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SOMERSWORTH  
STRAFFORD  
WAKEFIELD

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

**Friday June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016  
9:00 AM-11:00 AM**

**MINUTES**

**1. Introductions**

**Members Present:** Larry Brown (Milton), Seth Creighton (Rochester), Wallace Dunham (Madbury), Linda Dusenberry (NHDOT), Steve Fornier (Newmarket), Jon Hotchkiss (Middleton), Martin Laferte (Farmington), Leigh Levine (FHWA), Chris Parker (Dover), Victoria Parmele (Northwood), Steve Pesci (UNH), John Storer (Rochester), April Talon (Durham), Gretchen Young (Dover)

**Staff Present:** Tom Brown (Data Management Specialist), Lynn Cherry (Regional Planning and Communications Assistant), Cynthia Copeland (Executive Director), Rachel Dewey (Data Analyst), Alexa Gozdoff (Transportation Planning Assistant), Colin Lentz (Regional Transportation Planner),

**2. Staff Communications**

New SRPC staff members L. Cherry 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.

C. Copeland said that SRPC selected UNH Campus Planning for the annual Planning Excellence award and presented it to S. Pesci, Doug Bencks, and David Clark at the SRPC annual meeting on May 26th. She congratulated them again and noted UNH's 100 year history of campus planning.

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

#### **3.1. Minutes from May 6<sup>th</sup> 2016**

C. Parker made a motion to approve the May 6<sup>th</sup> 2016 Minutes as written

Seconded by L. Brown

Vote: All in favor

#### **3.2. Metropolitan Transportation Plan review & discussion; recommend to the Policy Committee**

C. Lentz presented an overview of the Metro Plan. He discussed the plan outline and framework, the plan development and public engagement process, individual chapter content, specific appendices, and future goals for plan adaptation/evolution.

L. Brown asked whether travel advisories (broadcast through ITS technology) were only advisory, or if travelers were required by law to change routes based on advisory signs.

C. Lentz responded that travel advisories are advisory only.

S. Pesci noted that because automated vehicle technology relies on painted lane markings to navigate roads, NH would need greater consideration for lane marking conditions – especially due to winter maintenance work – in order to facilitate growth of automatic vehicles.

J. Hotchkiss added that many rural roads had no lane markings.

L. Dusenberry asked where the project database was available on the SRPC website.

C. Lentz said the project database itself was not formatted for a website, but recent STIP updates and the Metro Plan project listing were both available.

C. Copeland added that the project database would be used during project solicitation to update local projects.

During the presentation, C. Lentz noted that a recently approved TIFIA grant included funds to replace a state-owned red list bridge in Nottingham. L. Levine asked if C. Lentz knew how the bridge was selected. C. Lentz said he did not know. He said there wasn't any detail in the recent press release from the Governor's office, but that he would be tracking the grant and looking for details as they are released.

S. Pesci asked L. Levine if upcoming rulemakings from FHWA would impact the final Metro Plan after it gets approved. L. Levine responded that the implementation of FHWA rulemakings related to Metropolitan Planning would not affect the approval timeline of the Metro Plan.

S. Pesci made a motion to recommend the Metropolitan Transportation Plan to the Policy Committee.

Seconded by W. Dunham

Vote: All in favor

#### 4. Discussion Item(s)

##### 4.1. Multimodal Community Development Planning

Chris Parker - Dover *Downtown Pedestrian and Vehicular Access and Streetscape Study*

C. Parker presented a summary of Dover's Downtown Pedestrian and Vehicular Access and Streetscape Study and discussed the resulting planned outcomes for future development of the City's downtown. The study focused on Dover's downtown loop to improve the flow of vehicle traffic, improve safety and accessibility for pedestrians, and improve streetscape aesthetics.

L. Brown asked about the type of street lights planned for the study area; whether they produced high amounts of glare. C. Parker said any new street lights would be LED, low cut-off lights that reduced glare and were more energy efficient. He noted that the City would have a set of streetlight designs to use.

V. Parmele asked for more details about the types of bicycle infrastructure that would be installed as part of future downtown improvements. C. Parker responded that the City was examining possible locations for "sharrows" [lanes that are marked and signed to alert drivers that bicyclists are sharing the traffic lane], and that the plan includes bike lockers for the Transportation Center and the newly completed downtown parking garage. He added that eight years ago, the municipal parking regulations were changed to require 5% of the cost of parking for new projects to be set aside for bicycle storage. C. Parker said Dover would also continue outreach and engagement of the regional cycling community and the Dover Main Street group to understand where cyclists ride most and how to continue improving downtown aesthetics.

C. Copeland congratulated C. Parker on Dover's recent award for 2016 Plan of the Year from the NH Planners Association for the *Downtown Pedestrian and Vehicular Access and Streetscape Study*. She asked if there had been any conflicts related to the relocation of historic landmarks (such as the historic water trough currently located in the middle of the intersection of Main St/Central Ave/2<sup>nd</sup> St/Chapel St), noting that Newmarket faced conflict related to relocation of the town's bandstand.

C. Parker thanked C. Copeland for her commendation of the plan and responded that public participation was a critical component of Dover's downtown plan. He said the city held several public workshops to ask residents where they perceived traffic conflict points and what landmarks/city artifacts were important to preserve. Residents liked the idea of moving the trough to a location nearer to pedestrians and places where people could gather, rather than in the middle of a busy intersection.

S. Pesci said many New Hampshire municipalities like Dover, Durham, and Newmarket are rethinking the one-way downtown traffic pattern. He asked what specific role consulting engineers played in the design and traffic modeling in the plan. C. Parker said they asked the urban design consulting firm to lead the project because the City wanted to focus on place-

making and creating a downtown that would draw visitors and residents to restaurants, shops, greenspaces, and other attractions.

April Talon asked if the plan had generated any interest in the local business community; specifically about a downtown hotel. C. Parker responded that the hotel was interested in completing an expansion in conjunction with future infrastructure improvements and that the plan had sparked interest and new relationships with other businesses.

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

### **5.1. 2016 Transportation Alternatives grant round**

C. Lentz gave a brief overview of the 2016 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant opportunity. He said NHDOT was accepting letters of interest from potential applicants which are due by 4:00pm on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

L. Dusenberry handed out copies of a TAP summary from NHDOT that gave specific information to potential applicants.

## **6. Other Business**

L. Dusenberry explained that the draft Ten Year Plan had been approved by the NH State Legislature and had been sent to the Governor's office for her signature. She said STIP Amendment 3 was recently approved by FHWA and, that minor revisions would be discussed at the upcoming June interagency meeting. She added that a full draft of the new STIP would be coming out in July.

**7. Citizen's Forum** – Citizens of the Strafford region are invited to speak on the subject matter of the meeting. Statements shall be limited to three minutes

## **8. Adjournment**

M. Laferte made a motion to adjourne,

Seconded by C. Parker

Vote: all in favor.

Minutes submitted by,

Colin Lentz, Recording Secretary

Approved by

Print Name: J. B. Hotchkiss

Signed: J. B. Hotchkiss

Date: 8 JUL 2016

