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**Strafford Policy Committee Meeting
April 19, 2013
Rochester Community Center, Conf. Rm. 1A, Rochester, NH
Minutes**

Final

SMPO Policy Members Present: Rad Nichols (COAST), Marcia Gasses (Dover), Anthony Gaudiello (Barrington), Brian Tapscott (Somersworth), William Connor (Somersworth), Glenn Davison (NHDOT), Kenn Ortmann (Rochester), Paul Lockwood (NHDES), Ed Comeau (Brookfield), Tony McManus (Dover), Tom Clark (Dover), Paul Robidas (Somersworth), Tom Crosby (Madbury) and Victoria Parmele (Northwood)

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

1. Introductions

The Chairman opened the meeting at 9 AM and introductions were given around the room.

2. Staff Communications

M. Barton noted SRPC was in the interview process for summer interns and the goal was to have them on board by May 20, 2013. M. Barton reminded everyone of the upcoming Commissioners meeting on May 30, 2013 at the Governor's Inn in Rochester and noted invitations would be going out shortly.

3.1 Draft MPO Minutes of March 15, 2013

The chairman asked for a motion to approve the draft MPO minutes of March 15, 2013. R. Nichols made a motion and K. Ortmann seconded that motion. It was noted there was one abstention. All in favor, motion carried.

3.2 FY 2015-2024 Ten Year Plan Project List

M. Ambrosi gave a review of the process to rate the projects, which involved ranking criteria and weights. M. Ambrosi stated SMPO staff drafted a ranked list of projects for the 2015-2024 Ten Year Plan. M. Ambrosi noted staff reached out to our constituents in the region in order to review the scoring of local and regional projects. M. Ambrosi stated nine of seventeen constituents with projects responded to our correspondence.

M. Ambrosi explained at their April 5, 2013 TAC meeting, SMPO drafted the draft project list with a detailed discussion on two major factors:

1. The scoring scales for the criteria do not work for certain project types such as transit and corridor studies
2. Certain project types such as livability, transit and bridge projects do not compete for the same funding sources as other projects. M. Ambrosi stated bridge projects aren't new projects and are very expensive. TAC recommended that SMPO staff present a ranked list to the Policy Committee that ranks bridges and CMAQ projects separately from the larger list.

R. Nichols stated COAST had one project on the list and there is no funding behind it currently. R. Nichols noted the Decision Lens scoring system was not designed to account for non-highway projects. R. Nichols noted the way Decision Lens evaluates projects does not treat transit projects fairly. He noted it was nothing against staff that did the work on this. R. Nichols stated non-road projects were not given great weight and he could not support it. E. Comeau asked how R. Nichols would like to see the decision-making set up.

R. Nichols stated he would like to see a comprehensive set of criteria should be used and looked at transportation as a whole and weigh all projects against each other. He stated he understood it is a first step and going in the right direction.

A discussion ensued regarding those non-dues paying communities and how they should be scored or ranked in this process. There was discussion docking five points off projects from a community that does not pay dues. It was noted there needs to be some advantage to those communities that pay dues and this has been historically done with other funding programs.

M. Ambrosi noted SMPO staff has met with NHDOT and the other RPCs and MPOs around the state for our quarterly Transportation Planners Collaborative (TPC) meeting. M. Ambrosi stated at this meeting NHDOT indicated they would likely not give consideration to projects they felt could be funded with a statewide programmatic or competitive funding source like CMAQ or State Aid Bridge.

M. Ambrosi stated SMPO staff feels that part of our responsibility as an agency is to inform NHDOT about the transportation priorities of the region regardless of the funding source. M. Ambrosi noted the SMPO position is that all project priorities should be passed along to NHDOT, but we should provide a way for NHDOT to easily differentiate projects that are eligible for evaluation in the Ten Year Transportation Plan process.

SMPO staff presented a modified project listing that included all projects: Projects eligible for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program, the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and statewide programmatic projects. M. Ambrosi noted the list will also include project priorities that go beyond the \$53,000,000 funding target for the ten year period.

K. Ortmann made a motion for purposes of discussion to state that projects in non-dues paying communities that are not multi-jurisdictional be docked five points. The Chairman asked for a second to that motion. E. Comeau seconded that motion. There was further discussion on how fair it was to dock communities that perhaps could not afford to pay dues. Other discussion included there needs to be some way of encouraging communities to continue to pay dues. A roll call vote was called for: W. Connor-aye, P. Robidas-aye, M. Gasses-nay, T. Gaudiello-aye, K. Ortmann-aye, T. McManus-abstain, T. Crosby-abstain, V. Parmele-aye, E. Comeau-nay, COAST-aye, NHDOT-abstain and B. Tapscott-yes. There were seven yes votes, two no votes and three abstentions. Motion carried.

K. Ortmann moved to make a motion as follows: To forward the inclusive document with non-dues paying adjustments to the numbers and that the entire document is made available to NHDOT, along with the official submission that does not include the projects highlighted in purple. That a letter of correspondence be included asking for continued interaction with NHDOT over the next six months with this process. That special attention is given to bridge and transportation projects. The chairman asked for a second to this motion. R. Nichols seconded the motion. A roll call vote was asked for: W. Connor –aye, P Robidas-aye, M. Gasses-aye, A. Gaudiello-aye, K. Ortmann, aye, V. Parmele-aye, E. Comeau-nay, R. Nichols-nay, G. Davison-Abstention, B. Tapscott-aye. There were seven yes votes, two no votes and one abstention. Motion carried.

4.1 Title VI and Environmental Justice Updates

M. Barton stated the Strafford MPO is soliciting comments regarding updates to the Environmental Justice Plan and the new Title VI document. M. Barton noted a thirty day public comment period began on April 13, 2013 and would continue through May 16, 2013, with a public hearing scheduled for Friday May 17, 2013 at the Policy Committee meeting. M. Barton stated the Strafford MPO will be asking the Policy Committee to consider these documents up for adoption in May. M. Barton noted copies of these documents are available at the Dover and Rochester Public libraries, the SRPC office and the SRPC website.

5.1 Rochester Park and Ride update

M. Ambrosi stated he spoke with R. Granmaison regarding why the cost has doubled on this project. M. Ambrosi explained it had to do with access issues and right of way cost and there was more drainage treatment needed that originally anticipated.

5.2 Public Participation Plan update

M. Barton stated the Strafford MPO is working on updates to the Public Participation Plan. M. Barton noted the document will be out for a forty-five day public comment period from May 6 through June 20, 2013, with a public hearing scheduled for Friday, June 21, 2013 at the Policy Committee meeting. M. Barton stated the Strafford MPO will be asking the Policy Committee to consider the updated document for adoption in June.

6. Other Business

D. Camara noted there would be a free webinar regarding the Census American Fact Finder on May 8, 2013 at 10 a.m. D. Camara stated the nice thing about this webinar is that you can take it from whatever computer you are at. D. Camara stated he would be sending out the link to the webinar via email shortly.

M. Ambrosi noted he had spoken with Mike Lynch of the Durham Public Works department regarding the Wagon Hill project and the use of a GPS to show trails and hope to offer this as a new service to communities in the future.

R. Nichols noted at the end of March, COAST carried their twelve millionth passenger, which was a result of the expansion of Route 2 and the Trolley. R. Nichols stated the Clipper Connection continues to be successful and is growing steadily.

M. Gasses noted construction work on Route 125 and Green Hill Road in Barrington will begin next week and will occur between 9-3 during the week and shortly after that is completed, there will be paving work being done.

W. Prindle noted the Strafford MPO will be assisting COAST with their biennial survey the week of April 30 through May 3, 2013. W. Prindle stated the Seacoast Bike Walk to Work week is May 13-17, 2013 and several communities in the region will be hosting events on Friday, May 17, 2013.

C. Copeland stated the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy is moving ahead with Economic Development Designation status. C. Copeland noted at the annual meeting in May, staff will be working with the commissioners regarding visioning.

7. Citizen's Forum

There were no comments from the public.

8. Adjournment

The Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 a.m. K. Ortmann made a motion and W. Connor 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