

# STRAFFORD

Metropolitan Planning Organization

**Policy Committee Meeting**  
**Combined Meeting of the Stafford EDD & Strafford MPO**  
Meeting Minutes  
Friday, April 21, 2023  
9:00 – 10:30 AM  
Strafford Regional Planning Commission  
Rochester, NH

## 1. Introductions

**Members present:** D. Landry, Dover; B. Fisher, Farmington, D. Hamann, Rochester; Michael Williams, COAST; W. Burton, Durham; Peter Nelson, Newmarket; Barbara Holstein, Rochester; D. Landry, Dover; Katrin Kasper, Lee; Matt town, Barrington; Chris Horton, Somersworth; Mark Richardson, Somersworth.

**Staff Present:** Colin Lentz, Jen Czysz, Mark Davie

**Members attending on Zoom:** Joe Boudreay, Rochester; Steve Diamond, Barrington; Mary Woodward, Lee; Jessica Wilcox, NHDES; Glen Davison, NHDOT; Charlene Andersen, Nottingham.

Staff attending on Zoom: Rachel Dewey, Megan Taylor-Fetter

## 2. Commissioner Roundtable

M. Towne stated that the TIFF was defeated by voters in the Town of Barrington. There has been a lot of discussion to try for next year.

C. Horton stated that the Somersworth Planning Board approved a plan proposed by Sports Hub to erect new infrastructure and for site improvements to existing infrastructure. They are waiting for several permits to be approved including driveway permit. C. Lentz stated that SRPC can lend support with additional traffic count analysis.

W. Burton stated that the DOT has come up with a good plan to install a rotary at the intersection of Route 4 and Madbury Road. W. Burton reported that the Town of Epping has been dumping untreated run-off water into Lamprey River which could seriously endanger the water supply for Durham. The Federal agencies are involved but Epping is not doing anything to stop it. Senator Maggie Hassan is assisting the town in finding funding for a short-term restoration project to strengthen shorelines along great bay.

## 3. Public Hearing-2023 Coordinated Transportation Plan

D. Landry opened the Public Hearing. C. Lentz presented highlights of the Coordinated Plan and stated the Coordinated Plan concerns many forms of “community transportation” in the region. Community transportation refers to all transportation

resources in a community that are available to help meet people's mobility needs. These include both public and private services, such as fixed route bus shuttles for seniors, taxis, vans that churches or community organizations own and operate, and other services.

This plan needs to be in place for entities like COAST to access federal funds for transportation services for older adults and people with disabilities. There will be a public comment period for the plan starting in late March with a hearing at the April Policy meeting.

There was no discussion, D. Landry closed the Public Hearing.

#### **4. Action Items**

##### **a. Minutes from March 17, 2023**

D. Hamann motioned to accept the Minutes from March 17, 2023 seconded by B. Fisher. A roll call vote was taken: B. Fisher, D. Hamann, P. Nelson, W. Burton, M. Williams, W. Lehman, K. Golab, K. Kasper, B. Holstein, M. Towne, C. Horton, M. Richardson, D. Landy, J. Boudreau, S. Diamond, J. Wilcox, G. Davison, C. Andersen, all voted in favor. Motion passed with a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

##### **b. Approve the draft 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program**

C. Lentz explained the UPWP is a comprehensive program of all transportation-related tasks to be completed over the next two years. Strafford MPO is in the process of preparing the next UPWP with NHDOT which will cover state fiscal years 2024 and 2025 (beginning July 1st of calendar year 2023). Staff will be meeting with NHDOT in the next few weeks to discuss draft updates and will provide a summary of the updates and major projects anticipated for that two-year period.

The group discussed funding percentages.

D. Hamann motioned to approve the Draft 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program seconded by C. Horton. A roll call vote was taken: B. Fisher, D. Hamann, P. Nelson, W. Burton, M. Williams, W. Lehman, K. Golab, K. Kasper, B. Holstein, M. Towne, C. Horton, M. Richardson, D. Landy, J. Boudreau, S. Diamond, J. Wilcox, G. Davison, C. Andersen, all voted in favor. Motion passed with a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

##### **c. Approve the draft 2023 Coordinated Transportation Plan**

D. Hamann motioned to approve the 2023 Coordinated Transportation Plan seconded by M. Williams. A roll call vote was taken: B. Fisher, D. Hamann, P. Nelson, W. Burton, M. Williams, W. Lehman, K. Golab, K. Kasper, B. Holstein, M. Towne, C. Horton, M. Richardson, D. Landy, J. Boudreau, S. Diamond, J. Wilcox, G. Davison, C. Andersen, all voted in favor. Motion passed with a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

##### **d. Final Ten-Year Plan Project ranking**

C. Lentz stated that it is time to make a final decision on the candidate Ten Year Plan projects. The TAC recommended that the Policy committee approve Scenario 2, which

would fund Somersworth's Main St Complete Streets and Lee's improvements to the intersection of NH155/George Bennett/Lee Hook Rd. This remains the top scoring scenario.

Discussion ensued on the decision process used to move forward with the selected projects.

K. Kasper, motioned to approve TAC's recommendation seconded by M. Towne. A roll call vote was taken: B. Fisher, D. Hamann, P. Nelson, W. Burton, M. Williams, W. Lehman, K. Golab, K. Kasper, B. Holstein, M. Towne, C. Horton, M. Richardson, D. Landy, J. Boudreau, S. Diamond, J. Wilcox, G. Davison, C. Andersen, all voted in favor. Motion passed with a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

#### **5. UNH Seniors – Climate Data Presentation**

The Seniors were not available to present. J. Czysz stated that these four UNH students have been working with staff member Autumn Scott who was invited by UNH to submit a project to the UNH sustainability program for capstone students. They chose to work on a review of the existing climate change chapter of the SRPC Regional Comprehensive Plan adopted in 2015. Identifying elements where data is out of date and new information is available. Still a couple more weeks to submit their final paper.

The group asked if the students could present a future meeting.

#### **6. Other Business**

Further discussion ensued on the issue of the Town of Epping dumping contaminated water into the Lamprey River. W. Burton read a letter from the acting DES enforcement officer to the Town of Epping.

M. Davie and R. Dewey shared that the new and improved snapshot will be going online today and it includes new data in several sections and new Community Profiles. It will soon include an excel workbook for custom analysis.

J. Czysz stated she is excited to announce that SRPC has hired two planners, Lisa Murphy and Angela Cleveland.

W. Burton suggested SRPC have more interaction with town administrators and suggested having them do a presentation on what they see as challenges and what they need help with.

#### **7. Citizens Forum**

There were no citizens present.

#### **8. Adjourn**

M. Towne motioned to adjourn seconded by C. Horton. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:20 A.M.