

# Strafford Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee

## Meeting Notes

Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup> 2021                      9:00 – 11:00 AM

Strafford Regional Planning Commission  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom  
Rochester, NH

The meeting was called to order at 9:05am

A quorum was not present at the meeting so action items requiring a vote were postponed and unofficial meeting notes were recorded.

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 603-948-9483 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), Michael Hoffman (Newmarket), Michelle Mears (Somersworth), Shanna Saunders (Rochester),

### Staff

Jen Czysz, Stephen Geis, Colin Lentz, Nancy O' Connor, Rachel Dewey, Natalie Moles, Stefanie Casella, Alaina Rogers

## 2. Staff Communications

C. Lentz said SRPC staff were conducting interviews with candidate engineering firms to provide on-call engineering services. The selected candidate will provide engineering services to develop scopes and cost estimates for long-range metro plan projects, will develop a project database, and implement the SRPC travel demand model.

J. Czysz noted that the March TAC and Policy meeting agendas had three critical items and a quorum would be critical.

## 3. Action Item(s) [Motion required]

3.1 Review and approve draft minutes from January 8th 2021

Approval of the minutes was postponed till the next meeting

## 4. Discussion Items

4.1 How to make safety planning and improvements more comprehensive?

- Local Road Safety Plan pilot effort – how should we prioritize municipalities?

C. Lentz explained that SRPC has effective tools to reactively address highway safety concerns (such as intersections where fatalities have occurred), but local road safety plans offer a proactive approach to improving safety within a municipality. He explained that local road safety plans are developed through a collaborative approach, using crash data, to produce an implementation-focused set of safety improvements for a municipality. C. Lentz asked TAC members for their initial thoughts on how to prioritize municipalities for a pilot effort to develop a local road safety plan. He provided data on crashes resulting in fatalities and serious injuries between 2015 and 2019 from the National Highway Safety Administration, and municipalities in the region were ranked based on how many fatalities had occurred over that period. C. Lentz said the data could be used as a foundation. Based on the crash data, Rochester was the top urban community (8 fatalities) and Milton was the top rural community (7 fatalities).

Members discussed possible approaches to prioritizing a pilot effort, but asked C. Lentz to review the data and provide more context for fatalities and serious injuries before they made a decision on a pilot community.

C. Lentz explained that SRPC staff had discussed the possibility of analyzing the physical design geometry of roads and intersections for safety hazards (e.g. “Y” shaped intersections that reduce visibility). NHDOT is also interested in investigating such analysis.

## 5. Project Updates

## 5.1 Metro Plan: Review draft snapshot of Economic Vitality metrics

R. Dewey presented draft snapshots for metrics related to economic vitality:

- Housing costs
- Wages by household type
- In-area labor force efficiency
- Labor force size
- Labor force participation rate by age
- Percent of employees under the age of 18

R. Dewey asked for members to reach out to her and C. Lentz if they have any feedback on the metrics or their presentation. She said she would be providing batches of metrics regularly over the coming months. The metrics will be part of a large database and the snapshots will be included in the Metro Plan and other documents so that the amount of text in plans can be reduced to focus conversation.

## 5.2 Ten Year Plan, and TIP

C. Lentz reiterated that the STIP update, the candidate Ten Year Plan projects, and the draft FY2022-2023 UPWP will all be up for review and vote at the March TAC and Policy meetings. He requested that as many members attend as possible to ensure a quorum for those critical items.

## 6. Municipal Roundtable – Updates from your community

M. Bezanson said construction of the Strafford square roundabout would be starting this season – with utilities work in 2021, then roundabout construction in 2022.

N. Moles said she had been working with businesses to understand their challenges and technical assistance needs through a recent survey. She asked members to fill out the survey if they hadn't already.

J. Czysz asked for ideas from municipal staff about potential large facilities for administering vaccinations. M. Williams said many of the potential sites he had seen proposed were not accessible by public transit, and COAST had heard from multiple riders concerned about getting their vaccines since they can't drive.

## 7. Other Business

No additional business items were raised.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00