

## Strafford Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee

### Meeting Minutes

Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> 2020

9:00 – 11:00 AM

Strafford Regional Planning Commission  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom  
Rochester, NH

The meeting was called to order at 9:05am

The chair read the following statement prior to the roll call:

The chair of the Strafford MPO Technical Advisory Committee has found that, due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-21, this Committee is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to the meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, this is to confirm that we are:

- *Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means.* We are utilizing the Zoom platform for this electronic meeting. All members of the Committee have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through the Zoom platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through dialing the following phone number 1-646-558-8656 and meeting ID 829 0534 5549, or by clicking on the following website address:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82905345549?pwd=eTQ4dEVrbjVPbm5iL2dqQmxIdXpyQT09>

- *Providing public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting.* We previously gave notice to the public of how to access the meeting using Zoom, and instructions are provided on the SRPC website at [www.strafford.org](http://www.strafford.org).
- *Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access.* If anybody has a problem, please call 503-896-7692 or email at: [clentz@strafford.org](mailto:clentz@strafford.org).
- *Adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting.* In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, we will adjourn the meeting and have it rescheduled at that time. Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by Roll Call vote. Let's start the meeting by taking a Roll Call attendance. When each member states their presence, also please state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know law.

## 1. **Attendance:**

### Committee Members

Marcia Gasses (Barrington), Scott Kinmond (New Durham), Leigh Levine (FHWA), Michael Williams (COAST), Tim White (NHDES), Shanna Saunders (Rochester), Michael Hoffman (Newmarket), Michelle Mears (Somersworth)

### Staff

Colin Lentz, Jackson Rand, Rachel Dewey, Natalie Moles, Stefanie Casella, Stephen Geiss

## 2. **Staff Communications**

J. Czysz and C. Lentz gave several updates on SRPC staff and projects.

## 3. **Action Items**

### 3.1 **Minutes from November 6<sup>th</sup> 2020**

M. Williams made a motion to approve the minutes as written.

Seconded by S. Saunders

Vote: M. Mears abstaining; otherwise unanimous in favor (via roll-call vote)

## 4. **Discussion Items**

### 4.1 2020 Annual Listing of Obligated Projects (federal funds spent in FY2020)

C. Lentz provided an overview of the draft 2020 Annual Listing of Obligated Projects. That document is a review of federal funding that was spent or “obligated” to transportation projects (including public transit) in the region over the past federal fiscal year (October 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>). C. Lentz reviewed some highlights from local and state-managed projects around the region and noted that public transit had received additional FTA funds for operating assistance during the pandemic.

### 4.2 Preview of Regional Planning Metrics – standardized data & snapshots for the MTP and other plans

R. Dewey gave an update on the standardized planning metrics database she had been working on with S. Geiss. She said the intent was to design a series of one to two-page snapshots to present the metrics. These snapshots will inform discussion in documents like the Metro Plan and Regional Economic Strategy and help reduce the amount of text in those plans. The database will include a wide range of metrics that are applicable to transportation and regional planning. R. Dewey presented draft reports for freight metrics (value and weight of freight commodities by rail and truck). They included draft graphics of individual metrics and descriptive text. She also presented draft data and reports on highway safety (the number and rate of fatalities; the number and rate of serious injuries; the number and rate of fatalities and serious injuries for non-motorized users; and the number of motorcycle fatalities). C. Lentz explained that the safety metrics are vital for setting highway safety targets that are due by the end of February. The most recent crash data that will inform target setting are from 2019, so do not include effects on traffic from the pandemic. C. Lentz noted that the number of pedestrian-involved crashes increased dramatically during the spring and summer of 2020 (compared to the previous year). R. Dewey said that trend will not be reflected in the data for setting 2021 safety targets, but it should be taken into account because it will affect

future trend lines and target setting. C. Lentz said he and R. Dewey would be releasing draft metrics in batches to let TAC members review them over time instead of all at once.

#### **5. Municipal Roundtable – Updates on local COVID-19 adaptation**

M. Williams noted that COAST's ridership had rebounded to 55% of pre-pandemic levels but has leveled out. He doesn't expect ridership to increase much more until COVID-19 infection rates decrease and employment picks back up.

S. Kinmond said he had recently moderated a panel on how municipal public works departments are preparing for winter with the pandemic still in full swing. He encouraged municipalities to join the statewide public works mutual aid group to coordinate with neighboring communities on maintenance and share resources. Resources and additional information are available on the UNH Technology Transfer Center website. C. Lentz asked if S. Kinmond or others are aware of FEMA's capacity and resources for the upcoming snow season. He thought they might be low on resources because of the large fires on the west coast and other recent disasters. S. Kinmond said he hadn't heard FEMA is low on funding for disaster declarations.

S. Kinmond asked if SRPC would be involved in distribution of the anticipated COVID-19 vaccine. C. Lentz said SRPC would not be involved in any way with vaccine distribution.

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

7. **Citizen's Forum** – Citizens of the Strafford region are invited to speak on the subject matter of the meeting. Statements should be limited to three minutes.

No citizens were present to provide input.

#### **8. Adjournment**

M. Williams made a motion to adjourn

Seconded by M. Gasses

Vote: unanimous in favor

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 am