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ROCHESTER
ROLLINSFORD
SOMERSWORTH
STRAFFORD
WAKEFIELD

Strafford Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

Adopted at May 1, 2009 TAC Meeting

April 3, 2009 Minutes

Present: Rad Nichols (COAST), Craig Wheeler (Somersworth), Larry Brown (Milton), Dirk Timmons (UNH), Paul Parker (Farmington), Ed Lemos (Barrington), Nick Alexander (NH DOT), Melodie Esterberg (Rochester), Laurel Cox (Lee) and Bruce Woodruff (Dover)

Proxy Votes: Wallace Dunham (Madbury), Chris Skoglund (NHDES) and Victoria Parmele (Northwood)

Members Not Present: Jim Campbell (Durham), Mark Stevens (Middleton), Michael Clark (New Durham), Patrick Carroll (Rollinsford), Tom Dube (Wakefield), Diane Hardy (Newmarket) and David Sharples (Somersworth)

Guest: Jeff Santacruce (Greenman-Pedersen, Inc)

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

Vice-Chair R. Nichols called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. as Chairman D. Sharples was not available to chair the meeting.

1. Introductions

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

2. Staff Communications

There were no staff communications.

3. Draft Strafford MPO TAC March 6, 2009 Minutes

R. Nichols asked for a motion to approve the draft Strafford MPO TAC March 6, 2009 minutes. E. Lemos made a motion and D. Timmons seconded that motion. It was noted there were two abstentions-L. Brown and P. Parker as they were not at the prior meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

4. FY 2010-2011 Unified Planning Work Program

M. McGowan stated there were last minute revisions to the numbers as DOT had made changes and that the UPWP would be sent today to DOT. M. McGowan noted DOT wanted federal transit funds separate from federal highway funds and they wanted more details about the time spent on projects.

D. Camara stated the focus was on hours per task and non-personnel tasks. M. McGowan noted the task and activities have not changed just the allocation of funds. M. McGowan stated she would send a copy of the information she is sending to DOT to TAC members for their review.

5. Economic Stimulus Update

M. McGowan stated that after the last TAC meeting, she attended a meeting at DOT regarding recovery funds, which she said were included in the TAC packets mailed out. She noted it was about the process of applying for funds and noted they were very competitive.

R. Nichols stated COAST had sent out a request for quotes for a variety of projects, which included bus shelters and solar powered bus stop signs.

N. Alexander stated the projects are listed on the DOT website and were awaiting confirmation from the EPA on conformity.

6. Transportation Projects and Regional Priorities Solicitation

M. McGowan stated she and C. Copeland have been going out to the various communities and meeting with staff and selectmen to go over the projects and local and regional priorities. M. McGowan noted she would have the results of those meetings at the next TAC meeting in May 1, 2009.

D. Camara asked what the boxes in gray meant? M. McGowan stated those were the top five priorities the communities were asked to identify.

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M. McGowan noted she had the following comment from C. Skoglund of DES who could not attend the meeting: "As far as the project priorities listed in the packet, I would like it to be noted, if possible, that Intermodal Freight ranked 17th out of 18 in terms of priorities, but freight rail is often viewed as the means to expand passenger rail (ranked #6) and would therefore be a necessary first step that precedes passenger rail expansion, and that moving freight from road to rail reduces the costs to maintain existing roads #10 due to the reduction in wear and tear caused by trucks".

M. McGowan noted the list of projects and priorities would be sent to DOT by May 15, 2009. M. McGowan asked if this list needed to be recommended by the Policy Committee to go forward as she was not here since the last time it was done and it was determined there would need to be another Policy Committee prior to being sent out to DOT. A date of May 8, 2009 was determined to be the next meeting of the Policy Committee with more details to follow.

7. Proposed NH Ozone Non-Attainment Boundaries

M. McGowan stated C. Skoglund was planning on discussing this at the meeting but was unable to attend as he was at a Clean Cities Coalition meeting and would give more information at the upcoming May 1, 2009 TAC meeting. M. McGowan noted the NH Ozone proposal C. Skoglund spoke about at the last meeting regarding boundaries was sent to the EPA and they have the next year to accept what was proposed.

N. Alexander stated that DES indicated that EPA's initial response was positive.

8. Project Updates

M. McGowan stated the scores for William Allen School and the Somersworth School Department who applied for Round Three funding, had been sent to John Corrigan at SRTS. M. McGowan stated the William Allen School would be giving a presentation to the Advisory Committee on April 28, 2009. M. McGowan noted these schools should know by the end of June 2009 if they received funding. M. McGowan stated SRTS would soon be rolling out applications for start up funds and travel grants, which does not have the same deadlines as the general grant and would be more accessible.

M. McGowan stated she was doing an Operation Lifesaver presentation at Lebanon Elementary and Middle Schools that afternoon.

D. Camara noted it was traffic count season again and that should start in approximately early May and would be posting those results on the SRPC website

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R. Nichols stated at COAST the regional coordination effort matches up with the regional coordination plan during the past year. R. Nichols noted he is part of a statewide coordinating council that guides and directs regional councils and their efforts. R. Nichols stated a regional council which as yet to be formalized, Alliance For Community Transportation (ACT), has been meeting for years on this issue. R. Nichols noted progress on this is being held up due to legal protections for this group, as ultimately they would be making recommendations on a lending a contract to an organization to provide brokerage services. R. Nichols stated they were working with the Attorney General's office to resolve this issue.

R. Nichols stated ACT's Annual Spring Summit would be held on April 17, 2009 at the Great Bay Gallery in Somersworth and noted this was a great opportunity to conduct outreach education. M. McGowan stated if anyone wanted to attend this event, to let her know. R. Nichols stated UNH has been conducting an ongoing survey of consumers and would give results of that survey at the Summit.

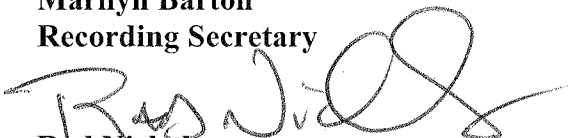
9. Adjournment

R. Nichols asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 a.m. L. Brown made a motion and E. Lemos seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Marilyn Barton
Recording Secretary



Rad Nichols
Strafford MPO Technical Advisory Committee Vice-Chair

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