

STRAFFORD

Metropolitan Planning Organization

**Strafford MPO
Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 4, 2023
Conference Room 1A, 150 Wakefield Street**

1) Introductions

Chair Bruce Woodruff suspended the quorum requirement due to a lack of an in person quorum and called the meeting to order.

Members present:

Michelle Mears, Somersworth; Bruce Woodruff, Milton, John A. Mullen, Middleton; Wayne Lehman, Lee; Vanessa Price, Barrington; Katrin Kasper, Lee; Marshall Goldberg, Brookfield.

Staff present: Jen Czysz and Mark Davie

Members attending on Zoom:

Steve Pesci, UNH; Michael Behrent, Durham; Lindsay Butler, Newmarket; Jessica Wilcox, NHDES; Ricky DiCillo, NHDES; Vanessa Partington, NHDES; William Rose, NHDOT; Bill Watson, NHDOT; Mike Mozer, NHDOT

Staff attending on Zoom:

Angela Cleveland; Stephen Geis

2) Staff Updates:

J. Czysz updated the group on new staff members Lisa Murphy, Senior Regional Planner, and Angela Cleveland, Principal Planner. Stephen Geis and Mark Davie have been promoted to Planner II level and Jackson Rand and Natalie have been promoted to Senior level planners. Kyle Pimental has been promoted to Assistant Director.

3) Community Updates

M. Goldberg stated that Brookfield is looking to adopt a Solar Planning ordinance and asked what other towns have an ordinance in place. The group responded: Milton, Barrington, Rochester and Durham have solar planning ordinances. V. Price stated that Barrington is working on amendments to their ordinance to address solar farms. M. Mears reported that Somersworth is also working on an ordinance.

STRAFFORD REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

150 Wakefield Street, Suite 12, Rochester, NH 03867

Barrington | Brookfield | Dover | Durham | Farmington | Lee | Madbury | Middleton | Milton | New Durham
Newmarket | Northwood | Nottingham | Rochester | Rollinsford | Somersworth | Strafford | Wakefield



K. Kasper, who is a circuit rider for Clean Energy NH, offered to reach out to her for assistance..

J. Mullen stated that Middleton is implementing a Sunrise Lake Watershed Plan.

4) Action Items

a) Minutes from May 5, 2023

M. Mears motioned to accept the minutes of May 5, 2023 seconded by K. Kasper. A roll call vote was taken: K. Kasper, V. Price, M. Goldberg, M. Mears, W. Lehman, B. Woodruff and L. Butler voted in favor. J. Mullen, S. Pesci, R. DiCillo, W. Rose, M. Behrendt abstained. Motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor.

b) Officer appointment

B. Woodruff stated he is stepping down as chair and asked for a motion to appoint M. Mears as Chair and M. Williams as Vice Chair. K. Kasper so moved seconded by M. Behrendt. A roll call vote was taken: K. Kasper, V. Price, M. Goldberg, M. Mears, W. Lehman, B. Woodruff and L. Butler J. Mullen, S. Pesci, M. Behrendt voted unanimously in favor. R. DiCillo, W. Rose, abstained. Motion passed.

c) Performance Targets: Pavement, Bridge and Travel Time Reliability

Mark Davie presented an overview of the performance areas and targets. SRPC is federally required to set performance targets in coordination with NHDOT. Some of those performance areas are pavement and bridge conditions, and travel time reliability.

There are 274 bridges in the region, of which 58.4% are in “good” condition (a better rate than NH as a whole) and 4.3% are in “poor” condition (a worse rate than NH as a whole).

The performance measures do not consider local roads. SRPC conducts local road condition assessments through the Road Surface Management System (RSMS). RSMS is a protocol for assessing road conditions, then developing a suggested 10-year local paving schedule through a computer model.

A Story Map of the SRPC MPO System Performance Report can be found on the SRPC website:

<https://srpc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=4dc604e5d3d54ebd81a5cb24a88efb1e>

In all target areas, staff are recommending that SRPC support the state targets rather than set specific regional targets. The primary justification is that SRPC does not directly influence pavement or bridge maintenance.

The new targets will be included on a draft System Performance Report that will be published once the pavement and bridge targets are approved.

B. Woodruff motioned to recommend the States Performance Targets to the Policy Committee as presented. John Mullen seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: B. Woodruff, J. Mullen, V. Price, M. Goldberg, M. Mears, W. Lehman, S. Pesci, M. Bobinsky, W. Rose and L. Butler voted in favor. R. DiCillo abstained. The motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor.

5) New Data Collection Technology

M. Davey stated the data collection team has been working on technology upgrades to SRPC's suite of data collection equipment. SRPC recently acquired a camera-based counter from a company in Concord called Leetron. It uses an artificial intelligence system to count vehicles and record data. SRPC is also deploying a loaner Leetron unit to help the company improve its AI system for recognizing pedestrians and cyclists.

This new system provides a safer process for data collection staff when they are out on the field.

6) Electric Vehicle Charging Toolkit

A. Cleveland presented on an online toolkit SRPC staff members have developed as a guide to assist municipalities prepare to meet the demand for Electric Vehicle charging stations in their communities. The guide is in a story map format for easy reading and focusing on topic areas of interest. New Hampshire is readying for a rapid increase in electric vehicles over the next 10-15 years.

This is living document and SRPC will continue to keep the guide updated. A. Cleveland thanked Jackson, Colin, and the team at Clean Energy for their help in getting this guide online:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/382955cb53144078824e0bf40ac0340f?item=1>

S. Pesci stated there is a potential struggle with building stations that can evolve, as things change.

7) Other Business

NHDES clean vehicle funding opportunities

R. DiCillo presented on the Green Fleets funding opportunity. Proposals are due October 13. This is a new \$10,000,000 program through VW funds and is a competitive

selection open to local governments. There are 3 main categories: replace older diesel vehicles and equipment with new diesel equipment funded at 80%, replacement of old diesel equipment with electric models at 95% funding, and funding for marine shore power, dockside plug-ins.

The NH Clean Diesel Program is similar but does not have as much restriction on the kind of equipment and can fund equipment like loaders, bulldozers, and construction equipment. EPA just opened up National Deer Program for larger projects of fleets of 50 or more. More information can be found on the US Department of Energy website: <https://afdc.energy.gov/states/nh>

K. Kasper asked where to find information on the kind of electric vehicles that are eligible to replace current diesel vehicles under the NH Clean Diesel program. R. DiCillo said the Alternative Fuels Data Center has a tool for identifying replacement vehicles.

8) Citizens Forum

M. Mears congratulated K. Pimental on his promotion to Assistant Director.

S. Pesci asked for an update from DOT on the larger pool of EV charging funds. Mike Moser, deputy program manager at DOT responded with an update and stated the department is working to spend NEVI funds. They have hired a consultant to help administrate the plan. DOT is having website issues and has not been able to keep up with updates. Looking at a possible combined website with the DES.

9) Adjourn

At 10:30 AM, K. Kasper motioned to adjourn seconded by B. Woodruff. A roll call vote was taken: B. Woodruff, J. Mullen, V. Price, M. Goldberg, M. Mears, W. Lehman, S. Pesci, M. Bobinsky, W. Rose and L. Butler and R. DiCillo voted in favor The motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor.