

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
June 21, 2013
Rochester Community Center, Conf. Rm. 1A, Rochester, NH
Minutes**

FINAL

SMPO Policy Members Present: Marcia Gasses (Dover), Tom Crosby (Madbury), Robert Jaffin (Rochester), Kenn Ortmann (Rochester), Tom Clark (Dover), William Connor (Somersworth), Steve Brown (Wakefield), Ed Comeau (Brookfield), Rad Nichols (COAST), Sandra Keans (Rochester), Victoria Parmele (Northwood), Glen Davison (NHDOT) and Brian Tapscott (Somersworth)

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 Matthew Mazzone (Intern)

1. Introductions

The Vice-Chairman opened the meeting at 9:05 AM and introductions were given around the room.

2.1 Open public hearing to receive comments on 4.2 only

The Vice-Chairman asked for a motion to open the public hearing at 9:06 AM. K. Ortmann made a motion and B. Tapscott seconded that motion. D. Camara stated Amendment #2 was initiated by NHDOT in order to add projects that had been left off the 2013-2016 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). D. Camara noted additional project changes were made to ensure financial constraint. D. Camara reviewed two changes in Amendment #2 that significantly impact projects in the Strafford Region:

- Increased funding for preliminary engineering of the Bunker Creek Bridge on Route 4 in Durham. This project is located in a sensitive estuarine wetland area that requires further engineering to minimize environmental impacts of the project.
- Increased construction funding for the Farmington Bridge on Route 153 over the Cocheco River. Through the engineering process, additional costs have been identified that will increase the overall project cost.

D. Camara noted the remaining projects in Amendment #2 from the Strafford region were included for financial constraint purposes. D. Camara stated as it is nearing the end of the state fiscal year NHDOT is shifting project costs to ensure financial constraint is maintained and ensures funding is available for project phases in subsequent fiscal years. D. Camara reviewed the following projects in the Strafford region that have been included to maintain financial constraint and allow funding to be available for projects in future fiscal years:

- Durham-Newmarket, Project #13080B; Somersworth Project #16049; Newmarket Project #16048 and Newmarket Project #13878. D. Camara reviewed three new statewide programs to the State Transportation Improvement Program.

A discussion ensued regarding some projects with cost estimates that increased dramatically and look to see if mistakes were made. It was explained that part of the Ten Year Plan gives the best estimate of what costs will be; however other issues can come up, such as drainage which can triple costs. Discussion included that once at preliminary engineering state, there is a true idea of cost; however at the planning state it is impossible to get a true cost of a project. It was also noted the data collection effort the RPCs are doing will assist NHDOT in planning phase. It was also noted five of the seven projects have not increased in cost. There was also discussion on soon a project is put into the queue and there is a need to be thoughtful and more invested. There were several issues addressed: What needs to be done to get in the TIP- and does the bar need to set higher? And if a need is identified and the project contains certain assumptions and now the assumptions are different, does the project need to be taken out of the queue? When things happen, is there a way to step back and does it make sense to?

2.2 Close Public hearing

After hearing no other comments, the Vice-Chairman asked for a motion to close the public meeting at 9:30 AM. K. Ortmann made a motion, W. Connor seconded that motion. All in favor, motion carried.

3. Staff Communications

M. Barton introduced the new Summer Data Collection Intern, Matthew Mazzone. M. Mazzone gave a brief description of his background and noted he would be assisting with data collection efforts during the summer.

4.1 Draft MPO Minutes of May 17, 2013

The Vice-Chairman asked for a motion to adopt the draft MPO minutes of May 17, 2013. S. Keans made a motion and T. Clark seconded that motion. It was noted there was one abstention. All others were in favor, motion carried.

4.2 FY 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program – Amendment #2

The Vice-Chairman asked for a motion to adopt the FY 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program – Amendment #2. K. Ortmann made a motion and R. Nichols seconded that motion. It was noted there were two no votes. All others were in favor; motion carried.

5.1 Road Classifications and Urban Compact Areas – Future Workshop Outline – Presented by Glenn Davison, NH Department of Transportation

G. Davison gave an informative PowerPoint presentation and discussion on roadway classifications from a regional planning perspective. He explained the importance classifying roadways: transportation planning, prioritize transportation needs and improvements, ownership and maintenance responsibilities and funding allocation. He explained how roadways are classified and funding. After the presentation, he opened the discussion to questions and comments.

5.2 Park and Ride Study Toolkit Report

D. Camara gave an overview of the Park and Ride Study Project that SRPC has been working on with Central RPC and Southwest RPC. D. Camara stated the primary goal of the project was to create a comprehensive guidance for park and ride development in NH and reviewed what was included in the guide. D. Camara noted the project will be completed at the end of June 2013 and will follow up on any feedback received by the communities and make changes to the toolkit accordingly to enhance the utility of the document. D. Camara stated to contact Marc Ambrosi with any questions.

6. Project Update (s)

G. Jones gave an overview of the data collection efforts done recently which included traffic counts and building permits. G. Jones stated SRPC has been working with the NH Geological Survey and have visited several communities in the region to assess roadway crossings (bridges & culverts) using detailed collection methodologies generated by the Fluvial Geomorphology specialists at NHGS. G. Jones noted by using this data staff at NHGS are able to analyze, assess and determine the potential for failure at each crossing location. G. Jones noted with this information, state agencies, local public works and highway departments can appropriately prioritize culvert repair and replacement projects. G. Jones stated in addition this information can be included in local All Hazard Mitigation Plans, which would make the community eligible for funding through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to correct a deficient crossing.

D. Camara noted a handout, a memo to NHDOT on the data collection efforts by the MPO. D. Camara stated this information is a way of keeping NHDOT in the loop on what we're doing and will be posted on the SRPC website as well.

7. Other Business

C. Copeland noted SRPC is part of the I-95 Corridor and noted NHDOT is also a member. C. Copeland stated in order to access the historical information, there is considerable cost to that and suggested perhaps NHDOT could cover the cost so that all could have access to that information and benefit from that. There was no other business.

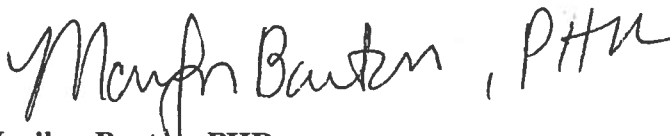
8. Citizen's Forum

There were no comments from the public.

9. Adjournment

The Vice-Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m. K. Ortmann made a motion and T. Clark seconded that motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Minutes submitted by,



Marilyn Barton, PHR
Recording Secretary