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NEWMARKET
NORTHWOOD
NOTTINGHAM
ROCHESTER
ROLLINSFORD
SOMERSWORTH
STRAFFORD
WAKEFIELD

Strafford Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

Amended and Approved at the March 7, 2008 TAC Meeting

January 4, 2008 Minutes

Present: Wally Dunham (Madbury), Larry Brown (Milton), Diane Hardy (Newmarket), Rad Nichols (COAST)-tardy, Becky Ohler (NH DES-ARD), Nick Alexander (NH DOT), Leigh Levine (FHA), Paul Foundoukis (FHA), Steve Ireland (NH DOT-District 6), Nathaniel Leach (Rollinsford)

Proxy Votes: Chris Parker (Dover - Alternate), John Law (Farmington), Melvin Jenkins (Lee), Mark Fuller (New Durham - Alternate)

Members Not Present: Bruce Woodruff (Dover), Mark Stevens (Middleton), Michael Clark (New Durham), Ed Wojnowski (Newmarket), Melodie Esterberg (Rochester), Tom Willis (Rochester - Alternate), Ed Jansen (Rollinsford - Alternate), David Sharples (Somersworth), Craig Wheeler (Somersworth - Alternate), Brian Jennison (NH DES-ARD - Alternate), Shelley Winters (NH DOT - Rail & Trails), Steve Pesci (UNH), Dirk Timmons (UNH - Alternate), Tom Reinauer (SMRPC), Paul Schumacher (SMRPC - Alternate)

Guests and Staff: Dean Eastman (DOT), Dale Abbott (SRPC), Myranda McGowan (SRPC), Marilyn Barton (SRPC)

B. Woodruff was not able to attend the meeting due to military duty and D. Sharples was to run the meeting as Vice-Chair of the Committee. D. Abbott called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM as D. Sharples had not arrived and a decision was made to start 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

No staff communications were made.

3. Draft Strafford MPO TAC November 1, 2007 Minutes

A discussion to accept the draft November 1, 2007 minutes were delayed until a quorum could be reached.

4. Draft Ten Year Plan Update

M. McGowan stated that the Draft Ten Year Plan has been given to the Governor's Office and then will go to the Legislation. She stated the Governors Advisory Council on Intermodal Transit (GACIT) approved the Draft Ten Year Plan on December 3, 2007. A listing of the projects broken down by Executive Council District located in the Strafford Regional Planning Commission boundaries was handed out. *L. Levine* stated that any changes made to the plan by the Legislation needs to be given back to the Governor's office by June 2008.

5. STIP Amendment #6 Draft Report

A copy of the draft STIP Amendment #6 was sent out to TAC members prior to the meeting for their review. *D. Abbott* stated the draft project listing will be changing and asked *N. Alexander* when that would be. *N. Alexander* stated it would be changing very shortly and that it would be available to the MPOs prior to the next interagency phone call.

D. Abbott stated the draft report was a listing of projects. He noted the projects that pertain to the communities in this region were four projects in Dover, three of which are bridge projects. He stated the bridge projects were being delayed at the request of the City.

D. Abbott stated the Community Trail Project in Dover was delayed a year due to the fact that Dover did not get the environmental review to DOT on time. He also noted the left-turn lane on Long Hill Road was delayed a year.

D. Abbott stated that Exit 10 was removed from the plan. He also noted the Newington-Dover Bridge Project had been delayed and the funding pushed out.

D. Abbott noted the funding for the Rochester-Spaulling Turnpike Expansion has been increased and the project is moving forward. He also stated the bridge projects and widening of roads is also advancing.

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D. Abbott stated the Walnut Street project in Rochester has been delayed a year due to preliminary hearings by the City.

D. Abbott stated a new list would be brought to TAC at next month's meeting.

6. Fiscal Constraint Analysis

M. McGowan stated that after December 11, 2007 all TIP, STIP and long-range plans must be fiscally constrained. *M. McGowan* explained that fiscal constraint requires that public and private revenues in transportation planning are identified and are reasonably expected to be available. In Air Quality Non-Attainment regions, TIP and STIP revenue must be available for the first two years. She also stated that there should be realistic assumptions about such revenue rather than just a list of projects that would like to be done.

N. Alexander stated the list is being worked on with new requirements. He stated there has been some discussions with Federal Highway and will be discussing more with Interagency. He stated the initial approach is using a project-by-project basis, potentially applying inflation.

S. Ireland stated that initially on larger projects programming should be looked at rather than cash flow sense. He noted that larger projects might show the entire construction in an entire year and stated the State would never incur that expense in an entire year. He gave an example of a forty million dollar project and how it would be distributed throughout three years. He noted this is a better way try to reflect that in the STIP.

D. Abbott stated that MPO's aren't involved in programming of projects and that inflationary costs would have to come down from DOT.

D. Hardy asked if this was the same thing as amortizing the cost. *N. Alexander* stated that it was. *D. Hardy* stated it sounds like the steps a town takes for their Capital Improvement Plan.

7. Annual Listing of Obligated Projects

D. Abbott explained the purpose of this annual listing was to show how transportation dollars are being funded and how long projects will take.

The Annual Listing of Obligated Projects was handed out. *D. Abbott* stated it is a federal requirement that MPO's publish this annual listing within three months after the end of the program year. *D. Abbott* noted this was in line with the federal fiscal year-from October – September 2007. He also noted this handout gave a background of the MPO and why this listing

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is done. He stated it also includes project listings, funding amounts and obligation dates. *D. Abbott* stated the listing includes negative obligation or de-obligation and why that might occur. *D. Abbott* noted the projects are listed out by each town. *D. Abbott* noted that COAST provided dollar amounts for federal dollars, which were obligated to them.

D. Abbott stated that Project 12664 from 1996 highlights to the general public how long projects take to be implemented. He noted that a lot of the projects are statewide and not region/location specific. *D. Abbott* stated that the listing is available on our website and would be making it available at local libraries. He stated an ad would be placed in Foster's Daily Democrat stating that information.

He also stated that DOT published a listing of projects of obligated funding in early December.

D. Abbott stated by next year the goal would be to have increased visualization of projects. He asked if there were any questions or comments.

L. Brown asked if monetary amounts could be put on the map to show low-high costs. *R. Nichols* asked if a column could be added to show the original costs or estimate of the projects. *D. Abbott* stated if data is available, that information could be included.

B. Ohler asked about the ability to compare the initial costs and see how close it was and what the inflation factor was.

D. Hardy asked if the de-obligated funds were available for other projects. *L. Levine* stated that if it were used for another aspect of the same project than it could be used. Otherwise it goes back to DOT. He gave the bus purchases in Durham as an example of using leftover funds.

8. SPR Grant Round: Sub-Regional Corridor Studies

M. McGowan stated that sometime in January, DOT would be announcing a new round of SPR grants and explained that SRPC would like the input of the communities and TAC to determine what projects should be considered to apply for a grant. She also asked *N. Alexander* about the timeline for submitting applications for these grants.

N. Alexander stated the grants would be open by the end of January. He stated there are five grants with a \$65,000 limit and a twenty percent match. He noted it would a similar application and review process as the previous years grant application process. He stated the contracts with the selected applications would be set to go by July 1, 2008.

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B. Ohler stated that the CMAQ Advisory Committee gave priority to projects that came from a corridor study or some other study and that should be kept in mind when deciding what projects should be submitted.

R. Nichols asked about corridor studies done in the past. *D. Abbott* stated there was the Route 125 Corridor Study, Route 16 Corridor Study and several years ago there was the Route 11 Corridor Study. He stated Route 202 would be one for a corridor study because of high truck volume and Route 108 from Newmarket to Dover. *D. Hardy* stated that Route 108 from Newmarket to Newfields would be another good candidate for a corridor study.

D. Abbott asked that if there are any other ideas for possible corridor studies to please let us know.

B. Ohler stated that since Exit 10 was removed from the Ten Year Plan, a possible study could look at alternate routes into Somersworth. *D. Abbott* stated since it was removed from the Ten Year Plan, the goal was to apply for a SPR grant to identify alternatives along Route 108 near Weeks Crossing.

L. Brown stated that the Route 11 Parallel road needs to be widened and access management needs to be addressed. *D. Abbott* stated the MPO previously recommended Route 11 as a corridor study as it is the major connector to the Seacoast.

R. Nichols asked what state corridors consisted of. *D. Abbott* stated that the Routes of 4, 16, 101, 95 and 93 were associated with the State. He stated he was not sure if Route 125 was part of it. *D. Abbott* also noted these were in the State's business plan and these corridors were in draft form and not approved yet. *D. Abbott* also stated Route 202 was not part of it.

L. Brown asked about any Route 202 cross border discussions.

D. Abbott stated there is a Route 236 Corridor Study being completed by the Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission and they are members of our TAC/Policy Committees. He stated that *M. McGowan* does attend their meetings and better coordination is needed to improve them becoming involved.

9. 2009-2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

M. McGowan stated requirements of new updates from the Metropolitan Plan. She stated some have been done such as the Annual Listing of Obligated Projects, the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan, and the Public Participation Plan.

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M. McGowan stated the Strafford MPO is currently completing an update to the 2009-2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and will be completed during the summer 2008. *M. McGowan* also stated that she would be conducting interviews with passenger rail, bus service, bike and pedestrian services or others relevant to transportation issues in the region. *M. McGowan* asked that if anyone knew others for her to interview, to please let her know.

M. McGowan noted that she has already met with or will be meeting with S & J Transportation, Pan Am Railway, Smartway Transportation, Motor Transportation Association and Granite State Coalition.

D. Hardy stated that S&J Transportation is a good contact to have.

B. Ohler stated that it would be beneficial to touch base with the Rockingham Planning Commission as the freight operators in the area go between the two boundaries. *M. McGowan* stated she would be in touch with them as well as the Southern Maine Planning Commission. *R. Nichols* stated she should contact UPS in Dover and FedEx in Portsmouth. *M. McGowan* stated she was having trouble getting a local phone number for the UPS office in Dover. *N. Leach* stated he knew someone there and could get a phone number.

10. Project Updates

D. Abbott stated that the road inventory projects are completed for our region and have been submitted to the DOT.

D. Abbott stated the Transportation Model Update was completed in December 2007. He also noted he will be going to visit RSG on January 22, 2008 to go over the model changes and wrap up the project.

D. Abbott stated that the draft ITS architecture has been released by the consultant working on the project. He also stated that the next working group meeting would be held on January 18, 2008 at the Exeter Town Hall.

M. McGowan stated that there were two public hearings in December regarding the Route 125 Corridor Study in Rochester and Barrington. She also stated the project will be wrapping up shortly and one more public hearing will be held in January in Barrington.

D. Hardy stated that the first phase of Newmarket's Main Street Reconstruction Project was completed on schedule and the section of road that was closed due to the construction reopened

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on December 14. She stated Phase II of the project would be next. *D. Hardy* also noted that Arbor Park received funding from COAST for upgrades. She stated 100 volunteers from Timberland cut trees and restored the wrought iron fence around the park.

R. Nichols stated that the upgrades done to the Newmarket bus stop was from their Community Funds project and that any community that has a COAST bus stop can receive money to help improve bus stops. He noted that funds from this project are getting tighter and they have some left.

R. Nichols stated that COAST purchased three used heavy-duty buses from California. He stated this would get COAST through the gap between now and the purchase of new equipment and would help with expansion. He stated these buses were approximately ten years old and cost \$36,000 each and approximately ten percent of what the cost for a new one is. He stated they would last five to six years and plans to have them on the road in the next couple of months after they are painted and seats have been reconfigured.

R. Nichols noted the purchase of four new buses is being delayed until next fall. He stated they were forty-foot transit buses with on-board surveillance with GPS capabilities, which would allow them to know where the buses are at all times.

R. Nichols noted that on June 1, COAST made a service change, which was the first one in years, as they could not meet schedules. He noted COAST serviced more than 375,000 passengers in 2007 and hoped to increase this by six to eight percent in 2008. He noted that COAST was doing well and they were running buses more frequently to keep up with the demand. He noted the key to their success was local financial support.

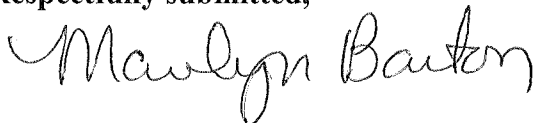
A quorum was available to discuss the minutes from the November 1, 2007 meeting. Minutes were unanimously approved as written with the correction of the spelling of *W. Dunham's* last name on page five. *R. Nichols* approved the minutes with the change and *B. Ohler* seconded the motion. *L. Brown* and *D. Hardy* abstained.

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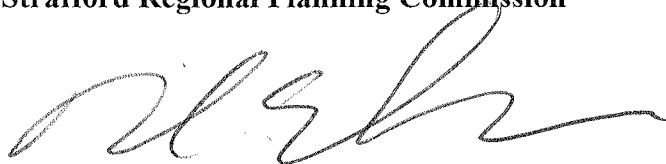
11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m..

Respectfully submitted,



**Marilyn Barton
Administrative Assistant
Strafford Regional Planning Commission**



**David Sharples
Technical Advisory Committee Vice-Chair**

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