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**Strafford Policy Committee Meeting/Public Hearing
November 15, 2013
Rochester Community Center, Conf. Rm. 1A, Rochester, NH
Minutes**

FINAL

SMPO Policy Members Present: Robert Jaffin (Rochester), Tom Crosby (Madbury), Marcia Gasses (Dover), Paul Lockwood (NHDES), William Connor (Somersworth), Tom Burbank (Madbury), Brian Tapscott (Somersworth), Glenn Davison (NHDOT), Victoria Parmele (Northwood), Ed Comeau (Brookfield), Tony McManus (Dover), Brian Deguzis (COAST), Steve Brown (Wakefield) and Kenn Ortmann (Rochester)

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

1. Introductions

The Chairman opened the meeting at 9:00 AM and introductions were given around the room. The Chairman welcomed the newest Commissioner from Madbury, Tom Burbank, to the group.

2. Staff Communications

M. Barton reminded those Commissioners in attendance the next Commissioners meeting would be Thursday, November 21, 2013 and noted there were handouts with the schedule for upcoming Policy Committee meetings.

C. Copeland made a comment remembering the late Councilor Ray Burton and the projects he was involved with. C. Copeland also spoke of the tragic loss of Ray Kirby, a top Regional Transportation Planner, from Washington, DC.

3.1 Open public hearing to receive comment on 4.2 and 4.3 only

The Chairman opened the public hearing at 9:08 a.m.

D. Camara stated Amendment 3 adds two projects to the Strafford Transportation Improvement Program including: A statewide project for traffic signal timing and calibration that originated in the most recent Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) round. D. Camara noted MPO staff has requested a list of exactly which signals are planned for calibration but have not received any information to date and the other project impacts COAST and Wildcat Transit. D. Camara stated this project originated as a mitigation action for the Little Bay Bridge project to increase peak hour transit service during bridge construction. D. Camara stated the implementation of this project has been taking place for over a year and the project breakout

shown in this Amendment illustrates the funding specifically dedicated for the project. D. Camara noted the other remaining projects included in the Amendment make minor funding changes to existing projects. D. Camara explained this is a four year plan and is fiscally constrained. D. Camara reviewed the comments received from two TAC members regarding why CMAQ funding is shifted to FTA 5307 for the UNH Durham-Rochester project and signalization along Route 9 in Somersworth. C. Copeland read from an email from Sally Gunn from NHDOT regarding the 20226 Signal Optimization project: It was noted that project only includes state-maintained traffic signals and the one on Route 9 in Somersworth are city-maintained signals. It was also noted in the email that three signals in the SRPC region which will be optimized are in Rochester: US 202, Pine Lane Extension and the south bound and northbound ramps on the Spaulding Turnpike.

D. Camara noted Federal regulations established in 2005 as part of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) require a public participation component for the metropolitan transportation planning process to ensure fair and equitable public input opportunities in transportation planning.

D. Camara stated in compliance with federal transportation requirements, this document outlines the Strafford Metropolitan Planning Organization's strategy and goals for engaging the public and ensuring fair and equitable representation for the public within the Stafford Region.

It was noted it is the intent of the Strafford Metropolitan Planning Organization to provide an interim update to the Public Participation Plan in February. This update will include performance targets and measures of success to provide a quantifiable way to assess the success of our public participation activities. The update will also likely include the addition of images and tables to make the document more approachable to readers. K. Ortmann noted regarding the performance measures: the goals should be quantifiable and measure the opportunities to participate and provide as many opportunities to participate as possible. K. Ortmann suggested the use of local government channels used by municipalities, as well as use of the social media to reach more of the public. R. Jaffin requested the social networking comments should be added to the public participation plan comment section.

3.2 Close public hearing

After hearing no other comments the Chairman asked for a motion to close the public hearing at 9:30 a.m. K. Ortmann made a motion and T. Crosby seconded that motion. All in favor, motion carried.

4.1 Draft MPO Minutes of October 18, 2013

The Chairman asked for a motion to approve the draft minutes of October 18, 2013. V. Parmele made a motion and T. Crosby seconded that motion. It was noted there was one abstention and all others were in favor. Motion carried.

4.2 Approval of Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – Amendment 3

The Chairman asked for a motion to approve the Transportation Improvement Program Amendment 3. K. Ortmann made a motion and R. Jaffin seconded that motion. All were in favor, motion carried.

4.3 Approval of Public Participation Plan

The Chairman asked for a motion to approve the Public Participation Plan with technical edits. K. Ortmann made a motion and E. Comeau seconded that motion. It was noted there was one abstention and three opposed. All others were in favor and motion carried.

5. Discussion item(s)

5.1 ArcGIS Online-Web Maps and Web Apps

D. Camara gave an informative PowerPoint presentation to show how it works and presented a handout at the meeting. He explained the RPC can share and analyze spatial data and maps can be embedded into blogs, web pages and web applications and can be shared via Facebook, Twitter or email.

6. Project updates

6.1 UNH-Rochester bus route update

D. Camara noted he spoke with Steve Pesci to get an update and he said the morning and evening routes were going better than expected; however the mid-day runs were not doing so well. There is a possibility the mid-day runs may have reduced services or be eliminated. A discussion ensued on ways to market those runs and increase awareness.

M. Gasses noted traffic delays on Routes 9 and 125 have been cut down due to changes made at that intersection. There was discussion regarding a consideration for a park and ride on Route 125 and 4.

7. Other Business

D. Camara noted the next and final GACIT meeting would be November 20, 2013 at 1 PM at NHDOT.

There was discussion regarding the Dover side of the Little Bay Bridge project and the need to increase tolls to finance it and it was noted Exit 10 was back in the Ten Year Plan. A discussion ensued whether it was worth it to increase tolls to move projects forward. It was also noted there is support for toll increases as long as the money stays in the system to do projects that are needed and there would be real issues going forward without an increase to the gas tax or tolls.

G. Jones spoke about the Statewide Asset Data Exchange System project and noted he has been working with NHDOT and the UNH Technology Transfer Center to brainstorm a potential methodology for coordinating statewide data collection initiatives. He noted he would be attending a meeting at 1 PM with District 6 to discuss updates to attributes for sidewalk data collection. There was discussion that some of the more sensitive information should not be made out to the public, such as gas and utilities locations.

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. K. Ortmann made a motion and T. Crosby seconded that motion. All were in favor and motion carried.

Minutes submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marilyn Barton PHR". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Marilyn Barton, PHR
Recording Secretary