

STRAFFORD

Metropolitan Planning Organization

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

1. Introductions

Bill Fisher, Farmington, Mike Bobinsky, Somersworth, Katrin Kasper, Lee: Joe Boudreau, Rochester, Barbara Holstein, Rochester, Peter Nelson, Newmarket: Tom Crosby, Madbury, Dave Landry, Dover; Chris Horton, Somersworth, Mark Richardson, Somersworth, Karen Golab, Milton; Michael Williams, COASTJ

Staff attending: Jen Czysz, Mark Davie, Colin Lentz

Virtual: Matthew Towne, Barrington; Beverly Cray, UNH; Mary Woodward, Lee; Steve Diamond, Barrington; Jessica Wilcox, DES

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

D. Landry convened the Commission portion of the meeting.

2. Public Hearing-Draft Regional Housing Needs Assessment

At 9:09 A.M. D. Landry opened the public hearing at 9:09 A.M.

J. Czysz explained the RHNA is intended to inform the public of the region's housing conditions and the data enclosed is to be used by municipalities in planning a balanced housing stock. In addition to analyzing historical trends, existing conditions, and making projections of future conditions and housing needs, this assessment also identifies tools and techniques that communities can use to further balance housing based on proven successful housing solutions identified within the Northeast and across the nation.

Members engaged in discussion on topics which included the lack of housing for their communities and potential solutions, funding opportunities, where growth should happen, and TIF Districts.

D. Landry closed the Public Hearing at 9:47

3. Vote on the draft Regional Needs Assessment

K. Kasper motioned to approve the Regional Housing Needs Assessment. J. Boudreau seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

B. Fisher was excused from the meeting.

4. At 9:50 A.M. d. Landry adjourned the Commissioners portion of the meeting-and Convened the MPO Policy Meeting

5. Review minutes of February 17, 2023

M. Richardson motioned to approve the minutes of February 17, 2023. M. Bobinsky seconded the motion.

6. Discussion Items

a. Community Forum

Community Forum:

M. Towne, Barrington, reported that in the upcoming election in Lee, there is an article on for establishment of TIF district for downtown development. He stated it will bring many pieces in to play.

C. Horton reported that the Somersworth planning board just approved a 128 unit in downtown area. It should spur economic growth downtown.

M. Bobinsky stated that the landlord issue in Somersworth that has been reported in the news is isolated to one individual. He stated that this is not reflective of the majority of landlords in the city. The city is working on addressing these issues.

J. Czyns provided updates: There are two grant opportunities for municipalities. Both environmental. PREP opened their grant programs focused on water quality programs and the DES just opened their Coastal Program resilience grants. She stated the Commissioners Handbook and Annual report have been printed and are available to take. An introduction for new Commissioners has been rescheduled for next week. NHARPC is working to plan the Commissioner Convening. The theme is what's next in the housing needs.

MB-asked for the status on rt 108 complete streets-status? C. Lents answered that the plan is to have another meeting for public input.

b. Candidate regional CMAQ projects

C. Lentz gave a quick recap on the CEMAC projects. The criteria is the projects have a positive impact on air quality. There are a total of five projects being proposed from our region: one from Dover, one from COAST, one from UNH, and two that are from both UNH and Durham. SRPC no longer needs to rank and vote on these projects, but staff will still conduct air quality improvement analyses for each to demonstrate their benefits for reducing emissions.

c. Preview of draft Coordinated Transportation Plan

C. Lentz reviewed the draft Coordinated Transportation Plan. There will be a public hearing and public meetings. Colin will provide information in a meeting follow up email.

d. Ten Year Plan Projects-

C. Lentz gave an update on the status of the ten-year plan projects. He explained that Strafford MPO still needs to vote on the final list of candidate projects to be submitted to NHDOT for inclusion in

the draft Ten Year Plan. The deadline for this is April 1st. We should hear from DOT with their feedback of the candidate projects soon. That feedback will determine our final vote on the projects.

C. Lentz noted that the Durham Point Road project is ineligible for this Ten-Year Plan process because it is a local road which is not federal aid eligible. It is eligible for several other funding sources that are upcoming.

The members discussed the need for a group meeting focusing on project development and the funding sources available. Colin will work on scheduling a meeting.

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Citizen's Forum

There were no citizens comments.

9. Adjourn

M. Bobinsky motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by C. Horton. All in favor, meeting adjourned at 10:40 A.M.