

MPO Policy Committee Meeting

Friday, February 16, 2024 9:00-10:30 AM

Hybrid Meeting (Conference Rm 1A, SRPC Office & via Zoom)

1. Introductions

D. Landry called the meeting to order at 9:08 AM and asked for introductions.

Members attending in person: Dave Landry, Dover; Michael Bobinsky, Somersworth, Bill Fisher, Farmington; Peter Nelson, Newmarket; Michael Williams, COAST; Matt Towne, Barrington; Lindsey Williams, Dover; Mark Richardson, Somersworth; Tom Crosby, Madbury; Kate Buzard, Middleton; Lucy St. John, NHDOT;

Members attending remotely: Mary Woodward, Lee; Katrin Kasper, Lee; Joe Boudreau, Rochester; Teressa Bascom, Nottingham; Beverly Cray, UNH; Cheryl Smith, Nottingham; Jessica Wilcox, NHDES; Steve Pesci, UNH; Barbara Holstein, Rochester

Staff attending in person: Jen Czysz, Colin Lentz

Staff attending virtually: Lisa Murphy, Mark Davie, Megan Taylor-Fetter

2. Commissioner Roundtable

M. Bobinsky provided an update on the Complete Streets project in Somersworth on Constitutional Way for pedestrian amenities and improvements.

M. Towne stated that the Town of Barrington applied for community power weatherization programs, and the town will be acting as a catalyst and a connection between CAP and homeowner.

P. Nelson stated that Newington is on board with the Community Power Commission and encouraged other communities to join.

3. Public Hearing on Amendment 4 to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program

At 9:25 Chair D. Landry opened the public hearing. C. Lentz gave a presentation on Amendment 4 to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program. He stated there are five individual projects and one program with proposed changes in the draft amendment:

- Dover-Somersworth-Rochester (29604)
- Dover (41824)
- Municipally-Owned Bridge Program
- Durham (44349) - *new CMAQ project being added*



- Dover (44350) – *new CMAQ project being added*
- COAST (44367) - *new CMAQ project being added*

After the presentation, there were no questions or discussion.

The Public Hearing closed at 9:35 AM.

4. Action Items

a. Minutes from January 19, 2024:

M. Bobinsky motioned to approve the January 19, 2024 minutes seconded by M. Towne. Discussion: M. Williams asked that since the minutes are from a joint meeting of the Commission and Policy Committee, how should that be addressed. J. Czysz stated she will check with Southern Regional Planning Commission on their process. The motion was withdrawn, and approval of the minutes was tabled.

b. Motion to approve the amendment 4

M. Williams motioned to approve Amendment 4 to the Transportation Improvement Plan seconded by M. Bobinsky. All in favor, the motion passed.

c. Adopt 2024 Safety Performance Targets

C. Lentz stated that SRPC needs to set new highway safety performance targets for 2024.

C. Lentz outlined the 5 target performance areas to set targets in:

- Number of fatalities
- Rate of fatalities
- Number of serious injuries
- Rate of serious injuries
- Number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries.

C. Lentz stated that staff developed an alternative approach that was reviewed and approved by the Technical Advisory Committee members: Set annual targets based on a long-term percent reduction for a horizon year. A long-term trend goal will be used to calculate the maximum number of fatalities or serious injuries allowed in each year to still achieve the long-term target goal.

Example targets for discussion purposes:

- 75% reduction in the number of fatalities from crashes by 2033
- 50% reduction in the number of serious injuries by 2033
- 100% reduction in the number non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries by 2033

The group discussed statistics and how the data is collected and what data is available; the newest technology in cars, population trends, human behavior and operation error verses infrastructure flaws and location.

M. Williams left the meeting at 10:04 AM

C. Lentz asked the members what they think about advocating for automatic traffic enforcement in work or school zones. Discussion ensued about what other states and cultures do to make meaningful changes in driving safety.



M. Richardson motioned to accept the Safety Performance Targets as recommended:

- 75% reduction in the number of fatalities from crashes by 2033
- 50% reduction in the number of serious injuries by 2033
- 100% reduction in the number non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries by 2033

Discussion: C. Lentz stated there are broader level conversations to be had, there will be future discussions on how to achieve these targets.

Bill Fisher seconded the motion.

Peter Nelson asked to amend the motion to include voting on the trendline that reduces the number of fatal locations over a 10-year period and look at specific locations.

A roll call vote was taken: All members voted in favor. L. St. John and J. Wilcox abstained.

M. Bobinsky was excused from the meeting.

Colin stated that he will follow up with a list of "action items" that the commission could focus on to address safety and make progress on the targets.

d. Ten Year Plan: Hearing and Testimony:

C. Lentz stated he provided testimony at the House Public Works and Highways Committee hearing on HB2024 – the draft Ten Year Plan on February 14th. Colin requested UNH bus replacement project be put back in the plan which was cut by governor's draft. There will be another opportunity when Senate takes up testimony. He stated that now is an opportunity to revise and expand the testimony to include other general or specific issues that are important to Commissioners.

5. Discussion Items

a. Engineering Review of Transportation Priority Projects for the Metro Plan

Colin stated that SRPC's engineering consultants at BETA have taken a first look at the seven priority candidate projects from the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. After an initial review by TAC and Policy, BETA and SRPC will determine costs for conducting planning-level engineering assessments to refine scopes and develop cost estimates.

b. Active Transportation Plan – Continued Discussion

Colin stated the plan is nearly complete and we are looking for input on the vision.

6. Other Business

D. Landry stated that there needs to be discussion at future meetings on significant topics that need revisiting including how prepared are our towns for hazardous events.

7. Citizens Forum

8. Adjourn

M. Towne motioned to adjourn, seconded by P. Nelson. All in favor to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 10:40 AM.

