

BARRINGTON
BROOKFIELD
DOVER
DURHAM
FARMINGTON
LEE
MADBURY
MIDDLETON
MILTON



NEW DURHAM
NEWMARKET
NORTHWOOD
NOTTINGHAM
ROCHESTER
ROLLINSFORD
SOMERSWORTH
STRAFFORD
WAKEFIELD

**Strafford Policy Committee Meeting
September 19, 2014
Rochester Community Center, Conf. Rm. 1A, Rochester, NH
Minutes**

FINAL

SMPO Policy Members Present: Paul Lockwood (NHDES), Tom Clark (Dover), Rad Nichols (COAST), Beverly Cray (UNH), Ed Comeau (Brookfield), Robert Jaffin (Rochester), Kenn Ortmann (Rochester), Glenn Davison (NHDOT), Richard England (Durham), William Connor (Somersworth), Brian Tapscott (Somersworth) and Ed Jansen (Rollinsford)

SMPO Staff Present: Cynthia Copeland (Executive Director), Marilyn Barton (HR Specialist/Events Coordinator) and Colin Lentz (Regional Transportation Planner)

1. Introductions

The Chair opened the meeting at 9:00 AM and introductions were given around the room.

2. Staff Communications

C. Copeland introduced C. Lentz as the new Regional Transportation Planner, who replaced Marc Ambrosi. C. Lentz gave a brief overview of his background and noted he looked forward to working with everyone. M. Barton reminded Commissioners in attendance that the upcoming Commissioners meeting would be held on Thursday, September 25, 2104 at 7 PM at the Rochester Community Center.

3.1 Draft MPO minutes of June 20, 2014

The Chair asked for a motion to approve the draft minutes of June 20, 2014. R. Nichols made a motion and W. Connor seconded that motion. It was noted there was one abstention and all others were in favor. Motion carried.

3.2 Confirmation of Title VI Coordinator

M. Barton noted that Shayna Sylvia, who was recently hired as SRPC's Communication/Outreach Specialist, would be taking over as Title VI Coordinator, as it made sense for her to do so. M. Barton noted a motion needed to be made. The Chair asked for a motion to confirm S. Sylvia as the Title VI Coordinator. R. Nichols made a motion and B. Cray seconded that motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

4.1 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) updates

C. Lentz noted at the TAC meeting on September 5, 2014 a handout was distributed regarding the TAP program criteria weighting. This handout was distributed to Policy Committee members at the meeting. C. Lentz explained these criteria will be used when selecting proposed TAP projects. C. Lentz noted there was a model set up by Marc Ambrosi that will be used that is more regionally applicable. He also noted a scoring sub-committee was formed which includes, Chris Scheiner, C. Lentz, Wallace Dunham and Jon Hotchkiss. C. Lentz stated there were three projects from Dover, three projects from Somersworth and two projects from Barrington submitted.

There was a brief discussion regarding stress analysis under safety criteria. It was explained that it was based on user perception-not congestion analysis. R. Nichols asked how does stress get measured. G. Davison stated a ratings scale has not yet been developed and explained use of decision lens regarding criteria weighting. G. Davison noted as soon as he gets more information on this, he will send out to all the members.

4.2 Preparation of new Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and update to Metropolitan-Financial Plan

C. Lentz stated because this is an odd year, the MPO will be conducting project solicitation to the member communities and make updates to the Metropolitan Plan to be included in the Regional Master Plan.

C. Copeland explained the MPO was still waiting for information from NHDOT. G. Davison stated NHDOT was still working on it and should be released soon. C. Copeland reviewed the cycle of the process and noted we will be in an overlap of time. C. Copeland stated in January through March 2015 the MPO would be going out for project solicitation and from March through April the draft TIP would be completed. She noted it would be a very busy agenda cycle from the time we receive the information from NHDOT until March.

There was discussion about the Exit 10 Coalition recently formed and whether the committee members would like them to attend a Policy Committee meeting. C. Copeland stated she, R. Jaffin and C. Lentz had attended the meeting and she would like input into letting them understand the process we have to go through. R. Jaffin noted at this point, it is not a defined group and the next meeting is at the end of October and if and when it becomes a group, we could discuss having them attend a meeting at that point.

5. Project Update(s)

C. Lentz noted there are still nineteen traffic counts left to do and will be getting those done before the cold weather arrives.

C. Copeland stated there was a meeting with FHWA, NHDOT and the four MPOs regarding the MAP-21 process and the legislation states that we need to develop a shared Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as to how we handle urbanized areas that are overlapping or shared. C. Copeland noted we are in the process of doing that at the statewide level. C. Copeland stated within the Piscataqua region we are currently working with Rockingham Planning Commission, Southern ME and COAST, the regional transit provider, who we currently have an MOU with and need to work on updating that and making that MOU as part of the large statewide one as well, which will keep us compliant with the legislation. C. Copeland noted staff would be attending an all-day training in November regarding integrated transportation planning and that five staff would be attending and the training would be focusing on performance measures and scenario planning.

R. Nichols stated this year COAST had their triennial review and went well. He noted there were four findings and stated those have been addressed.

R. Nichols noted the Coast Clipper Connection Service is now running out of the Shipyard to pick up riders. He noted staff has been credentialed to be allowed on the yard and the results have been great. R. Nichols stated he recently had a meeting with NH DOT and has some great news, which would be announced soon. R. Nichols stated this week was Tri-Transit week and this encourages people to consider alternatives ways to commute. He noted COAST and other transit operations were working on this and there were events, contests and raffles going on and today COAST was offering free rides. R. Nichols stated he has been riding Wildcat all week and has had great conversations with people. R. Nichols stated he loves the real time transit information and has renewed his interest to do the same thing at COAST. R. Nichols stated next month there will be a Business to Business challenge for employers and employees at Pease. He noted this was a two week challenge, approximately October 5-19. He explained they would be signing up team leaders, who will go out recruiting employees to participate. He noted the Commute Smart.org/Pease website, which links to the challenge web page. R. Nichols stated it was about commuting differently and energizing people to

do that. R. Nichols also noted he had been nominated by Senator Shaheen to be part of the Transit Advisory Committee and Secretary Foxx confirmed his appointment. R. Nichols stated he will be heading down to Washington DC at the end of October to attend the first meeting and was looking forward to representing NH.

There was a discussion regarding those communities that do not pay for COAST services and how that affects those services and if they have full voting rights on the Board. R. Nichols noted they are working on updating bylaws. He noted the concept of that was discussed previously about those communities not contributing at some defined level and noted this is not part of what the committee will be putting forward to the full board. R. Nichols stated on November 1 COAST will no longer be making stops in Greenland, as they have pulled funds. R. Nichols noted all stops will be made on an on-call basis for Stratham along that route. He stated both these communities failed to meet COAST's funding requests. He noted Portsmouth backed out of that portion of the route this year as well. He noted COAST would be holding meetings with stakeholders along the route to see how or if we move forward with that route and noted COAST doesn't want to eliminate services but decisions need to be made. P. Lockwood stated in a time when more people are using public transit, this is sad.

K. Ortmann spoke about the administrative modifications received by the Planning Commission that change funding or years, etc. He noted the Board would like to get better information so when the Executive Committee Board voted to endorse these changes they could do with a more knowledge based perspective. It was discussed that there is a committee that meets about this and has MPO representation. K. Ortmann noted the group was just looking for a sentence to describe change so there is a more educated vote by the board.

C. Copeland noted about the monthly interagency meeting there are people that have longevity on that committee and there is real shorthand used by the committee members. C. Copeland stated it is not clear to someone new to the process; we have new staff now and we need to rebuild the knowledge. G. Davison noted the MPO has new staff and NHDOT does as well and this is a great time to bring these concerns up. K. Ortmann reiterated the idea was not sure to create mountains of work, the Board just wants context to make knowledgeable recommendations.

R. Jaffin congratulated NH and Maine for the DOT \$25m grant received for the overhaul of the Sarah Long Bridge. R. Jaffin noted in 2016 there would be planning money again and we should work on this now. He noted a failure to do so would be a missed opportunity. He spoke about the Traffic Management Center and asked if the members would like a tour. R. Jaffin also spoke about the update maintenance facility on Route 16 and wondered would that be done. R. Jaffin explained it would be a brine facility with availability to all municipalities that want to take advantage of it.

A discussion ensued regarding the Rochester Park and Ride and the view is blocked and is unsafe to turn left onto the road.

6. Other Business

There was no other business.

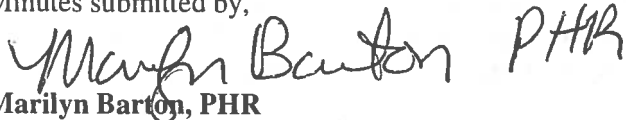
7. Citizen's Forum

R. Nichols made a comment regarding the bike lanes in Durham and the recent tragedy that occurred there. R. Nichols stated the use of national standards for bike facilities that are not safe or adequate had tragic results. R. Nichols noted he was happy to see the Town made a decision to eliminate some of the bike facilities and felt that was the safe thing to do. He noted he researched bike facilities and said there are ways to do that that are innovative and should be looked at

8. Adjournment

The Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 A.M. K. Ortmann made a motion and R. Jaffin seconded that motion. All were in favor and motion carried.

Minutes submitted by,

 PHR

Marilyn Barton, PHR
Recording Secretary



Brian Tapscott
SMPO Chair