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

May 2, 2014 Minutes

FINAL

Present: Wallace Dunham (Madbury), Dave Sharples (Somersworth), Rad Nichols (COAST), Marcia Gasses (Barrington), Chris Parker (Dover), Steve Pesci (UNH), Leigh Levine (FHWA), Linda Dusenberry (NHDOT), Paul Lockwood (NHDES), Diane Hardy (Newmarket), Victoria Parmele (Northwood) and Ed Comeau (Brookfield)

Staff: Cynthia Copeland (Executive Director), Marilyn Barton (HR Specialist/Events Coordinator), Greg Jones (Regional Planner)

Guest: Thomas Jameson (NHDOT)

1. Introductions

The Vice-Chairman opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. and introductions were given around the room.

2. Staff Communications

M. Barton reminded everyone about the upcoming Commissioners Annual Meeting/Luncheon that would be held on May 29, 2014 at the Madbury Town Hall and invitations would be going out shortly. M. Barton stated SRPC was in the process of recruiting for a Regional Planner and GIS Technical Analyst and if anyone knew of anyone looking for that type of position to contact her.

3. Presentation: Transportation Alternatives Program by Thomas Jameson, NH Dept. of Transportation

Mr. Jameson gave an informative PowerPoint presentation on the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). He reviewed the program project milestones and benefits, as well as the scoring process. The presentation was then opened for questions and discussion.

4.1 Draft TAC minutes of April 4, 2014

The Vice-Chairman asked for a motion to approve the draft minutes of April 4, 2014. C. Parker made a motion and R. Nichols seconded that motion. It was noted there were two abstentions. All others were in favor, motion carried.

4.2 Amendment to Prospectus-Recommendation to the Policy Committee for approval

C. Copeland stated an amendment to the Prospectus went out for public comment from April 11 through May 15, 2014. C. Copeland noted at the last interagency coordination meeting there was a request from FHWA and FTA for us to reconsider the length of time for TIP Amendments. C. Copeland stated the change would be from 30 days to 10-30 days, as noted on page 41 of the Prospectus. C. Copeland explained this would provide more flexibility for processing and noted this was the second or third time this has come up in the last 10 years.

L. Dusenberry stated it would be beneficial to have a shorter period if a project needs money sooner. She encouraged the 10 day time frame, as all other RPCs are using shorter comment periods.

A discussion ensued regarding concern on how the 10-30 day time period for comments are determined. It was noted the Interagency Committee meets monthly and discusses processing and the monthly minor and major amendments and need for advertising. L. Levine stated the MPO would still have flexibility for a longer comment period if the project was controversial; this change allows for more flexibility based on interagency needs.

E. Comeau stated he thought it was a good idea to have flexibility; however there needs to be a renewed effort to have comments from the public other than the TAC and Policy Committees.

D. Hardy noted projects are vetted at the local level and changes should be made at the local level. D. Hardy stated a mechanism is needed to move projects expeditiously and shorter comment periods would allow for flexibility.

R. Nichols stated he wasn't sure how fewer days bought more time and needed clarification on the process of the monthly interagency coordination process and why shortening the comment period is beneficial.

C. Parker stated he would support the change if he had more clarification on how the 10-30 days was determined and thought it was too vague. C. Parker made a motion not to recommend the change to the Policy Committee for their approval. E. Comeau seconded that motion. There were three opposed to recommending the amendment to the Policy Committee and four that approved recommending the change to the Policy Committee. It was noted there were three abstentions and the motion failed.

After more discussion C. Parker withdrew his original motion and discussed tabling the recommendation until more information is received. It was noted the public hearing on this would be at the May 16, 2014 Policy Committee meeting and the Policy Committee would be able to vote on this with or without a recommendation from TAC.

P. Lockwood made the following motion: TAC recommends a 10-30 day comment period for amendments to the TIP, and a new TIP would still have a 30-day comment period. C. Parker seconded that motion and it was noted there was one opposed. All others were in favor and the motion carried.

5. Discussion Items

G. Jones gave an update on the SADES program he has been working on.

C. Copeland reviewed the handout of a letter received from FTA regarding a renewed focus on transportation planning brought about by MAP-21, specifically placing emphasis on Planning Emphasis Areas.

6. Project updates

D. Sharples stated the Route 9 Bridge project is under construction and is going along as scheduled and the downtown project received design approval and should begin in 6-8 weeks. D. Hardy stated Newmarket has hired an engineer for the Route 108 shoulder-bike project. There were no other project updates.

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

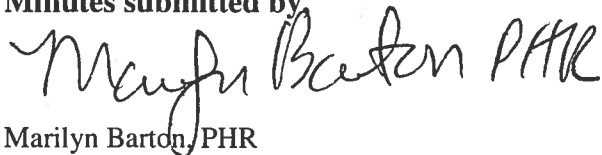
8. Citizen's Forum

There were no comments from the public.

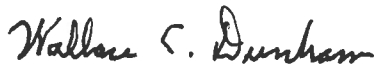
9. Adjournment

The Vice-Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m. D. Sharples made a motion and M. Gasses seconded that motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Minutes submitted by



Marilyn Barton, PHR
Recording Secretary



Wallace Dunham
TAC Vice-Chairman