

STRAFFORD

Metropolitan Planning Organization

Policy Committee Meeting
Combined Meeting of the Stafford EDD & Strafford MPO
Meeting Minutes
Friday, February 17, 2023
9:00 – 10:30 AM
Strafford Regional Planning Commission
Hybrid Meeting
Rochester, NH

1. Introductions

Chair Dave Landry called the meeting to order at 9:08 AM

Committee members attending in person: Bill Fisher, Farmington; Mark Richardson, Somersworth; Wayne Burton, Durham; Karen Golab, Milton; Glenn Davison, DOT; Joe Boudreau, Rochester; Don Hamann, Rochester; Peter Nelson, Newmarket; Barbara Holstein, Rochester; Katrin Kasper, Lee; Dave Landry, Dover; Chris Horton, Somersworth

Staff attending in person: Colin Lentz, Jen Czysz

Committee members attending remotely: Jessica Wilcox, DES; Sophie Robison, Dover; Charlene Anderson, Nottingham; Stephen Pesci, UNH,

Guest: Mary Woodward, Lee

Staff attending remotely: Jackson Rand, Rachel Dewey, Mark Davie,

2. Public Hearing-Draft 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Plan

Chair D. Landry opened the Public Hearing at 9:11 AM

C. Lentz shared a power point presentation of the plan and explained that the TIP contains all federally funded projects in process in the Strafford region of the next four years. Strafford MPO works with NHDOT and the three other MPOs to update the TIP every two years. This includes adding new projects, removing projects that have been completed, updating funding information (including public transit), and ensuring that federal funds are fiscally constrained over the four-year period. Updates to the TIP also require an update to the Strafford MPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), which considers the next 20 years of transportation projects and planning. When the TIP is updated, all projects programmed in the TIP through the last year of the MTP shift forward two years and get updated financial information.

The members engaged in a discussion touching on topics including providing a data base with resources for access to grants, match, providing a summary of various sources of funding. Members suggested holding a group meeting focused on project development and the wide range of funding sources that exist for them.

Chair D. Landry closed the Public Hearing at 9:39 A.M.

3. Commissioner Round Table

D. Landry welcomed Chris Horton to the Commission. Chris has been a member of the Somersworth Planning Board PB for several years.

M Bobinsky shared that the TAP and CEMAC grants, which have been in the que for at least five years in the making, are finally moving forward and next week there are pre-construction meetings with project design teams and the DOT. The CEMAC project is an upgrade of the high street traffic signal corridor. The TAP project is for sidewalk improvement projects mostly on High Street and includes a pathway connecting the middle school to the elementary.

W. Burton reported that Durham is working hard on housing issues and has a newly formed housing commission. Legislature on voting rights issues for students will surface again and legislature has removed the ability for the school to regulate firearms on campus. The good news is that Portsmouth will not be taking land in Durham for their water project as previously reported. A new route was proposed and accepted that will not interfere with activity at Wagon Hill.

R. Kasper asked for assistance with solutions for transportation for senior citizens and other residents who are home bound. They are looking to possibly have a weekly van transport and are there are any opportunities to partner with other towns.

P. Nelson suggested looking into micro transit such as Ubbber or Lyf.t. He proposed a cost analysis. He also suggested looking into having food deliveries from the food pantry instead of having people drive there.

C. Lentz stated that anyone can call the Alliance for Community Transportation to see all of the transportation services you are eligible for.

P. Nelson asked in light of a recent hazardous spill in the lamprey river, how are we prepared for accidents involving hazardous spills. Is there an online interactive mapping system and how do we improve public access to information. We should be thinking about how to make this information streamlined; be proactive.

J. Czysz reported on SRPC staff updates and stated we are organizing another push in the search for a regional planner. Additionally, SRPC is looking to hire a summer intern. J. Czysz reminded the Commission that there is a meeting next Thursday 3:45PM and for Commissioners to come prepared to talk about their priorities and how SRPC can better support commissioners and better serve their communities. J. Czysz reported that C. Lentz sent out the final version of the work program for the next 2 year for transportation planning.

4. Action Items

a. Review minutes of January 20, 2023

R. Kasper motioned to approve the January 20, 2023 minutes as written. M. Bobinsky seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: J. Wilcox, S. Pesci, C. Anderson, S. Robison, B. Fisher, P. Nelson, B. Holstein, K. Kasper, M. Richardson, M. Bobinsky, J. Boudreau, W. Burton, G. Davison, D. Landry all voted in favor. K. Golab, D. Hamann and C. Horton abstained. Motion passed with all voting in favor.

b. Draft 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Plan

D. Hamann motioned to approve the Draft 2023-2026 Transportation Plan and the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. T. Crosby seconded the motion. Seconded by T. Crosby. A Roll Call vote was taken: J. Wilcox, C. Anderson, S. Robison, B. Fisher, P. Nelson, B. Holstein, K. Kasper, M. Richardson, M. Bobinsky, J. Boudreau, W. Burton, G. Davison, D. Landry., D. Hamann and C. Horton all voted in favor K. Golab abstained. Motion passed a unanimous vote in favor. S. Pesci was not present for the motion.

5. Discussion Items

a. Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Projects

C. Lentz reported that DOT is looking to award 30M\$ for new CMAC projects through the 2025-2034 TYP process. DOT received 46 applications for new projects requesting approximately \$44M in federal funds. 22 are for electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure and 24 are for non-EV projects.

There are five applications for CMAQ funding from the Strafford region: 1 from the City of Dover, 1 from the Cooperative Alliance for Seacoast Transportation, and 3 from the University of New Hampshire. SRPC anticipates meeting with NHDOT to discuss a consistent approach to air quality analysis to be conducted on each project. Project scoring cannot be completed before that meeting. TAC members reviewed the CMAQ scoring criteria (from the NHDOT application) and discussed their weighting.

The group engaged in a discussion touching on topics such as funding, location of chargers, private investment, the affordability of electric vehicles and building code requirements for new construction,

C. Lentz noted that SRPC applied for a safe streets and roads for all grant to write a regional action plan for safety improvements. He asked if anyone has any safety project ideas-let us know. Can apply for implementation grants in future. The goal is to have 0 fatalities in State NH.

6. Other Business

G. Davison provided a DOT update Glenn stating that retirements are happening, Bill Cass is now commissioner of the DOT, The department is still experiencing staffing shortages.

7. Citizen's Forum

The were no citizens comments.

8. Adjourn:

M. Bobinsky motioned to adjourn seconded by D. Hamann. The meeting adjourned at 10:34 A.M. with all members voting in favor.