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Strafford Metropolitan Planning Organization  
Policy Committee Meeting  
Final Minutes

Friday, July 17, 2015 9:00 – 11:00 AM

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

**1. Introductions**

**Members Present:** Rick Healey (Rochester), Dirk Timmons (UNH), Mike Amicangioli (UNH), Bill Connor (Somersworth), Brian Tapscott (Somersworth), Peter Nelson (Newmarket), Bob Jaffin (Rochester), Kenn Ortmann (Rochester), Judy Nelson (Rollinsford), Sandra Keans (Rochester), Victoria Parmele (Northwood), Gary Anderson (Nottingham)

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

**2. Staff Communications: None**

**3. Public Hearing**

**3.1. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between NH Municipal Planning Organizations, New Hampshire Department of Transportation & Independent Public Transit Providers**

*S. Keans motioned to open the public hearing, second by V. Parmele. VOTE: Unanimous*

C. Lentz described the work among UNH Wildcat Transit, COAST, and Rockingham Planning Commission on the MOU up for approval. There is general agreement between UNH Wildcat Transit and COAST on the language. C. Lentz read the first two paragraphs of Appendix B of the MOU into the record:

*WHEREAS, the University of New Hampshire Wildcat Transit Service ("UNH Wildcat Transit and Campus Connector") provides university and regional transportation services that are also open to the general public within the Urbanized Areas and in other portions of the two MPO regions; and*

*WHEREAS, UNH Wildcat Transit receives capital and operating funding assistance under the federal Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ) program, and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 Urban Formula program and other programs;*

C. Lentz specified that capital and operating funds come from both of the above programs because of the range of services that Wildcat Transit offers.

S. Keans inquired about the inclusion of COAST in the MOU. C. Lentz said that each transit provider has a separate agreement included in the appendix.

K. Ortmann stated that he is chair of the board of COAST. He said that limited funding sources can cause competition between COAST and Wildcat Transit, but the two operators should move beyond those issues and keep progressing forward. K. Ortmann said that the MOU is a good indication of increased cooperation between the two providers.

D. Timmons highlighted recent meetings with NHDOT and COAST as examples of cooperation wherein the two parties discuss ideas for grants that aid Wildcat without negatively impacting COAST.

C. Copeland expressed her appreciation that the transit operators have moved beyond the competition.

### **3.2. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #1**

C. Scheiner explained that the amendment process had been challenging. C. Scheiner provided a summary sheet of what has changed in the TIP, including funding changes and the addition of three new projects.

V. Parmele asked if the money allocated to the aerial imagery project was sufficient. C. Scheiner said that the NHDOT wanted to fly higher resolution imagery and aims for better imagery in the future, but that the resolution would suffice.

B. Connor commented about Exit 10 on the Spaulding Turnpike, new manufacturing along route 108 and how freight movement is currently hindered. B. Connor asked for C. Lentz to elaborate on funding for a study on Exit 10.

C. Copeland stated the Exit 10 study needs to be redone as the last one was completed in the 1990s. The last economic analysis showed there would be no benefit. There may be different results today due to growth along the corridor. C. Copeland said she did not know what NHDOT's plan was. She said one option may be to talk to Senator Watters. She added that there are environmental impacts with building a new exit. S. Keans stated that sites around the proposed exit have been built on.

K. Ortmann inquired about project 11238S Newington-Dover (General Sullivan Bridge Rehab) being removed from the TIP. K. Ortmann said this was a large amount of money to disappear. C. Copeland said the project was funded by turnpike funds. C. Copeland said that the project is now outside of the TIP years and has moved because of fiscal constraint. C. Scheiner said that this could be the case. C. Scheiner added that the NHDOT said that the STIP is fiscally constrained. B. Tapscott wanted to clarify that the afore mentioned project was for the historic bridge rehab. C. Copeland confirmed that it was.

C. Lentz said that the Route 108 bike shoulder project south of downtown Newmarket is extending the engineering phase, adding \$3,000 to the project, and going out to bid again in the fall.

C. Copeland stated that the Dover 15402 project is a bridge project and not the Dover Community Trail expansion project.

M. Amicangioli said that the UNH Wildcat project for fleet replacement is timely and contingent upon the TIP being approved.

*K. Ortmann moved to close the public hearing, second by D. Timmons. VOTE: Unanimous*

#### **4. Action Item (s)**

##### **4.1. Approve Memorandum of Understanding Between NH Municipal Planning Organizations, New Hampshire Department of Transportation & Independent Public Transit Providers**

*K. Ortmann motioned to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between NH Municipal Planning Organizations, New Hampshire Department of Transportation & Independent Public Transit Providers as presented, second by B. Jaffin. VOTE: Unanimous*

##### **4.2. Approve TIP Amendment #1**

*V. Parmele motioned to approve TIP Amendment # 1 as presented, second by K. Ortmann.*

K. Ortmann commented that the information was received on a late date making it difficult to review and approve the TIP. B. Jaffin commented that he was concerned with some increases and decreases in funding and that they should have had more time to review. He said if it wasn't for UNH's need for approval he would not have voted in favor.

*VOTE: Unanimous*

##### **4.3. Approve Draft MPO Minutes June 19, 2015**

*K. Ortmann moved to approve the minutes of June 19, 2015, second by B. Connor. VOTE: Unanimous*

#### **5. Discussion Item(s)**

##### **5.1. Sub-committee on economic benefits of transportation investment**

C. Lentz said the group is compiling fact sheets of the region showing the economic benefits of transportation investment. Somersworth is one recent example with its downtown street improvements. C. Lentz explained the aim is to link investment in transportation to economic development. B. Connor asked about communities not paying annual dues and the recent surcharge to communities. C. Lentz replied this is not linked to the committee discussions but a new group is forming between COAST and Somersworth to address the funding challenges of public transportation.

##### **5.2. Metropolitan Transportation Plan**

C. Lentz related that the outline and content areas are set for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). Public engagement activities are planned throughout the update process to inform and gather input from the Strafford Region. K. Ortmann inquired about the difference between a regional transportation plan and a metropolitan transportation plan. C. Lentz replied that the regional plan was completed through the Granite State Future project and that one section of the regional plan focuses on transportation in relation to the livability principles. The MTP is a federal transportation plan mandate which addresses the federal planning factors. K. Ortmann asked if the subcommittee on economic investment will be involved with the MTP. C. Lentz said that they are separate efforts with some economic success stories making their way into the MTP. C. Scheiner stated that the regional master plan is a broad approach to regional planning efforts. The MTP is focused on transportation and tied to the TIP, STIP and transportation projects.

## 6. Project Update(s)

### 6.1. Performance Based Planning

C. Lentz spoke for Natasha Leuchanka. He explained the role of the interagency work group and its work using the performance metrics. N. Leuchanka has been analyzing the interviews she conducted with the qualitative analysis software. G. Anderson asked about the representative from rural RPCs. K. Ortmann explained that there are areas that do not have Metropolitan Planning Organizations and that the interagency work group saw the need to complete rural areas of New Hampshire. C. Scheiner said that the rural RPCs are not required to include performance measures. Including rural RPCs in the discussion ensures that the State and MPOs do not dominate the conversation.

## 7. Other Business

C. Lentz spoke about a new New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Bureau (NHDES) for MTBEs, a fuel additive that replaced lead. The bureau is looking at MTBE contaminated areas around the state. K. Pimental (Senior Planner) is organizing a meeting for NHDES staff to explain MTBEs. B. Jaffin said that this new Bureau is a result of a settlement with oil companies.

K. Ortmann said he endorses a meeting but at a quarterly Commissioner meeting. B. Jaffin moved to pursue the presentation as a separate meeting and select a date using survey monkey. B. Jaffin said the conversation goes beyond who is present at the current meeting. Any transportation fleet could be involved.

*B. Jaffin moved to arrange a MBTE presentation before the end of this year, second by V. Parmele. VOTE: Unanimous*

## 7. Citizen's Forum: No citizens present

## 8. Adjournment

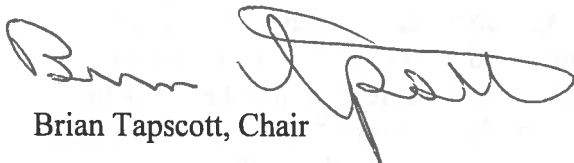
*K. Ortmann moved to adjourn the meeting, second by B. Jaffin. VOTE: Unanimous*

The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 pm.

Minutes submitted by,



Sarah McGraw, Recording Secretary



Brian Tapscott, Chair