

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 September 3, 2009 TAC Meeting

August 7, 2009 Minutes

Present: Steven Ireland (NHDOT-District 6), Bruce Woodruff (Dover), Rad Nichols (COAST), David Sharples (Somersworth), Dirk Timmons (UNH), Ed Lemos (Barrington), Leigh Levine (FHWA), Melodie Esterberg (Rochester), Jim Campbell (Durham), and Laurel Cox (Lee)

Proxy Votes: Wallace Dunham (Madbury), Ed Wojnowski (Newmarket), Victoria Parmele (Northwood), Larry Brown (Milton), and Nick Alexander (NHDOT)

Members Not Present: Charter Weeks (Barrington), Chris Parker (Dover), Paul Parker (Farmington), Mark Stevens (Middleton), Michael Clark (New Durham), Mark Fuller (New Durham), Diane Hardy (Newmarket), Patrick Carroll (Rollinsford), Nathaniel Leach (Rollinsford), Craig Wheeler (Somersworth), Tom Dube (Wakefield), Chris Skoglund (NHDES-ARD) and Steve Pesci (UNH)

Guest: Rebecca Brown (Greenman-Pedersen, Inc)

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

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 that because it would affect the operations of the TAC Committee, she wanted to let everyone know that she was expecting her first child at the end of the year.

Planning and action for sustainable development and an improved quality of life.

3. Draft Strafford MPO TAC June 26, 2009 Minutes

R. Nichols asked for a motion to adopt the minutes from the June 26, 2009 TAC meeting. D. Sharples noted that his name was missing from attendees present and did attend that meeting and that Melodie Esterberg's name appeared under those present and those not present. M. Barton stated she would make those changes. R. Nichols asked for a motion to adopt the draft June 26, 2009 minutes as amended. D. Sharples made a motion and D. Timmons seconded that motion. It was noted there was one abstention-B. Woodruff. All in favor, motion carried.

4. Appointment of Vice-Chair for Fiscal Year 2010

R. Nichols asked if there was anyone interested in becoming the vice-chair for FY 2010. D. Sharples volunteered to be the vice-chair for the upcoming year.

5. Transportation Enhancements Grants – Review and Adoption of Draft Regional Scoring Process and Update on Timeline

M. McGowan stated she and other SRPC staff members recently attended one of the municipally managed workshops required by NHDOT and learned information about funding estimates.

M. McGowan stated the intent of the discussion was to review the draft scoring process and noted the process is quite different than procedures used in the Transportation Enhancements grants. M. McGowan noted the proposed scoring process would be in two sections: One that every application will complete and is general grant information asked of all applicants and the other section is activity specific and each application will fit into it's own category so projects that aren't similar aren't competing with one another for points. M. McGowan noted in the past, the trend was that the scoring criteria favored bike and pedestrian projects and SRPC wanted to make it as even as possible for types of projects. M. McGowan also noted that communities not paying their dues for FY 2010 will automatically be penalized fifteen points per application as to ensure equity to communities that pay their fair share of the dues.

M. McGowan stated they would need five volunteers to come to the SRPC office and rank the projects.

B. Woodruff stated this money is a competition for federal money and that the issue of dues not being paid is a local and state issue and that this should be thought of more in depth before becoming part of the process. B. Woodruff stated it had to do with fifteen points being taken away if dues were not being paid. B. Woodruff noted UNH for example, does not pay dues but receives the fifteen points and that this is not a level field because the municipalities do not receive the fifteen points if dues are not paid. B. Woodruff stated because of that it is a fairness issue and possibly an equal protection issue and constitutional issue. B. Woodruff noted that communities are applying for federal money because they are financially strapped and that there should be a protection under the law for communities applying for federal funds. B. Woodruff stated we should look at ourselves as a region and not individual pieces.

Leigh Levine stated FHWA supported the MPO's policy in this rationale and incentives to pay dues. M. McGowan noted Rockingham Planning Commission is doing the same thing and penalizing non-paying dues members and noted that NHDOT also supported this provision in the proposed scoring criteria.

L. Levine stated the past history of communities receiving Transportation Enhancements grants should be looked as there has been federal money promised to projects and the projects are still sitting there. L. Levine stated this should be considered in the process. L. Levine noted that as a reminder that this is a reimbursable program and invoices would be paid and then reimbursed to the communities.

M. McGowan reviewed the draft scoring criteria and there were various questions asked and it was decided to have a sub-committee to evaluate the process. The following people volunteered: R. Nichols, B. Woodruff, M. Esterberg, D. Sharples, E. Lemos, J. Campbell and L. Cox. It was decided they would meet after the TAC meeting was over. R. Nichols noted that C. Copeland said the Executive Committee had a policy on this and invited her to discuss that.

C. Copeland stated Bill Watson and the Executive Committee had been in discussion for the last two years regarding the equity and fairness issue with federal dollars and that the committee members wanted to be fair and equitable with communities not paying their dues and those that pay dues. C. Copeland stated the Executive Committee was very clear there needed to be some kind of restriction for communities not paying their dues and give those communities carrying the burden, a step up for services and access to grants and projects. C. Copeland stated since the discussion of dues in relation to the scoring process was brought up, she wanted it known why this was process was being followed.

M. McGowan gave out historical information on how much money was spent and how many projects had been done in the past.

L. Levine stated that on page five of the proposed scoring criteria, it should clear for communities that receive funds, they will have to maintain the facilities and that the emphasis is going to be on accurate project cost estimates. M. McGowan stated she would spell that out more clearly. A discussion ensued about the communities' policies as far as maintenance of sidewalks and legislation in regard to that and ADA issues. M. McGowan also gave a timeline for the process.

6. Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Grants – Review of NHDOT Guidance and Application

M. McGowan stated she had no updates as the new application and guidance is not available from NHDOT and would hand those out at an upcoming meeting when they became available.

7. Public Transit ITS Update - Presentation

R. Nichols stated COAST had been working on a significant project with Google; incorporating a Google transit feed for public transit services in the region. R. Nichols noted COAST had

recently been speaking with UNH about this as well. R. Nichols stated the information has been uploaded to Google and is ready for testing. R. Nichols explained that this was in part due to the efforts from D. Camara and the Rockingham Planning Commission.

R. Nichols explained that when a person does a search for directions using Google, it will also show how to reach that destination using public transit and give detailed instructions on how to use the public transit and where various public transit locations can be found. R. Nichols noted this will be a tremendous tool and that it is free. R. Nichols stated COAST had hoped to be live by now but due to delays by Google, as it is very popular, that had not happened.

R. Nichols stated they are hoping to turn this into a regionally based feed and incorporate COAST, Wildcat, The Downeaster and C&J Bus into a single feed. R. Nichols stated he would present the finished project in upcoming meetings.

8. 2009-2012 TIP/STIP Amendment #3

M. McGowan stated a draft form should be available next week and the final version should be available by the next TAC meeting. M. McGowan explained the upcoming process related to STIP Amendment #3, at the September TAC meeting, a motion will be needed to approve recommendation of the document to the Policy Committee meeting at their September 24, 2009 meeting.

9. Ten-Year Plan and GACIT Process Update

M. McGowan noted there would be a GACIT meeting on August 24, 2009 at 10 a.m at NHDOT and the draft version of the next Ten Year Plan would be available at that meeting. M. McGowan stated DOT would like communities to give their stories about their transportation projects and needs.

10. Project Updates

M. McGowan stated that Round 4 of the Safe Routes to School Program is scheduled to begin on September 14, 2009. M. McGowan noted that one of the biggest revisions being suggested by the Statewide Advisory Committee is to increase the infrastructure cap on projects from \$100,000 to \$200,000 or \$250,000. M. McGowan noted this is a one hundred percent reimbursable program.

M. McGowan stated SRPC staff members have attended several meetings in the past few months to discuss potential locations for park and ride lots in the City of Rochester and the Town of Lee and discussion ensued regarding updates for these locations. M. McGowan noted that the Town of New Durham had a parcel of land owned by NHDOT off of Route 11 that would be a good location for a park and ride lot.

11. Adjournment

R. Nichols made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 a.m. J. Campbell made a motion and D. Sharples seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Marilyn Barton
Recording Secretary



Rad Nichols
Strafford MPO Technical Advisory Committee Vice-Chair

