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**Strafford Policy Committee Meeting/Public Hearing
July 19, 2013
Rochester Community Center, Conf. Rm. 1A, Rochester, NH
Minutes**

FINAL

SMPO Policy Members Present: Steve Brown (Wakefield), Robert Jaffin (Rochester), Paul Lockwood (NHDES), Rick Healy (Rochester), Sandra Keans (Rochester), Brian Tapscott (Somersworth), Ed Comeau (Brookfield), Kenn Ortmann (Rochester), Victoria Parmele (Northwood), Jeremy LaRose (COAST), Glenn Davison (NHDOT) and William Connor (Somersworth)

SMPO Staff Present: Cynthia Copeland (Executive Director), Marc Ambrosi (Transportation Planner), Dan Camara (Senior GIS/Transportation Analyst), Greg Jones (Regional Planner) and Samantha DePlanche (Planning Intern)

1. Introductions

The Chairman opened the meeting at 9:00 AM and introductions were given around the room.

2. Staff Communications

G. Jones stated introduced Planning Intern, Samantha DePlanche to the group. S. DePlanche gave a brief overview of her background and stated she would be assisting with data collection efforts in the region. G. Jones noted the other intern hired was Eric Hill and gave an overview of his background.

3. Draft MPO Minutes of June 21, 2013

The Chairman made a motion to approve the draft MPO minutes of June 21, 2013. K. Ortmann made a motion to approve the draft minutes of June 21, 2013 as presented and V. Parmele seconded that motion. It was noted there was one abstention. All others were in favor, motion carried.

4.1 An update of Federal Congestion Mitigation Air Quality guidelines from Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century

M. Ambrosi stated since the adoption of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century, there have been a number of minor changes and updates associated with the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality program/

M. Ambrosi noted the CMAQ program is aimed at funding transportation projects that reduce traffic congestion and enhance air quality. M. Ambrosi stated projects that remove vehicles from roadways or make improvements that reduce the amount of time vehicles are stopped in traffic are the most common

project types in NH. He also noted in Maine most of their CMAQ apportionment is dedicated to the ongoing operations of the Amtrak Downeaster service.

M. Ambrosi gave an overview of the program and guidelines and noted the link to the FHWA web page for more information: www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/CMAQ.

4.2 NH Department of Transportation Viewer Presentation

G. Davison gave an informative Presentation on the Transportation Project Viewer. He explained it allows the public to access a variety of GIS layers related to natural resources, etc. He noted the project viewer operates on the ESRI Web GIS and is available to the public through NHDOT's project website. It provides information on: Historic and current NHDOT transportation projects; project manager contact information for current projects; links to design plans and other project information.

It was noted SRPC recently acquired ESRI Web GIS software and will be working over the next few months to create similar tools that make regional data easy to access and view on our website.

5. Project Update (s)

M. Ambrosi stated there is a GACIT meeting in Portsmouth on July 24, 2013 at 2 PM. at the UNH Forestry Center.

M. Ambrosi noted he and D. Camara had recently attended training for the use of this software and will now have the ability to get the most out of it for the benefit of municipalities in the Strafford region. He reviewed the things this software will allow us to do: Create visualizations to communicate transportation concepts to the public; assist communities with optimization of traffic signal timings; assist communities with traffic signal phasing; assist communities with signal coordination and with identifying signals that should not be included in coordination; assist with evaluation of alternative intersection designs.

M. Ambrosi gave a demonstration of an intersection in Somersworth to show how the software can assist communities with projects by simulating various traffic issues. He noted this was helpful for small scale transportation networks.

J. LaRose stated COAST will be cutting services to Dover Fast Trans due to increased costs and lack of funding. He noted there will be a fare increase to the Portsmouth Trolley.

6. Other Business

C. Copeland stated David Preece from Southern Regional Planning Commission has requested to have the RPCs send a letter to Governor Hassan to reactivate the Scenic Byways Advisory Council. K. Ortmann made a motion to send a letter to the Governor to reactivate the Scenic Byways Advisory Council. J. LaRose seconded that motion. All in favor, motion carried.

J. LaRose introduced his replacement at COAST, Brian Deguzis. J. LaRose explained he is leaving the area to attend grad school to study planning.

7. Citizen's Forum

There were no comments from the public.

8. Adjournment

The Vice-Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 11 a.m. K. Ortmann made a motion and J. LaRose seconded that motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Minutes submitted by,



Marilyn Barton, PHR
Recording Secretary