

BARRINGTON
BROOKFIELD
DOVER
DURHAM
FARMINGTON
LEE
MADBURY
MIDDLETON
MILTON



NEW DURHAM
NEWMARKET
NORTHWOOD
NOTTINGHAM
ROCHESTER
ROLLINSFORD
SOMERSWORTH
STRAFFORD
WAKEFIELD

Strafford Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

Adopted at April 3, 2009 TAC Meeting

March 6, 2009 Minutes

Present: Dave Sharples (Somersworth), Steve Pesci (UNH), Ed Lemos (Barrington), Wallace Dunham (Madbury), Leigh Levine (FHWA), Laurel Cox (Lee), Melodie Esterberg (Rochester), Rad Nichols (COAST), Kevin Russell (NHDOT-District 6), Chris Skoglund (NHDES-ARD) and N. Alexander (NHDOT)

Proxy Votes: Larry Brown (Milton) and Victoria Parmele (Northwood)

Members Not Present: Bruce Woodruff (Milton), John Law (Farmington), Mark Stevens (Middleton), Michael Clark (New Durham), Patrick Carroll (Rollinsford) and Tom Dube (Wakefield)

Guest: Jeff Santacruce (Greenman-Pedersen, Inc)

Staff: Cynthia Copeland (Executive Director), Myranda McGowan (Transportation Planner), Dan Camara (GIS/Transportation Analyst) and Marilyn Barton (Administrative Assistant)

Chair D. Sharples called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

1. Introductions

Introductions were made around the table and people gave their name and what town or agency they were representing.

2. Staff Communications

M. McGowan stated there would be a special MPO meeting/public hearing regarding STIP Amendment #1 at the Dover SRPC office at 10 a.m. on Friday, March 13, 2009 and noted TAC members were invited to attend. There was no other staff communications.

3. Draft Strafford MPO TAC February 6, 2009 Minutes

M. McGowan stated a change to the minutes was received from Glenn Davison under the heading, Transportation Project and Regional Priorities Solicitation. G. Davison asked the minutes be changed from "G. Davison stated the MPOs are assessing their projects" to "G. Davison stated the Executive Directors would be assessing projects and MPOs could work together to prioritize and update projects statewide using the zero-sum funding guidance", as it would better reflect the intent of his comments. M. McGowan noted the change has been made as requested.

D. Sharples asked for a motion to approve the minutes with changes as noted. W. Dunham made a motion and N. Alexander seconded that motion. All in favor, motion carried.

4. FY 2010-2011 Unified Planning Work Program

M. McGowan stated she had no new updates at this time. M. McGowan stated if anyone was interested in writing an SPR grant to please let her know, as NHDOT would like it included in the new UPWP.

C. Copeland stated it would be a different process and noted previously when assisting communities with SPR's in development of their applications, was to make sure it was fair and competitive. C. Copeland stated going into this process changes things and would not be as open as before and stated concern for TAC as a group and how they wanted to handle it and recommendations going forward. C. Copeland stated they would need to find a way to make this process work and that there is a general understanding of the process.

S. Pesci asked if the SPR goes in the UPWP and starts this fiscal year is there a possibility the project could be done right away? M. McGowan stated yes as she understood it.

C. Copeland asked N. Alexander to speak more on this. N. Alexander stated the UPWP sets the approach what direction the MPO is going to take transportation for a two-year period and that approach should include studies and how it impacts the day-to-day work done for transportation, depending on the project. N. Alexander noted the UPWP should tell everyone what work would be done for the next two years.

S. Pesci stated UNH is at the stage where a carefully crafted study could begin and be mutually acceptable to Durham and UNH. S. Pesci noted the study using SPR funds, would be to do model runs and calibrating it with the regional model. He noted they could work together to deal with some of the long term-issues. S. Pesci stated he and Jim Campbell would like to sit with SRPC staff to discuss some of these projects.

M. McGowan stated SRPC is looking at contacting members of the communities, Newmarket, Dover and Durham, to see if they would be interested in doing a corridor study of Route 108. M. McGowan noted last year this was of interest to the towns.

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S. Pesci stated that especially as the Pease Trade Port grows, traffic coming up from Route 108 is a concern. He also noted that Durham has ongoing zoning Master Plan issues with the Route 108 corridor and this corridor study would be relevant for the town.

W. Dunham stated that Madbury is part of Route 108 and would be concerned if their town was not involved with this study. M. McGowan stated Madbury would be involved.

N. Alexander stated one of the changes DOT is pursuing for the UPWP is to incorporate more performance measures and improve reporting to see exactly what was done.

S. Pesci asked if the transit ridership survey would qualify as an SPR? S. Pesci noted Wildcat and COAST would like to work on that with SRPC as well.

C. Copeland stated 5304 funds are now to be highlighted in the UPWP.

R. Nichols stated the focus is on spending the 5304 Funds on the whole coordination concept that DOT and DHHS are working on. R. Nichols noted they got around \$140,000 worth of requests and thirteen different projects.

5. Economic Stimulus Update

L. Levine gave a PowerPoint presentation on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). L. Levine stated it was enacted on February 17, 2009 and gave an overview on the objectives, funding and requirements of the Act. A discussion ensued about certifications and distributions. L. Levine stated the website, www.fhwa.dot.gov/economicrecovery, would also give more information on this and handed out a packet with the latest information on projects.

6. Transportation Projects and Regional Priorities Solicitation

M. McGowan stated letters had been sent out to the communities a couple of weeks ago and SRPC has been scheduling meetings with various agencies and communities in the region. M. McGowan noted TAC members should go back to their communities and speak about the letter and regional priorities and give careful consideration of projects they would like to see in the next Ten Year Plan.

D. Sharples asked how does this fit in with those projects that are shovel ready but aren't in the plan, such as T/E projects? M. McGowan stated to put them on the list as there will be another round in the summer and this would be a good time to do this.

M. McGowan asked if anyone had any questions about these meetings? D. Sharples asked if they were meeting with the legislative bodies of the communities? M. McGowan stated that with some of the towns they were, but it was really however the community wanted the meeting set up.

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7. Proposed NH Ozone Non-Attainment Boundaries

C. Skoglund handed out maps regarding the ozone non-attainment boundaries. C. Skoglund noted NH is in the process of revising its ozone non-attainment boundaries as the EPA has come out with a more stringent 8-hour standard and DES is currently working with the EPA to revise the current boundary.

C. Skoglund stated this was reviewed and shared with the RPC's in the State. C. Skoglund stated variety of options were looked at, which included expanding the boundaries to include Belknap, Hillsboro and Merrimack counties and also expand to include Massachusetts and Rhode Island. C. Skoglund stated it was a concern of the RPC's, DOT and DES that expansion of the boundaries would not benefit the region and the goal of DES is to protect air quality by action and activities to realize air quality benefits. C. Skoglund noted that Belknap, Merrimack and Hillsboro counties would also require modeling capabilities and would require more personnel hours to build up that ability to model.

C. Skoglund stated the EPA has been receptive to the comments from DES, DOT and the RPC's, however that was no guarantee they would accept the revised area, as it is much smaller than anticipated. C. Skoglund stated DES submitted to the EPA on March 12, 2009 and the EPA will have until November 2009 to come back with any concerns. C. Skoglund noted the final designation is March 2010 with final implementation to follow.

C. Skoglund there would be an additional ten towns added into SRPC region although Brookfield and Wakefield are not included as they are part of Carroll County.

8. 2009-2012 TIP/STIP Amendment #1

M. McGowan noted a public hearing would be held on March 13, 2009 at the SRPC office. M. McGowan stated there were several projects in the STIP amendment. capital program funds for COAST-Fastrans, Main Street in Durham, Dover projects and went over the various projects included. S. Pesci asked shouldn't TAC make a formal approval of STIP Amendment #1 and recommend it be forwarded to the MPO for approval? Chair D. Sharples asked for a motion. S. Pesci made a motion and R Nichols seconded the motion. It was noted there were two abstentions-L. Cox and E. Lemos. The majority vote carried forward and the motion carried.

9. Safe Routes To School

M. McGowan handed out the applications and scoring sheets for William Allen School and Somersworth School District as an update and noted they would be sent to DOT by March 30, 2009. M. McGowan stated the SRTS Coordinator, John Corrigan is thinking of an open enrollment for startup funds with the travel grant funds which means schools wouldn't have to wait until the next round of funding to get applications in process. M. McGowan noted there was

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\$100,000 infrastructure; \$5,000 for start up funds and \$15,000 travel grants funds and stated she would keep TAC informed.

10. Scenic Byways Update

M. McGowan noted Dean Eastman came in the SRPC office approximately two weeks ago and spoke about how the process works and SRPC would be applying for a grant by August 2009. D. Sharples asked what the role TAC played in this? M. McGowan stated it was an informational update. SRPC would be creating an application for Route 108 to include Newfields, Newmarket, Dover, Rollinsford, and possibly Berwick, Maine for Scenic Byways and SRPC would be applying for a grant by the end of August 2009 and next year apply for a National Byways designation.

11. Project Updates

D. Camara stated the census updates were almost ready to be submitted to the Census Bureau and noted there was great participation by the communities and only three communities had census track changes.

C. Copeland stated there have been some questions as to the status of the Little Bay Bridges project in Newington-Dover. C. Copeland stated M. McGowan had contacted Seacoast Commuter and the NH Rideshare Program as well as the project manager for the Little Bay Bridges.

C. Copeland stated the Rochester meeting for a park and ride is going forward and there is also discussion for a location of a park and ride for the Durham-Barrington area due to the loss of the park and ride at the Sugar Shack at the Lee Traffic Circle. C. Copeland stated this is all part of the mitigation action to get the park and rides for Dover, Rochester and the replacement in Lee.

C. Copeland noted the Spaulding turnpike part of the mitigation is moving forward as well as the Seacoast Commuter rideshare and M. McGowan has been looking at what is going on at the Pease Tradeport in regard to that.

R. Nichols asked how these were being forwarded? M. Esterberg stated Rochester had been contacted by DOT to discuss and is part of requirement of the turnpike widening and is a preliminary discussion with the City.

C. Copeland stated SRPC would like to be part of the park and ride discussions.

S. Pesci stated UNH is looking at getting a park and ride back to the Lee Traffic Circle, particularly the east side of traffic circle and not the west side as the park and ride was previously due to the bus route and in that way there would be more logical for transit services and future Little Bay Bridges transit service.

L. Cox stated concern about wetlands on that part of the traffic circle, particularly the Oyster River.

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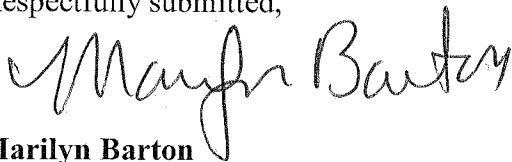
S. Pesci noted UNH was not looking at any particular parcel of land at this time.

C. Skoglund noted that NHDES has funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for projects – diesel emission funds-especially for transportation projects-engine upgrades, clean fuel, etc. and noted these funds are looking to clean emissions from vehicles on the road.

12. Adjournment

D. Sharples asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:36 a.m. W. Dunham made a motion and E. Lemos seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Marilyn Barton
Recording Secretary



Dave Sharples
Strafford MPO Technical Advisory Committee Chair

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