

# STRAFFORD

Metropolitan Planning Organization

**Policy Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Friday, December 17, 2021,  
9:00 – 11:00 AM  
Strafford Regional Planning Commission  
Hybrid Meeting  
Rochester, NH**

## 1. Introductions

Chair David Landry called the meeting to order and asked for introductions.

Members attending in person: Bill Fisher; Farmington; Tom Crosby; Madbury; Richard Michaud; Somersworth; Barbara Holstein; Rochester, Michael Williams; COAST; Glenn Davison; DOT, Michael Bobinsky; Somersworth; Dave Landry; Dover; Tom Crosby, Madbury; Herb Ueda, Rollinsford; Peter Nelson, Newmarket; Katrin Kasper, Lee

SRPC staff members attending in person: Jennifer Czysz

Members participating remotely: Tim White; DES; Charlene Anderson, Nottingham; Beverly Cray, UNH; D. Hamann, Rochester.

Staff participating remotely: Shayna Sylvia, Rachel Dewey, Stephen Geiss, Jackson Rand, Nancy O'Connor, and Megan Taylor-Fetter

## 2. Staff Communications

There were no staff communications

## 3. Items Requiring a Vote

### 3.1 Approve draft minutes from November 19, 2021

T. Crosby **MOVED** to approve the minutes of October 15, 2021 , M. Bobinsky **SECOND**, A roll call vote was taken: B. Fisher, T. Crosby, R. Michaud, B. Holstein, M. Williams, G. Davison, M. Bobinsky, h. Ueda, D. Landy, P. Nelson, K. Kasper, T. White, C. Anderson and D. Hamann voting in the **AFFIRMATIVE**, B. Cray **ABSTAINING**. Motion passed to approve the minutes as written.

## 4. Items for Discussion

#### **4.1 How can we make the planning process more inclusive and incorporate more voices? -updates to SRPC's Nondiscrimination & Environmental Plan**

Nancy OConnor began the presentation by explaining that the SRPC nondiscrimination and environmental justice program was last updated in 2013. This is an opportunity to examine the plan, ensure inclusiveness in the region for transportation planning, to see what our goals and objectives are and to ensure compliance with Titles VI of the Civil Rights Act. N. OConnor summarized the plan and asked the committee for their input.

Tim White asked what the distinction between this and the Public Participation Plan is; the two plans seem to be meshing.

N. OConnor responded this is a policy statement and the Public Participation Plan is how we will carry it out.

J. Czysz added that the plan closes in on populations that might be excluded; it provides larger analysis.

N. OConnor further explained the goal is to be more direct and inclusive and deliberate in the language. Specifically, to be more tuned in to our communities.

J Czysz added the climate has changed since in 2013, additional guidance has come out from the President and DOT increasing focus on these topics.

M. Williams asked are going from a more passive approach to a more active approach.

J Czysz answered yes, the direction we are getting from Federal Highways is to better define our goals and to change the language and intentionality in the way we approach environmental justice.

P Nelson stated there are three ways to make information available to the public: printed materials, public participation, and broadcasts on multimedia channels and the internet. Not everybody has internet access, P. Nelson added step one is get the data base for the transportation projects published.

C. Anderson suggested that under Objectives #3, there needs to be more sensitivity in the wording so we do not classify people as low income.

K. Kasper stated that for some it takes courage to be in a meeting setting. We must figure out where the community resources are.

P Nelson stated that the Right to Know Law is preventing moving on in a more encompassing and engaging manner. We cannot have that level of participation unless we modernize the concept of the Right to Know Law.

G. Davison stated DOT received a large amount of public input during the GACIT hearings. The process does work with tools like surveys, public input and providing contact information on the website.

The Committee engaged in further discussion on ways to better communicate with communities including surveys, contacting community leaders, organizations, social media, and multimedia.

N. OConnor asked members to reach out to her in an email with their thoughts and suggestions. A draft will be brought back at a future meeting.

#### **4.2 Will the questions in the draft survey for the SRPC Regional Bike/Ped Plan help us define policy goals objectives?**

S. Sylvia informed the committee that she has been collaborating with Colin Lentz on developing a plan to improve spaces for active transportation in the region. The project involves creating a framework for the first Bike Ped Plan for Strafford MPO. In developing this framework, SRPC is looking at how people interact with pedestrians, bicyclists and other forms of non-motorized transportation and is also looking at current facilities, infrastructure, and barriers and how we can make improvements. SRPC has drafted a survey as part of the outreach for this project and would like input from the committee.

D. Landry asked what is the plan to get the survey out to the communities. S. Sylvia answered through the normal channels including the Bits and Pieces Newsletter, social media, boost paid advertising on Facebook and Instagram. SRPC will be leveraging partners like Commute Smart and the Bike Walk Alliance. SRPC is looking into Metro quest which creates an interactive survey.

M. Bobinsky asked how do we know existing local communities' policies and practices around pedestrian and bicycling will be in concert or conflict with this plan. M. Bobinsky added there are different skill levels for bicyclists, some have more skill than others and will ride alongside busy traffic. The other group prefers to ride off road or roads with less traffic.

S. Sylvia responded the survey can include questions on what type of bike situation riders prefer.

H. Ueda suggested if you want to create a compelling vision, look at how bikes, pedestrians and traffic work in a day in Copenhagen. There are low injury and fatality rates.

S. Sylvia stated that this plan will be brought back for further review at a future meeting and welcomed committee members to email feedback.

#### **5. Other Business & Updates from Staff**

**5.1 Ten Year Plan Update**

**6. Commissioner Roundtable – Updates from your community**

P. Nelson stated Newmarket is continuing with the Solarize Newmarket campaign which will kick off with Revision energy in January. Newmarket is actively making efforts to inform the public. The goal is to double the installed base and take advantage of Federal Tax credits.

M. Bobinsky informed the Committee that Somersworth got an early start on soliciting resurfacing bids for streets and roads the past week. Bids are due mid-January. The city received 6 proposals for the Solar Array project at the Black Water Superfund site. In the early part of January, the City Council along with other city departments and committees, reviewed the proposals and received recommendations for the top three. M. Bobinsky will keep the Committee up to date on the road paving bids. Somersworth is finishing up The Complete Streets project which involves utility work and will be just under 4 million to complete. The Road work will come in just under a million.

**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**

There were no citizens attending

**8. Adjournment**

M. Williams MOVED to adjourn seconded by R. Michaud. All in favor, none opposed.