

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

**Minutes**

**Friday June 17th 2016  
9:00 AM-11:00 AM**

**1. Introductions**

**Members Present:** Bill Connor (Somersworth), Beverly Cray (UNH Wildcat Transit), Glenn Davison (NH DOT), Rick Healey (Rochester), Jon Hotchkiss (Middleton), Robert Jaffin (Rochester), Sandra Keans (Rochester), Tony McManus (Dover), Peter Nelson (Newmarket), Judy Nelson (Rollinsford), Kenn Ortmann (Rochester), Victoria Parmele (Northwood),

**Staff Present:** Tom Brown (Data Management Specialist), Cynthia Copeland (Executive Director), Rachel Dewey (Data Analyst), Lynn Cherry (Regional Planning and Communications Assistant), Alexa Gozdoff (Transportation Planning Assistant), Rachael Mack (GIS Planner), Natasha Leuchanka (Regional Planner), Colin Lentz (Regional Transportation Planner), Natasha Leuchanka (Regional Planner), Mathew Sullivan (Sr. Regional Planner)

**Guests:** Elena Piekut (Dover)

The meeting began with a quorum at 9:08am

**2. Staff Communications**

V. Parmele announced that she would be assuming the role of Chair for the Policy Committee and was excited to be the committee chair at this stage in SRPC's development.

New SRPC staff members L. Cherry, Rachael Mack, and L. Gozdoff introduced themselves and explained what they would be working on. L. Cherry said she would be primarily working on the SHRP2 performance measures project with N. Leuchanka and R. Dewey. L. Gozdoff said she would be working with T. Brown on summer transportation data collection and other UPWP tasks. R. Mack said she would be working as the GIS Planner for SRPC.

**3. Public Hearing**

**3.1 – 2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan**

K. Ortmann made a motion to open the public hearing

Seconded by R. Healey

Vote: unanimous in favor

*C. Lentz presented an overview of the draft Metropolitan Transportation Plan. It covered the plan outline and framework, the plan development and public engagement process, individual chapter content, specific appendices, and future goals for plan adaptation/evolution.*

*There was discussion about a staff proposal to edit the existing transportation vision. P. Nelson suggested that the transportation vision include the word "affordable". J. Nelson suggested that the word "choices" be removed from the vision. C. Lentz thanked the members for their input and said he would make the suggested edits to the vision. There was consensus among the committee members about the proposed edits.*

*B. Connor asked about a slide showing percentages of employment-related commuting. The slide showed how many of those employed in the region commuted from outside the region, how many people living in the region commuted to jobs outside the region, and how many people living in the region commuted to jobs within the region. B. Connor asked how the percentages were calculated. C. Lentz responded that the diagram was derived from the On the Map Tool from the U.S. Census, and that the percentages should be broadly interpreted. K. Ortmann said the diagram needed a more thorough explanation.*

*T. McManus asked what "other means" implied [in a table of regional commute data by different modes]. C. Lentz responded that the category included multiple transportation modes including bicycling and telecommuting.*

*B. Connor asked about the specific hot-spots of traffic congestion on regional highways. C. Lentz said that SRPC doesn't have quantifiable data about regional congestion hot-spots, but he said SMPO staff are discussing maintenance and updates to the regional traffic model with staff from Rockingham Planning Commission. He said the model could be used to identify regional congestion and will be important in the near future as NHDOT and the MPOs develop a statewide performance-based planning framework. C. Lentz added that the Newington-Dover project is designed to reduce congestion along the Spaulding Turnpike between Dover and Newington, and will open up new business growth opportunities for the Strafford Region.*

*V. Parmele asked about a slide showing "food deserts" in Rochester and Somersworth (where residents have low income and low access to a car). She said she thought there would be more of such areas in highly rural portions of the region. M. Sullivan responded that the data analysis uses a much larger buffer area when determining a location's proximity to food sources in "rural" communities (as defined by the U.S. Census). Because of this, locations in more urbanized areas are more likely to be identified as food deserts. M. Sullivan added that SRPC will be looking to do more detailed analysis of food access for future plans.*

*B. Connor asked when the Intelligent Transportation Systems Architecture and Plan would be updated. C. Lentz responded that the ITS plan was written with Rockingham Planning Commission and is due for an update very soon.*

*B. Connor asked if climate change content in the Metro Plan discussed impacts to marine ports and made recommendations (e.g. the Port of New Hampshire). C. Lentz responded that the metro plan touches on ports, but that federal guidelines specify that MPOs can plan “up to ports and airports”, but not within them.*

R. Healey made a motion to close the public hearing  
Seconded by J. Hotchkiss  
Vote: unanimous in favor

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

##### **4.1 – Minutes from May 20<sup>th</sup> 2016**

K. Ortmann made a motion to approve the minutes as written  
Seconded by B. Cray  
Vote: unanimous in favor

##### **4.2 – Approve 2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan**

R. Healey made a motion to approve the draft Metropolitan Transportation Plan  
B. Cray seconded the motion  
E. Piekut asked if there was a specific reason the draft plan needed to be approved before final layout and formatting was completed. C. Lentz responded that the final formatting software was different than the program used to edit the content of the plan, and that SRPC wanted approval of the plan content before finalizing the formatting.  
C. Copeland noted that the SMPO TAC recommended approval of the Draft Metro Plan to the Policy Committee.  
V. Parmele said she liked the structure of the plan and how it integrated the regional master plan – *Local Solutions for the Strafford Region*.

Vote: unanimous in favor

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

No discussion items were brought forward

#### **6. Project Update(s)**

##### **6.1. 2016 Transportation Alternatives grant round**

*C. Lentz reminded the meeting attendees that letters of interest for applying for 2016 Transportation Alternatives Program grants are due by July 1<sup>st</sup>.*

**7. Other Business**

B. Connor said he enjoyed reading through the draft Metro Plan and thanked SRPC staff for a job well-done.

G. Davison said that the legislature has sent the draft Ten Year Plan to the Governor's office for her signature, and expects it to be signed in the next few days. He said the timing of the Draft Metro Plan approval coincided well with the pending TYP approval.

G. Davison explained that the NHDOT Bureau of Planning and Community Assistance will be forming a separate Planning Section made up of a senior planner (William Rose) and STIP management staff. He said one of the initial goals of the Planning Section staff will be to improve coordination between NHDOT, MPOs, and RPCs on the process for developing the STIP and TIPs, the Ten Year Plan, and Metropolitan Transportation Plans. C. Copeland asked if the Bureau of Planning and Community Assistance will be hiring a new senior planner since Mr. Rose will be leading the new Planning Section. G. Davison said they would be posting an opening for a senior planner soon.

**8. Citizen's Forum**

No citizens were present for the meeting.

**9. Adjournment**

K. Ortman moved to adjourn

Seconded by J. Hotchkiss

Vote: All in favor

Minutes submitted by,  
Colin Lentz, Recording Secretary

Approved by  
Name Printed: Victoria D. Parnelle

Signed Victoria D. Parnelle

Date: \_\_\_\_\_