

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
May 17, 2013
Rochester Community Center, Conf. Rm. 1A, Rochester, NH
Minutes**

FINAL

SMPO Policy Members Present: Tom Clark (Dover), Paul Lockwood (NHDES), Tony McManus (Dover), Robert Jaffin (Rochester), Kenn Ortmann (Rochester), William Connor (Somersworth), Sandra Keans (Rochester), Brian Tapscott (Somersworth), Victoria Parmele (Northwood), Glenn Davison (NHDOT), Steve Brown (Wakefield), Ed Comeau (Brookfield) and Anthony Gaudiello (Barrington)

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

1. Introductions

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

2.1 Open public hearing to receive comments on 4.2 and 4.3 only

The Chairman opened the public hearing at 9:05 a.m. M. Barton gave an informative PowerPoint presentation on the Environmental Justice updates and the new Title VI document and opened the discussion to questions. K. Ortmann asked if the comments received and any addition or corrections would be included in the final document. M. Barton stated yes. E. Comeau asked about the social justice aspect of the document. M. Barton explained that the Title VI document was part of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and noted the Environmental Justice document was part of Executive Order 12898.

2.2 Close Public hearing

After no other comments, the Chairman asked for a motion to close the public hearing at 9:27 a.m. K. Ortmann made a motion and W. Connor seconded that motion. All in favor, motion carried.

3. Staff Communications

M. Barton reminded everyone of the upcoming Annual Commissioner's Meeting/Luncheon on May 30, 2013 and, if attending to let her know. M. Barton stated the new summer intern, Matthew Mazzone, would be starting with SRPC on May 20, 2013. C. Copeland noted a ballot for FY 2014 Executive Committee officers and members has been sent out and noted if anyone was interested in being on the ballot to contact her by May 21, 2013. C. Copeland stated the Unified Planning Work Program budget and scope of work was approved by the Executive Council on May 15, 2013 as submitted. C. Copeland stated the MPO was appreciative of the support NHDOT provided with the addition of SPR funds to our PL funds, which has made a huge difference.

4.1 Draft MPO Minutes of April 19, 2013

The Chairman asked for a motion to approve the draft minutes of April 19, 2013. R. Jaffin made a motion. K. Ortmann noted he had a few changes: On the first page under the first paragraph of 3.2 it reads: "...with projects corresponded to our corresponded." K. Ortmann stated it should be changed to "responded". On page two of the last paragraph, it read: "K. Ortmann made a motion for purposes of discussion to state that projects that are not multi-jurisdictional..." and that it should include the words, "in non-dues paying communities that are not multi-jurisdictional". On the top of page three it read: "To forward the document as it is with adjustments to the numbers and that the entire document is made available to NHDOT, along with the official submission, less the projects highlighted in purple." and should be changed to "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." M. Barton noted she had received a comment from T. McManus on page 3, the last paragraph; Greenville Road should be changed to Green Hill. M. Barton noted these changes would be made. K. Ortmann made a motion to approve the minutes with changes. T. McManus seconded that motion. It was noted there were two abstentions. All others were in favor; motion carried.

4.2 Title VI Program

The Chairman asked for a motion to approve the new Title VI Program document. E. Comeau asked if this was part of the Executive Order mentioned in the presentation. M. Barton stated it was part of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. E. Comeau asked if the social justice aspect of the plan would be voted on separately. M. Barton stated she was not sure and would research that. T. Clark made a motion and V. Parmele seconded that motion. All others in favor, motion carried.

4.3 Environmental Justice Updates

The Chairman asked for a motion to approve the updates to the Environmental Justice document. K. Ortmann stated his frustration that the amount of data on the 2010 census is a coarser filter and is hard to address issues locally; however recognizing it is the only data available. A discussion ensued regarding the public comments and that they would be included in the document. K. Ortmann made a motion and R. Jaffin seconded that motion. It was noted there were two no votes. All others were in favor and motion carried.

5.1 Public Participation Plan update

M. Barton noted at previous meetings it was told that the Public Participation Plan would be out for public comment in May and voted on in June. M. Barton stated that was being delayed, as there was going to be a major reformatting of the document and incorporating our practices into the document. M. Barton stated the forty-five day public comment period would begin around the end of August with voting taking place at the October 18, 2013 Policy Committee meeting.

5.2 National Highway System Update

D. Camara stated this has been a statewide effort in connection with NHDOT. He explained this is looking at the region's national highway system; a network of roadways that are important to the area. D. Camara showed our region's highway system: Routes 16 and 125 and US 4, east to west. He noted this effort is just getting started. G. Davison stated this defines new urban areas and boundaries; updates our function class system and how the roads are being used and gave an informative presentation. There was discussion on federal aid and what the money was used for. A discussion ensued regarding urban areas and functional class and how that it affects communities.

It was requested by the Policy Committee to have G. Davison present a future workshop outline at the next TAC meeting on June 7, 2013 regarding road classifications and urban compact areas, for future workshops. A motion was made by B. Tapscott to have NHDOT and the MPO hold future workshops for local communities and so members could learn more about this. R. Jaffin seconded that motion. All in favor, motion carried.

D. Camara noted the next step includes functional class changes and some of those changes could lead to more maintenance of the roads.

6. Project Update (s)

M. Ambrosi spoke about the Data conference he and D. Camara attended in Washington DC recently. He stated they learned quite a bit of information regarding data collection, storage and usage and noted as an MPO we are going in the right direction and are in line with the national level.

M. Ambrosi updated everyone on the Park and Ride Study Toolkit he has working on in collaboration with Central and Southwest Planning Commissions. M. Ambrosi stated that project will be wrapped up at the end of June and will be sending out to receive feedback and then make revisions and was going really well.

M. Ambrosi gave an update on the Lee Park and Ride and showed the proposed location. M. Ambrosi noted the next steps include negotiation with the family that owns the property, acquiring additional land and the earliest start date is approximately 2015. M. Ambrosi gave an update on the Lee Traffic Circle and the construction should begin either this summer or next.

M. Ambrosi stated he attended a public information meeting in Dover the night before regarding updates to the Little Bay Bridge Project. M. Ambrosi explained that NHDOT gave updates on the three of the phases of work going on currently. M. Ambrosi stated improvements have begun on the southern side of the Bay; M. Ambrosi noted the Dover phase of the project called for plastic see through sound walls initially and it was determined the cost was too much as well as safety concerns. M. Ambrosi stated funding for the Dover side of the project is currently not available; however this was going to be presented to the legislature by K. Cota of NHDOT, to determine if the turnpike funding can be extended so they could borrow money to fund that portion of the project. There was a question about having some of the maps regarding this project from NHDOT on the SRPC website and M. Ambrosi stated the MPO could provide the link to NHDOT.

G. Jones spoke gave updates on some projects coming up in the summer months, such as traffic counts, the culvert program and Access Management.

C. Copeland noted the MPO joined the I-95 Corridor Coalition and noted NHDOT had joined in the past year. C. Copeland stated in order to get access to the real time and historical data; there is a significant amount of money to access that information. C. Copeland stated she would like to request a meeting with NHDOT and the four other MPOs to discuss this, as it would be beneficial for all to have access to that information.

7. Other Business

K. Ortmann spoke about the monthly revisions seen at the Executive Committee meeting regarding significant cost increases to some of the local projects, such as the Rochester Park and Ride and the Somersworth-Berwick Bridge project and wondered if there was something that could be done locally to

prevent this from happening. He also expressed concern regarding the four million dollars in reduction in statewide pavement. He asked that G. Davison follow up with the Policy Committee on these items. R. Jaffin spoke about the Milton Bridge, leading into Maine and why it was so far on the list. R. Jaffin stated as an emergency management issue he could not understand why it was that far down on the list. G. Davison stated Decision Lens can show you why it falls where it does and noted NHDOT is in the process of receiving projects in and getting recommendations from the RPCs. G. Davison stated NHDOT is getting close to initial results and NHDOT will be scoring the projects shortly and if scores are quite a bit different, NHDOT will be getting in touch with the RPCs.

C. Copeland stated NHDOT is applying for three TIGER grant applications, which include the Sarah Long Bridge, St Lawrence Freight Rail and the NH Northcoast Rail

8. Citizen's Forum

There were no comments from the public.

9. Adjournment

The Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m. S. Brown made a motion and S. Keans 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