-attainment or maintenance under the Clean Air Act (Section 107) prepare Air Quality Conformity Determinations on their Transportation Plans and Transportation Improvement Programs. D. Camara stated the purpose of the conformity determination is to ensure that the plans and programs that are developed conform to all applicable federal air quality requirements.

D. Camara stated this document has been prepared for the purpose of making a conformity determination on the *2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)* and *2013-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (Plan)* for SRPC, as well as to demonstrate in conjunction with the Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC), the Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC), and Southern New Hampshire

Regional Planning Commission (SNHRPC) that the ozone emissions budgets for the Southeast New Hampshire Moderate 8-hour Ozone Nonattainment Area are being met.

The Chairman asked for a motion to approve the Air Quality Analysis and Determination document. T. Clark made a motion and R. Jaffin seconded that motion. There was one "no" vote. All others in favor; motion carried.

**5. Discussion Item(s)**

C. Copeland asked the Committee members present if they would like to have NHDOT Commissioner Clement speak to the group. Those members present indicated they would like a presentation and C. Copeland stated she would send a formal invite to him. There were no other discussion items.

**6. Project Update(s)**

There were no project updates.

**7. Other Business**

R. Nichols stated COAST broke the half-million passengers trips provided for the first time. R. Nichols noted COAST took delivery of the first bus of the CMAQ expansion and is close to receiving all six vehicles and will retire the high step buses and then all buses would a single step style.

**8. Citizen's Forum**

There were no comments from the public.

**9. Adjournment**

The Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 a.m. K. Ortmann made a motion and E. Comeau seconded that motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Minutes submitted by,

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

**Marilyn Barton, PHR**  
**Recording Secretary**