

Strafford Metropolitan Planning Organization
Joint Meeting of the Technical Advisory & Policy Committee
Meeting Notes
Friday, November 4, 2022
9:00 – 10:30 AM
Strafford Regional Planning Commission
Rochester, NH

1. Introductions

At 9:07 am, Policy Chair Dave Landry asked for introductions.

TAC members attending in person: Vanessa Price, Barrington; April Talon, Durham; Lyndsay Butler, Newmarket; Michael Williams, COAST; Jill Semprini, Dover; Glenn Davison, DOT; Bruce Woodruff, Milton; Marshall Goldberg, Brookfield; Michelle Mears, Somersworth.

Policy members attending in person: William Fisher, Farmington; Don Hamann, Rochester; Barbara Holstein, Rochester; Joe Boudreau, Rochester; Mike Williams, COAST; Glen Davison, DOT; Dawn Genes, Lee; Larry Brown, Milton; Karen Golab, Milton; Dave Landry, Dover; Mark Richardson, Somersworth.

TAC members attending remotely: Steve Pesci, UNH; Tim White, DES; Katrin Kasper, Lee; Kim Rummo, DOT; Bill Watson, DOT; Richard Reine, Durham; Donna Benton, Dover; Bart McDonough, Newmarket. Shanna Saunders, Rochester

Policy members attending remotely: Peter Nelson, Newmarket; Steve Pesci, UNH; Wayne Burton, Durham; Tim White, DES; Katrin Kasper, Lee; Kim Rummo, DOT; Bill Watson, DOT;

Guests attending remotely: Greg Bakos, VHB; Jason Plourde, VHB

Staff attending in person: Jennifer Czysz, Colin Lentz,

Staff attending remotely: Megan Taylor-Fetter, Jackson Rand, Rachel Dewey, Stephen Geis,

2. The TAC portion of the meeting convened: Review designs and cost estimates for candidate projects and discuss project ranking.

Greg Bakos and Jason Plourde of VHB presented a review of the candidate projects, and their cost estimates for consideration for inclusion in the Ten Year Plan (TYP). Maps of the project areas were shared.

After each project review, members were given the opportunity for questions and discussion:

The whole group reviewed and discussed candidate projects with explanations from VHB staff.

Municipalities prioritized various design alternatives on their local projects.

- **Durham Point Road**

A. Talon shared that Durham Point Road serves as an emergency detour by-pass. W. Burton spoke about the multiple incidents that occur on Durham Point Road. He read a Resolution from the Durham Town Council asking that SRPC, TAC, Policy and NHDOT recognize the importance of the project and urge inclusion of project in the TYP. The resolution included what was needed and reasons why the project is important. S. Pesci reiterated the importance of the project.

- **NH Route 155A/Main Street Intersection, Durham**

W. Watson: Do the costs reflect inflation or the 10% indirect cost? How would the group propose funding Durham Point Road. It is not a federal road. Estimated on 2022 dollars.

B. McDonough asked if additional signage has been considered and why a roundabout. Safer. Other advantages-good capacity, free flow off hours, less idling. Steve Pesci stated that UNH has always promoted a roundabout. Roundabouts are designed to accommodate emergency vehicles.

- **Lee NH route 155/George Bennett Road/Lee Hook Road intersections**

C. Bakos explained that the need for this project revolves around safety. Concerns discussed included the four way stop and visibility of the stop signs. Alternate options were considered but this option was found to be the best considering all variables.

- **Lee NH 155 Town Center Shared Use Path**

Concerns included where the storm water would be directed, the area proposed for stormwater runoff is a bog that is on the NH National Heritage Bureaus list. Option 3 would be much more cost effective. One suggestion was to create a series of small culverts to go under the path.

- **Newmarket NH Route 108/NH Route 152 Intersection**

This project would need to go through an intensive public project. Concerns for this project included how it would impact businesses, and that Gerry Avenue would not be eligible for federal funds and consideration of maintenance.

- **Somersworth West High Street, Maple Street, and Sunset Drive Intersection**

There is a high level of pedestrian crossing including high school students. Two options have been proposed, the second being a roundabout.

- **Somersworth Complete Streets project**

Michelle Mears presented this project.

J. Czysz distributed an updated list of project costs including inflation numbers. She explained that the inflation is out ten years at 2.8%. G. Davison reported that DOT only funds 80% of what is on the spreadsheet.

The members discussed funding and the lower cost alternatives.

M Williams motioned for TAC to recommend all projects with the 2 lower cost alternatives to the Policy Committee: Somersworth A, Newmarket A, Lee A-1, Lee B, Somersworth B1, Durham A & B. Marshall Goldberg seconded the motion.

Discussion: S. Pesci stated that with further fine tuning, he is hopeful that the Durham roundabout could be a possible project. Roundabout is CMAQ LOI eligible. W. Burton reiterated that the DPR project is critical; could be reevaluated.

A roll call vote was taken: V. Price, A. Talon, L. Butler, M. Mears, M. Williams, J. Semprini, G. Davison, M. Goldberg, B. woodruff, S. Pesci, T. White, K. Kasper, voted in favor. Motion Passed with a unanimous vote in favor.

The TAC portion of the meeting adjourned.

3. Convene Policy Committee: Review and discuss the list of projects recommended by TAC

The group held a brief discussion on the recommended list by TAC and agreed the order will remain the same for now.

With a motion by B. Holstein to proceed with the list of projects as recommended by TAC and seconded by D. Hamann, a roll call vote was taken: B. Fisher, D Hamann, B. Holstein, J. Boudreau, MM Williams, G, Davison, D, Genes, L. Brown, K. Golab, D. Landry, .M. Richardson. The motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor.

Tim White announced he is retiring from DES December 1. He said it has been a pleasure to serve as a member of MPO and TAC. The members wished him all the best and thanked him for his valuable contributions to the Committee.

B. Holstein motioned to adjourn seconded by B. Fisher. All in favor meeting adjourned.