

**Strafford MPO Policy Committee Meeting**

Friday, May 19, 2023 9:00 – 10:30 AM

**1. Introductions: 9:18**

At 9:18 A.M., Chair Dave Landry called the meeting to order and asked for introductions.

**Members present:** William Fisher, Farmington; Don Hamann, Rochester; Tom Crosby, Madbury; Michael Williams, COAST; Peter Nelson, Newmarket; Barbara Holstein, Rochester; Katrin Kasper, Lee; Matt Towne, Milton; Joe Boudreau, Rochester; Mark Richardson, Somersworth; Chris Horton, Somersworth; Michael Bobinsky, Somersworth; Dave Landry, Dover; W. Burton, Durham

**Members attending on Zoom:** Steve Diamond, Barrington; Jessica Wilcox, NHDES; Ricky DiCillo, NHDES; Mary Woodward, Lee; Glen Davison, NHDOT

**Staff present:** Jen Czysz, Colin Lentz, Mark Davie, Troy Troy

**SRPC staff attending on Zoom:** Stephen Geis, Zuzzy Duffy, Rachel Dewey, Matthew Winders, Natalie Gemma

**2. Commissioner Roundtable**

J. Czysz introduced new staff member Troy who has joined SRPC as the summer traffic count intern.

W. Burton gave an update on the dumping of wastewater into the Lamprey River by the Town of Epping and stated it is under investigation by DES.

M. Williams reported that COAST will be returning suspended services starting Saturday.

**3. Public Hearing on the 2023-2026 TIP Amendment 1**

At 9:40 A.M. D. Landry opened the Public Hearing.

C. Lentz highlighted the projects and changes to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Amendment 1 includes proposed changes to three projects in the Strafford region:

- Somersworth (43840) – change in overall project timing
- Lee (41322) – additional funding for right-of-way
- Rochester (43552) – merging of two concurrent projects on NH11

C. Lentz stated that the TAC reviewed the draft amendment at their May meeting and recommended it for approval by the Policy committee.



The group reviewed the amendments and discussed the progress made on projects in their communities.

C. Lentz stated that for communities that have a project this is an opportunity to request a change with DOT for forthcoming minor or amendment.

D. Landry closed the Public Hearing at 9:48 A.M.

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

##### **a. Minutes from April 21, 2023**

D. Hammon motioned to accept the minutes of April 21, 2023 as written. T. Crosby seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A roll call vote was taken: W. Fisher, D. Hamann, Tom Crosby, M. Williams, P. Nelson, B. Holstein, K. Kasper, M. Towne, J. Boudreau, M. Richardson, C. Horton, M. Bobinsky, D. Landry, W. Burton, S. Diamond, J. Wilcox, M. Woodward and Glen Davison voted unanimously in favor. Motion passed.

##### **b. Approve Amendment 1 to the 23-26 TIP**

D. Hammon motioned to approve Amendment 1 to the 23-26 TIP. T. Crosby seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A roll call vote was taken: W. Fisher, D. Hamann, Tom Crosby, M. Williams, P. Nelson, B. Holstein, K. Kasper, M. Towne, J. Boudreau, M. Richardson, C. Horton, M. Bobinsky, D. Landry, W. Burton, S. Diamond, J. Wilcox, M. Woodward and Glen Davison voted unanimously in favor. Motion passed.

#### **5. Discussion Items**

##### **a. Presentation of draft Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)**

SRPC staff members Natalie Gemma and Zuzzy Duffy provided an overview of the Draft CEDS. The draft is in public comment until June 12 and there will be a public hearing at the Policy meeting on June 16<sup>th</sup>.

After the presentation, discussion ensued on topics including economic growth, inflation, labor force, unemployment. The members discussed business office vacancies due to increased telecommuting.

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

J. Czynsz stated that the Annual Commission Meeting will be split. The business portion will be a combined meeting with Policy on June 16 followed by the June 22 formal annual meeting luncheon. This year's theme is Planning for Solar, guests how to prepare.

B. Fisher thanked J. Czynsz for all her hard work and outstanding job while covering for K. Pimental.



M. Woodward stated that she has been tracking news on the Epping water dumping situation. Durham. Town Manager Todd Selig has expressed his concern given projection in periods of drought.

M. Woodward stated that air quality in Strafford County is not reported in the American Lung association study. It assumed Portsmouth air is the same. Do we keep digging or do we feel comfortable?

The committee was in consensus that Mary should pursue this issue adding it is difficult to separate environmental from economic.

J. Wilcox reported that DES has organized a clean city coalition event June 9 at the speed way – which will be geared towards highlighting different investments, fuels.

M. Richardson reported on the fires in Canada and that he is keeping an eye out.

## **7. Citizen's Forum**

None

## **8. Adjourn**

