

BARRINGTON
BROOKFIELD
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DURHAM
FARMINGTON
LEE
MADBURY
MIDDLETON
MILTON



NEW DURHAM
NEWMARKET
NORTHWOOD
NOTTINGHAM
ROCHESTER
ROLLINSFORD
SOMERSWORTH
STRAFFORD
WAKEFIELD

Strafford Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee Meeting

Friday October 16, 2015 9:00 – 11:00 AM

Strafford Regional Planning Commission
150 Wakefield Street, Suite 12, Conference Room 1A
Rochester, NH

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Introductions

Members Present: Paul Lockwood (NHDES-ARD), Dirk Timmons (UNH), Kenn Ortmann (Rochester), Bob Jaffin (Rochester), Judy Nelson (Rollinsford), Peter Nelson (Newmarket), Tom Crosby (Madbury), Victoria Parmele (Northwood), Gary Anderson (Nottingham), Bill Connor (Somersworth), Glenn Davison (NHDOT), Suzanne Huard (Rollinsford), Brian Tapscott (Somersworth), Keith Cota (NHDOT)

Staff Present: Chris Scheiner (GIS & Technical Analyst), Natasha Leuchanka (Regional Planner), Sarah McGraw (Regional Planner), Colin Lentz (Regional Transportation Planner), Cynthia Copeland (Executive Director)

2. Staff Communications

C. Scheiner announced that SRPC is conducting interviews for the Data Analyst position.

3. Action Item(s)

3.1. Minutes from 9/17/15

B. Connor motioned to approve the minutes from 9/17/15, second by T. Crosby. VOTE: Unanimous

4. Discussion Item(s)

4.1. Presentation on the Spaulding Turnpike Expansion - Keith Cota, Chief Project Manager, Bureau of Highway Design NHDOT

Keith Cota, Chief Project Manager at the Bureau of Highway Design of the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, gave a presentation on improvements to the Little Bay and General Sullivan Bridges along the Spaulding Turnpike on New Hampshire Route 16. K. Cota discussed in detail the project contracts for completing components of the improvements and upcoming turnpike projects. The project area extends from Exit 1 on Route 16 to the Dover tollbooth. The project cost is estimated at \$270 million, with funding provided by state and federal funds along with toll revenue. Environmental mitigation for the project includes preservation of properties at Tuttle Farm, and Day Property, in addition to conservation of the Knight Brook Watershed, and restoration of Railway Brook. Three park and rides were part of mitigation efforts, including one at Exit 9

in Dover, one in Rochester and one proposed in Lee. In addition, CMAQ funding was used for improvements to the Downeaster Rail Service along with a turnpike match, expansion of C&J Trailways service to Boston, expansion of COAST bus service to the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and Pease Tradeport, and development of the Commute Smart Seacoast program. A copy this of the presentation can be found at www.newington-dover.com under the "What's New" column. For real time information on traffic conditions visit <http://www.newington-dover.com/alerts-revA.html>.

W. Burton inquired about the electronic boards notifying travelers of travel conditions. K. Cota said that there will be signs on the roads leading up to the project area.

P. Nelson asked about the phasing process for the Boston Harbor Road roundabout section. K. Cota said the traffic circle will be two lanes and will expand the construction out to the four corners of the circle. The pedestrian/bicycle path will be challenging as there will be a pedestrian activated stop light at the Route 4 approach.

W. Burton asked if tolling could be located further down the turnpike so the project could be paid for equally by travelers driving south. K. Cota said that open road tolling will not be a part of the current project that it would present a challenge as that area is not set up for tolling. C. Copeland said that the Task Force Advisory Committee discussed tolling on the Newington side and that it was not feasible at the time.

K. Cota talked about the General Sullivan pedestrian bridge, set for rehabilitation but it is currently in a state of deterioration. There will be shuttle service to pedestrians while the bridge is under construction. The record of decision stated that the bridge is to be rehabilitated but NHDOT is reviewing the costs for rehabilitation vs. replacement.

K. Cota discussed the plans for a new toll plaza 1.25 miles north of the existing toll plaza. The project is slated in the Ten Year Plan for 2015-2024. Construction would start in the spring of 2021. P. Nelson asked about the relationship between the Bureau of Highway Design and the Bureau of Turnpikes. K. Cota said his role within the Bureau of Highway Design is to implement the Ten Year Plan program. Turnpike projects are set within the Bureau of Turnpikes in addition to managing financing. Turnpike expansion projects originate in coordination between the Governor's Advisory Council on Intermodal Transportation Committee (GACIT) and Bureau of Turnpikes to determine where projects should be located which involves soliciting community input through the GACIT hearing process.

W. Burton asked if convenience and safety are a primary concern to people using Route 16. K. Cota said that safety is a primary concern and delay is recognized as a product of construction. K. Cota said that construction is planned to avoid peak hours of traffic. The contract administrator's office is available for public to contact.

K. Ortmann asked why the manual toll booths need to remain despite new technology to record vehicles passing by. K. Cota said the difficulty is that currently pictures are taken of license plates that do not pay tolls and a bill is sent to the vehicle owner. With out of state visitors traveling the roads, this would cause a high percentage of loss of revenue.

K. Cota also discussed a new maintenance facility in Newington to be located on Turnpike-owned property. The need for the facility resulted from the expansion of the turnpike.

B. Jaffin asked if the new maintenance facility in Newington will use brine to salt Route 16 as the Exit 16 facility in construction will have brine. K. Cota said that he was not positive if brine will be used but the facility being constructed in Rochester will be the same as the facility in Newington.

B. Connor asked if the Dover Park n Ride will be expanded to accommodate more vehicles. K. Cota said it is not part of the Ten Year Plan but that the Portsmouth Park n Ride may be expanded.

5. Project Update(s)

5.1. New Rule Making for Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards - 75PPB to 70 PPB

P. Lockwood indicated that the EPA recently raised the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone pollution. The EPA reviews standards every fifth year per the Clean Air Act requirements. Transportation accounts for 15 percent of total pollutants under the NAAQS. EPA designates attainment/non-attainment areas based on 2014-2016 monitoring. The statutory deadline for designating attainment areas is October 1, 2017. P. Lockwood said that New Hampshire should be in good standing with the new ozone standard. Some southern New Hampshire MPOs still remain as maintenance areas for other regulated air pollutants (such as Carbon Monoxide) and will need to consider air quality in future plans. P. Lockwood cautioned that the Clean Air Act has “anti-backsliding” rules that prohibit regions that are in attainment from constructing large transportation projects that would increase air pollution and cause the region to lose ground with regards to air quality standards.

5.2. SRPC Library

C. Scheiner explained the new SRPC digital library. The purpose is to create an efficient way to find SRPC hardcopy and digital resources in a searchable catalog. C. Scheiner gave a demo of the catalog website and showed how it could be a useful resource to SRPC communities.

6. Other Business- None

7. Citizen’s Forum – No citizens present

8. Adjournment

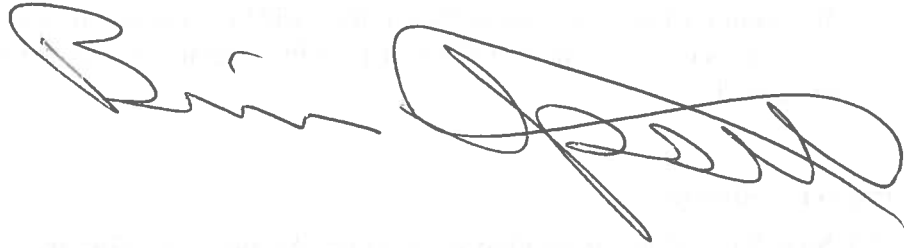
K. Ortmann motioned to adjourn the meeting, second by T. Crosby. VOTE: Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am.

Minutes submitted by,

Sarah McGraw, Recording Secretary

Brian Tapscott, Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Tapscott". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "B" and a long, sweeping tail.