

STRAFFORD

Metropolitan Planning Organization

**Strafford MPO
Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2023
Suite 12, 150 Wakefield Street**

1) Introductions

Chair Michelle Mears called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Members present:

Michelle Mears, Rochester; Bruce Woodruff, Milton; Wayne Lehman, Lee; Vanessa Price, Barrington; Michael Williams, COAST; John Mullen, Middleton; Katrin Kasper, Lee; Shanna Saunders, Rochester; Jill Semprini, Dover;

Staff present: Colin Lentz,

Members attending on Zoom: William Watson, NHDOT; Jessica Wilcox, NHDES; Lucy St. John, NHDES; Leigh Levin, NHFWA;

Staff attending on Zoom: Megan Taylor-Fetter

2) Community Updates

C. Lentz reported that the Portsmouth Planning Board, at a recent meeting, meeting, granted an exception to the parking requirements for second story apartments planned for a building in downtown Portsmouth.

3) Action Items

a) Minutes from August 4, 2023

With a motion from B. Woodruff and a second by W. Lehman to approve the minutes of August 4, 2023, the motion passed with all in favor. L. St John abstained.

b) Minutes from October 13, 2023

With was a motion By W. Lehmann and a second by S. Saunders to approve the minutes of October 13, 2023 the motion passed with all in favor.

c) Transportation Improvement Program Amendment 3

C. Lentz stated that a few local projects have amendments that are worth noting. This is usually triggered when projects are above a certain threshold of funding changes. C. Lentz reviewed the TIP amendments and stated they will be going out



for official public comment period starting on Nov 7th and will continue through to the Policy/Commission meeting on the 17th

The projects with amendments are:

Program FTA5310,
FTA5339, Transportation Alternatives,
Lee 41322, bridge replacement of culvert carrying NH125 over Little Br.
Rollinsford-Dover 42578, address red list bridge carrying Oak Street
Program STBG-FTA,
Program EV-INFRA, NEVI Program,
Somersworth-Berwick, Salmon Falls bridge over Salmon Falls river
Milton-Acton ME, Rochester 44408, replace Church Street bridge
Statewide 4R projects

The group engaged in discussion on funding and provided feedback.

M. Williams motioned to approve the TIP Amendments as presented seconded by W. Lehman. Motion passed with all votes in favor.

4) Discussion Items

a. Comments from the MPO's on Statewide Carbon Reduction Program

C. Lentz highlighted the projects in the region and statewide and the comments from NHDOT on the statewide Carbon Reduction Program.

He stated that NHDOT is developing a carbon reduction strategy. MPO's sent NHDOT a letter several stating specific recommendations for how funds could be invested in projects and programs that will reduce carbon emissions in the state.

The group engaged in discussion on ways to reduce carbon emissions including how to reduce idle time with programmed traffic signals.

C. Lentz stated that this is still in development. The question is how best to invest dollars to reduce carbon emissions.

5) Other Business

C. Lentz stated there is late breaking information on the Safe Streets and Roads for All program (SS4A). The four MPOs will be hiring a consultant shortly to begin the process. The consultant will be writing a safety action plan for each of the regions. The main components of each plan will be:

1. a political commitment to a quantifiable "vision zero" goal. (hypothetical example: "50% reduction in fatal crashes by 2045")
2. a regional list of local projects prioritized for future implementation funding

in order for municipalities to apply for implementation funding in the current round, the plan will need to be written and approved by June 30th 2024. That is an extremely short turnaround time to conduct effective and inclusive outreach, get a comprehensive list of projects, and end with a plan of reasonable quality.

The question is do we try for a hurry-up offense to get it done by June 30th, or take our time and be ready for the next funding deadline in 2025?

There is a lot to do in a short period of time. The only thing the delay hinders is when communities can apply for implementation dollars. The general consensus of MPO's is to take their time.

The consensus of the group was to take the time and do a more thorough job on the plan for the fall.

6) Citizens Forum

There were no citizens present.

7) Adjourn

V. Price motioned to adjourn seconded by J. Mullen. All in favor. The meeting concluded at 9:55 A.M.