

BARRINGTON
BROOKFIELD
DOVER
DURHAM
FARMINGTON
LEE
MADBURY
MIDDLETON
MILTON



NEW DURHAM
NEWMARKET
NORTHWOOD
NOTTINGHAM
ROCHESTER
ROLLINSFORD
SOMERSWORTH
STRAFFORD
WAKEFIELD

**Strafford Metropolitan Planning Organization
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
150 Wakefield Street, Suite 12, Conference Rm. 1A
Rochester, NH 03867**

**Friday December 4th, 2015
9:00 AM-11:00 AM**

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Introductions

Members Present: Seth Creighton (Rochester), Marcia Gasses (Barrington), Dianne Hardy (Newmarket), Jon Hotchkiss (Middleton), Martin Laferte (Farmington), Paul Lockwood (NHDES-ARD), Victoria Parmele (Northwood), Steve Pesci (UNH), Gretchen Young (Dover)

Staff Present: Tom Brown (Data Management Specialist), Rachel Dewey (Data Analyst) Colin Lentz (Regional Transportation Planner), Chris Scheiner (GIS & Technical Analyst), Natasha Leuchanka (Regional Planner), Cynthia Copeland (Executive Director)

2. Staff Communications:

C. Copeland introduced Rachel Dewey as SRPC's newest employee, who began working as a data analyst on November 30th and will be focusing on SHRP2 (performance measures), the Metro Plan and other UPWP tasks.

3. Action Item (s)

3.1 Minutes from November 6th, 2015

*M. Laferte moved to accept the minutes from November 6th, 2015, second by V. Parmele.
Vote: Unanimous*

4. Discussion Item(s) 4.1. 2015 Annual Listing of Obligated Projects

C. Lentz explained that the 2015 Annual Listing of Obligated Projects is 95% complete; he is just finalizing the information about statewide projects and waiting for FTA funding information from University of New Hampshire Wildcat Transit. C. Lentz gave an overview of the document and highlighted several regional projects that are ongoing or have closed as of the beginning of the federal fiscal year.

D. Hardy asked whether committee members will receive a copy of the completed report. C. Lentz affirmed that he would post the final document online and email it to committee members as soon as it was complete. The final document will be submitted to NH Dept. of Transportation and does not require committee approval but will be made available for their review and comments.

5. Project Update(s)

5.1. 2015- 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

C. Lentz gave a presentation on progress of the 2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. After reiterating the outline of the plan, the presentation reviewed technical resources that inform the narrative and policy content of the plan (such as demographic and economic data, infrastructure conditions, land use patterns, traffic and safety records, and climate change trends).

D. Hardy asked whether there are communities in the region that regulate the percentage of impervious cover in development permits. M. Gasses responded that Barrington has site coverage limitations in the town's local ordinance. D. Hardy said that Newmarket does not have a similar ordinance and that a recent development proposed 85% site coverage. N. Leuchanka referenced the Berry Brook watershed restoration project that reduced total impervious cover along the sub-watershed in Dover.

M. Gasses mentioned recent local FEMA meetings about review of floodplain maps and encouraged committee members to pay close attention to FEMA surveys about local floodplain map updates.

During discussion about performance measures in the Metro Plan, C. Copeland explained that SRPC is waiting for the state to process the SHRP2 funds awarded by FHWA, and that it is unclear when SRPC staff will be able to begin work on the project.

V. Parmele inquired how the Metro Plan will address alternative fuels vehicles, solar generation, and autonomous vehicles. C. Lentz responded that the plan will focus on major alternative fuels such as biodiesel and electric cars that can be powered by home solar energy collector systems. He added that the metro plan will have a specific section examining the possible benefits and challenges around autonomous vehicles. N. Leuchanka added that autonomous vehicle technology was mentioned at the recent Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations annual meeting as a major focus area for transportation planners. S. Pesci recommended that the plan not just discuss technology's ability to accommodate increasing transportation demand, but focus on finding ways to reduce overall demand on the transportation system. C. Lentz thanked S. Pesci for his recommendation and said he would ensure that the plan addressed transportation demand.

5.2 - 2015 Traffic Count Season

T. Brown gave an overview of the traffic count season. He reviewed how data are collected and processed; the equipment used; how traffic data inform local, regional, and state planning efforts; and the process by which municipalities can request supplemental traffic counts. C. Scheiner explained that SRPC cannot fulfil supplemental traffic count requests that are associated with specific projects; RPCs can only contribute to regional planning efforts.

S. Pesci thanked Tom and SRPC staff for donating their equipment and time for local traffic and turning movement counts.

G. Young asked whether traffic counts are set with consideration for traffic fluctuations during the school year vs. the summer months. T. Brown responded that it is a challenge to fit all traffic counts into the fall months when school is in session; in particular that standard data collection equipment is limited by colder weather. He added that SRPC tries to rotate when counts are set to achieve a representative picture of traffic fluctuations throughout the year, and that NHDOT processes the data using seasonal correctional factors, which account for seasonal changes in traffic. M. Gasses mentioned that even in rural areas with seemingly small populations, school morning drop-off and evening pick-up can result in massive amounts of traffic that may not be included in standard traffic counts.

V. Parmele asked about SRPC's capacity to do pedestrian counts. T. Brown explained that SRPC is currently experimenting with different bicycle and pedestrian counting equipment. He described the pedestrian and bicycle counters currently being shared by RPCs throughout the state.

5. Other Business

J. Hotchkiss asked C. Copeland whether he was correct in hearing that the state legislature is considering using highway system funding to pay for efforts to address the statewide heroin and opioid addiction challenges. C. Copeland responded that she hadn't heard anything about that being a possibility, but would check on this.

S. Pesci asked whether the NH Governor's Advisory Council on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) had made any progress in deciding how Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds will be spent under the draft Ten-Year Plan. C. Lentz responded that GACIT's current proposal (as of 11/30/2015) flexes 25% of potential CMAQ funds to pay for general highway pavement improvements for the first 4 years of the Ten-Year Plan, and then returns CMAQ to 100% of potential funding for the remaining 6 years of the Ten-Year Plan.

D. Hardy described Newmarket's challenges in going out to bid for a local transportation project, with inconsistent support and advice from NHDOT and conflicting seasonal contractor schedules.

S. Pesci mentioned that UNH recently received a grant from FTA's 5339 capital program that will support three projects: expansion of the state vehicle fueling station in Durham; expansion of the compressed natural gas fueling station used by UNH buses; a local bus pull-out; and new rider information technologies for the UNH Wildcat Transit system. He also explained that UNH recently applied for \$3.6 million under FTA's "LoNo" grant program [for low/zero emissions capital improvements] to purchase eight compressed natural gas powered buses that would replace existing fleet vehicles and bring UNH's fleet up to 75% powered by natural gas. He thanked SRPC, RPC, and COAST for letters of support in their application.

6. Citizen's Forum

No citizens were present at the meeting.

7. Adjournment

M. Laferte moved to adjourn the meeting, second by D. Hardy

VOTE: Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned at 10:27am

Minutes submitted by,

Colin Lentz, Recording Secretary

Jon Hotchkiss, Chair

Date:

J. B. Hotchkiss

1/8/16