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**Strafford Metropolitan Planning Organization
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
Rochester Community Center, Conf. Rm. 1A
Rochester, NH**

April 5, 2013 Minutes

FINAL

Present: Jon Hotchkiss (Middleton), Wallace Dunham (Madbury), Paul Lockwood (NHDES-ARD), Chris Parker (Dover), Rad Nichols (COAST), Ed Comeau (Brookfield), Marcia Gasses (Barrington), Dave Sharples (Somersworth) and Stephen Pesci (UNH)

Staff: Cynthia Copeland (Executive Director), Dan Camara (Senior GIS/Transportation Analyst), Marc Ambrosi (Transportation Planner), Marilyn Barton (HR Specialist/Event Coordinator), Greg Jones (Regional Planner) and Wayne Prindle (Planning Intern)

Guests: Mary Ellen Humphrey (Rochester Economic Development Dept.), Dave Cedarholm (Durham) and Dirk Grotenhuis (Nottingham Commissioner/Policy Committee member)

1. Introductions

Chairman Hotchkiss opened the meeting at 9 a.m. and introductions were given around the room.

2. Staff Communications

M. Barton noted the SMPO has been working on recruitment for the summer internship to assist in summer data collection. M. Barton stated interviews would begin soon and the proposed start date is May 20, 2013.

M. Barton noted on April 20, 2013 Studley's Flower Gardens was hosting a one hour seminar on residential rain gardens and noted the handout for more information and stated if anyone had any questions to contact Regional Planner, Michelle Mears.

3.1 Draft TAC minutes of March 1, 2013

The Chairman asked for a motion to approve the draft TAC minutes of March 1, 2013. C. Parker made a motion, M. Gasses seconded that motion. All in favor, motion carried.

3.2 Ten Year Plan Project List

M. Ambrosi stated using the Ten Year Plan project ranking criteria and weights discussed at previous TAC meetings and approved at last month's MPO Policy Committee, SMPO staff have a draft raking of projects for the 2015-2024 Ten Year Plan. M. Ambrosi noted SMPO staff have reached out to the communities and agencies in order to review the scoring of local and regional projects to be sure we assess the project as

comprehensively and accurately as possible. M. Ambrosi noted as of the meeting, only nine of the seventeen constituents with projects responded to the requests. D. Camara noted to keep in mind the rankings sent to NHDOT; NHDOT will be using their own weights. M. Ambrosi gave an informative PowerPoint presentation presenting the draft project rankings.

S. Pesci stated the challenges of a system that rate a whole range of projects in one system are more neutral. S. Pesci noted it was important to keep in mind transit projects don't compete against a bridge project. R. Nichols stated the rating system doesn't work for transit and his concern was as programs change and tighten and this is the model for rating, transit will have no way to competitive such as the CMAQ program.

A question was asked on how safety was determined. M. Ambrosi stated there were two measures: safety performance and safety risk.

M. Ambrosi reviewed the list of projects. M. Ambrosi explained the cost/value ranking for all of the projects in the "out years" (2023-2040) of our Metropolitan Transportation Plan and noted a few things that stood out when looking at the list:

- Bridge projects did not score well
- With the cost/value rankings, projects are (for the most part) listed in cheapest to most expensive

A discussion ensued as to why bridges scored poorly. M. Ambrosi explained a bridge replacement or rehabilitation project does not fundamentally change our transportation system in a meaningful way and they are very expensive to build and repair.

S. Pesci noted a couple of changes on the list: On page three, the South Drive Project, the project name should be UNH and not Durham and on the first page the Pettee Brook Lane project, the name should be Durham and not UNH.

M. Ambrosi explained there were a few critical questions for TAC to help guide the SMPO on the final project list: Do we go with purely project value, cost/value or some mix of the two? Do we force critical bridge projects onto the list because bridges score so poorly? If so, which bridges?

S. Pesci suggested having a separate bridge list. S. Pesci stated it may also be helpful to display projects that are likely CMAQ and/or Transportation Alternatives and mark them somewhere on the sheet. There was discussion about moving the fifty three million further down and give to NHDOT two versions so that it lends clarity and logic.

The Chairman asked for a motion as follows: The SMPO is seeking a recommendation to approve the Ten Year Plan Project scoring list and how we should prioritize this list using certain guidelines to submit to the Policy Committee for their approval. The guidelines being the following: Remove the bridge projects off the list and put them on a separate list, identifying the real bridge projects which are the highest priority. Illustrate projects that are eligible for CMAQ and/or Transportation Alternative projects.

R. Nichols stated he would not support this as it does not treat transit fairly and isn't applicable to transit projects. S. Pesci made a motion with guidelines as presented and D. Grotenhuis seconded that motion. It was noted there was one opposed and all others were in favor. Motion carried.

C. Copeland asked that these TAC minutes are sent to the Policy Committee for their next meeting so they heard all parts of the discussion. C. Copeland and M. Ambrosi thanked the staff Committee for their work on this.

4. Discussion Items

M. Barton noted updates have been made to the Environmental Justice documents and would be going into public comment beginning April 12 or 13, 2013 and a new standalone document, Title VI would also be out for public comment period at that same time. M. Barton these two documents would be presented at the upcoming TAC and Policy Committee meetings in May. M. Barton stated the Public Participation Plan has also had some updates made to it and would be going out for a forty-five day comment period beginning in early May and would be presented to the TAC and Policy Committee meetings in June.

5. Project Updates

G. Jones gave an update on some of the projects he's been working on, which included data collection, traffic counts, culvert inventories and building inventories. G. Jones gave an update regarding the access management project.

D. Sharples gave an update regarding their Transportation Enhancement (TE) project and noted the purpose and needs statement has been sent to NHDOT.

C. Parker stated they had received notice from the State they have to move a million dollars' worth of utilities within six months from Little Bay Bridge project area. C. Parker noted the sound walls would now be concrete and wood barriers, not the screened barriers as originally stated

R. Nichols noted at the end of March, COAST carried their twelve millionth passenger, which was a result of the expansion of Route 2 and the trolley. R. Nichols noted ridership was up twenty five percent from last year.

R. Nichols stated there was a CMAQ Committee meeting that was not advertised and there was a grant round which was not advertised and if he had known, he would have submitted projects and stated this was very concerning. S. Pesci stated he had sent an email to NHDOT inquiring about this meeting for months. S. Pesci noted historical this has always been a very transparent program and all were poorly served and need to do a lot better.

6. Other Business

D. Camara stated the Census Bureau would be providing free webinars to help demonstrate how to use the Census American Fact Finder. D. Camara noted there will be a one hour webinar on May 8, 2013 at 10 a.m. and if anyone is interested, he will send out the link to attend the webinar.

7. Citizen's Forum

There were no comments from the public.

8. Adjournment

The Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 a.m. D. Sharples made a motion and W. Dunham seconded that motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Minutes submitted by,

Marilyn Barton PHR

Marilyn Barton, PHR
Recording Secretary

Jonathan B. Hotchkiss

Jon B. Hotchkiss
TAC Chairman