

Strafford Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes

Friday, May 7th 2021 9:00 – 11:00 AM

Strafford Regional Planning Commission
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

A quorum was not present to discuss and vote on action items. Members held an information-only meeting to discuss agenda items and ongoing projects.

1. **Attendance:**

Committee Members

Christopher Parker (Dover), Michael Williams (COAST), Bruce Woodruff (Milton), Tim White (NHDES), Linda Dusenberry (NHDOI), Kimberly Rummo (NHDOI), Michelle Mears (Somersworth)

Staff

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

2. **Staff Communications**

S. Casella said the SRPC resiliency sub-committee had met and hosted two speakers from NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management. The sub-committee discussed local hazard communication planning. The sub-committee will be collecting more information from municipalities around the region about local hazard mitigation efforts. S. Casella sent members a survey to distribute to local staff and board members.

S. Casella announced that she had accepted a position in the planning department with the City of Portsmouth.

C. Lentz said two interns would be joining SRPC for the spring and summer.

3. **Action Items**

- 3.1 Review and approve draft minutes from April 2nd, 2021
- 3.2 Draft 2021-2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan for public review [recommend to Policy]

No action could be taken on the above items due to the lack of a quorum.

C. Lentz presented information on the draft Metropolitan Transportation Plan (Metro Plan) for the committee's consideration. He reviewed the new plan structure which included more concise discussion of overarching regional planning issues, and a diverse set of implementation strategies. He noted that the data and metrics had all been migrated to a comprehensive regional data snapshot that could be regularly updated. The plan focuses on discussion of major issues and references the regional snapshot.

The draft Metro Plan comprises a 25-year set of projects. This includes the 4-year Transportation Improvement Program, six additional years in the New Hampshire Ten Year Plan, and long-range projects that are in the early visioning or planning stages.

4. Discussion Items

4.1 Review prospective bicycle projects in the region

C. Lentz reviewed a list of prospective bicycle infrastructure improvement projects. He noted that staff had not had an opportunity to present the list to TAC in the past because it was a short-term request from NHDOT and their consultant working on the Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. There were 10 “major” projects that would require significant construction, and 10 “minor” projects that could be accomplished with new striping or shoulder widening in conjunction with scheduled road maintenance operations. C. Lentz said and R. Dewey had developed the project list using the recent Bicycle Level of Traffic Stress analysis, and prioritized potential projects that created new links between existing bike-friendly routes or important destinations like downtowns. C. Lentz asked for feedback on the projects, which were also included in the draft Metro Plan for potential development and funding.

Members asked about adding projects currently funded or in the engineering phase. R. Dewey said NHDOT and the consultant had requested any bicycle-related projects already in process to be added to the state plan. C. Parker suggested adding a connection between the future end of the Dover Community Trail and Kingman Farm in Durham.

4.2 Local data services development

R. Dewey and S. Geis reviewed plans for the 2021 data collection season (usually between memorial day and late October). SRPC staff set traffic and turning movements counts, conduct local pavement condition assessments, assess local sidewalk conditions, set bike/ped counts on-request, and collect building permits.

J. Rand provided an overview of various GIS services SRPC can provide: Trail mapping, tax map updates, geospatial data development, and custom mapping. SRPC also has an online mapping portal which anyone can use to develop a range of standardized maps.

R. Dewey said SRPC wants feedback on the data collection and GIS services – what municipalities are looking for, what data they’re collecting themselves, and how SRPC can expand/improve existing services.

5. Municipal Roundtable – Updates on local COVID-19 adaptation Are there ways that SRPC can help your community recover from COVID-19?

- B. Woodruff asked about the status of Local Source Water Protection grants. J. Czysz said the contract had been approved by Governor and Council. B. Woodruff said Milton had a new town administrator and a local stormwater advisory group has been formed, but there is a lot of work to do locally.
- L. Dusenberry said NHDOT had received approval of the STIP update and would be proposing a draft amendment to the STIP that would be sent to the MPOs. The goal is to get the amendment approved before the end of September.

- T. White asked for C. Lentz's thoughts on a discussion at the recent Transportation Planners Collaborative meeting regarding electric vehicle charging. C. Lentz said he felt regional planning for new EV charging had been slow to start. He was interested in identifying potential charging sites from a regional perspective. He said the statewide focus was on building new level 1 fast chargers and had asked about the possibility of shifting focus to invest in level-2 chargers if more of them could be built with available funding. He was interested in future inter-regional planning for EV charging development.