

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

### DRAFT

APPROVED AT NOVEMBER 6, 2009 TAC MEETING

October 2, 2009 Minutes

**Present:** Rad Nichols (COAST), Stephen Pesci (UNH), Chris Skoglund (NHDES-ARD), David Sharples (Somersworth), Laurel Cox (Lee), and Leigh Levine (FHWA)

**Members Not Present:** Ed Lemos (Barrington), Bruce Woodruff (Dover), Jim Campbell (Durham), Paul Parker (Farmington), Wallace Dunham (Madbury), Mark Stevens (Middleton), Larry Brown (Milton), Michael Clark (New Durham), Diane Hardy (Newmarket), Victoria Parmele (Northwood), Melodie Esterberg (Rochester), Patrick Carroll (Rollinsford), Tom Dube (Wakefield), Nicholas Alexander (NHDOT), Steven Ireland (NHDOT-District 6)

**Guests:** Skip Skoglund (Greenman-Pedersen, Inc)

**Staff:** Myranda McGowan (Transportation Planner) 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 proxy votes can no longer be counted towards meeting a quorum. She also stated that phone participation is acceptable as long as a valid reason for not attending the meeting in person is provided. M. McGowan stated that changes to the SMPO by-laws would be made soon that reflect the new proxy vote policy. C. Skoglund asked what brought about this change.

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

D. Sharples replied that upon reading the Right To Know law he let SMPO staff know that he didn't believe proxy votes could still be used to meet a quorum. M. McGowan stated that upon further review it was determined that proxy votes could not be used to meet a quorum.

### **3. Draft Strafford MPO TAC September 3, 2009 Minutes**

Having no quorum, the draft minutes were not approved and will be on the agenda for approval at the November TAC meeting.

### **4. GACIT & 2011-2020 Ten-Year Plan Update**

M. McGowan stated that she attended the GACIT public hearing in Wakefield on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September. C. Skoglund asked if a schedule of the public hearings was available. M. McGowan stated that she would make the schedule available on SMPO's website. S. Pesci noted that there are three additional GACIT public hearings within the region.

M. McGowan noted that the public hearing in Wakefield was well attended by residents and staff of both Wakefield and Brookfield. M. McGowan noted that Wakefield was appreciative of DOT's intersection improvements along Route 16 and that they have noticed a dramatic decrease in accidents. She also noted that Brookfield's main concern was when Route 109 through Brookfield will be repaved. R. Nichols asked if anyone had mentioned transit at the public hearing. M. McGowan noted that no one besides herself spoke of transit at the public hearing.

R. Nichols stated to the TAC members that the NHDOT Commissioner asks that we speak our minds at these public hearings.

C. Skoglund noted also that providing innovative funding options at the GACIT public hearings would be very helpful to NHDOT.

R. Nichols noted that there is also a Finance Committee at NHDOT and asked if TAC could be notified of any updates from this committee.

### **5. Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Grants**

M. McGowan stated that the CMAQ guidance and application have not been released by NHDOT yet. She stated that it would be made available as soon as NHDOT releases the information.

L. Levine stated that he sent an email to M. McGowan that included a summary of conclusions and case studies related to the Phase II evaluation. He also asked that M. McGowan distribute his email freely amongst the TAC and SMPO region.

C. Skoglund asked for more information regarding the rescission of state planning funds. L. Levine stated that the rescission is going through and that it affects all formula funds that each state receives. He also noted that there has been a one-month extension of funding nationwide,

as the federal fiscal year and the current federal transportation bill expired on September 30. L. Levine also stated that the United States Congress has passed a one-month extension of the current transportation bill, SAFETEA-LU. M. McGowan noted that the rescission will affect roughly \$40 million dollars from the State of New Hampshire.

## **6. Transportation Enhancement Grants**

M. McGowan stated that SMPO received nine applications from seven communities as well as one application from NHDOT. S. Pesci inquired about other NHDOT sponsored projects and if NHDOT had applied for any projects specific to this region. M. McGowan stated NHDOT had not submitted any project specific for this region and that the application received covered the entire state.

C. Skoglund asked if the projects listed in the provided spreadsheet were ranked. M. McGowan noted that they were not yet ranked, but listed based on the initial number given to each letter of intent received in July. M. McGowan noted that some numbers were missing from this list as no application had been submitted for some of the letters of intent that were received.

R. Nichols asked who was on the TE Subcommittee for scoring applications. M. McGowan stated that the committee would consist of Steve Pesci (UNH), Rad Nichols (COAST), Wallace Dunham (Madbury), Duane Hyde (Durham), and Lou Vita (Middleton). M. McGowan noted that the TE subcommittee will meet sometime after October 15th to begin scoring applications and that final regional rankings will need to be submitted to NHDOT by December 10th. She also stated that the TAC will be reviewing the scores and the Policy Committee will be reviewing and approving the final regional rankings.

## **7. Potential Park & Ride Lots**

M. McGowan stated that she attended a meeting regarding the proposed use of the Lee Market Basket parking lot as a potential Park & Ride. She noted that everyone at the meeting was well receptive to the idea though no official word has been made. C. Skoglund asked what would change when the parking lot was officially converted to a Park & Ride. R. Nichols noted that advertisements could be made if it becomes an official Park & Ride. S. Pesci noted that there were also talks of having a Park & Ride located on the southwest quadrant of the Lee traffic circle.

M. McGowan noted that NHDOT is working with the City of Rochester to construct a Park & Ride off of Exit 13 of the Spaulding Turnpike. R. Nichols noted that he remains in contact with NHDOT staff to make sure that any new Park & Rides adequately meet the standards for transit providers to properly maneuver through the lot safely and efficiently, particularly with the proposed park and ride lot in Rochester, off the Spaulding Turnpike

S. Pesci noted that he continues to stress the regional need for a Park & Ride south of Newmarket on Route 108.

## 8. Project Updates

D. Camara stated that he is reviewing the final 2005 and 2006 regional Land Use GIS data. He explained that the mapping parameters were developed by Complex Research Systems Center at UNH and that the data was based on high resolution imagery from 2005 and 2006. He also stated that the data has been reviewed by NH GRANIT staff and that he is going through a final review that will hopefully lead to a mid-October submittal to NH GRANIT. D. Camara noted that this information could be used for local/regional buildout analyses and to update the SMPO travel demand model as well as other planning projects.

D. Camara noted that NHDOT is proposing a 2010 high-resolution imagery flight and is soliciting local funding participation to possibly acquire higher resolution data at the local level. S. Pesci noted that UNH would most likely be interested in the local "buy-up" option and asked that D. Camara send out information supplied by NHDOT.

C. Skoglund asked about the proposed LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) flight and the possible production of new floodplain data. D. Camara responded that there is an initiative to acquire LIDAR data and that it would be used mainly for hydrological analyses as well as the possible creation of new floodplain data. C. Skoglund asked if the data would become out-dated quickly as many GIS data layers tend to do. D. Camara noted that since this data will be used mainly for hydrological purposes rather than development purposes that it would not become out-dated as many other GIS data layers tend to do.

M. McGowan noted that STIP Amendment #3 would be approved on October 15th at a special Policy Committee at the SRPC Office at 10am. R. Nichols noted that this was due to the new proxy vote quorum issue addressed earlier in the meeting.

R. Nichols noted that COAST would have some bus route variations as well as a new Dover Fast Trans route starting October 12, which is the last of the three Fastrans routes. He also noted that COAST would be slightly enhancing Route 2 service on Saturdays. He also noted that COAST has begun using Twitter as a way to supply bus delay information to passengers. C. Skoglund noted that using Twitter might be costly to some passengers due to costly Internet and text messaging charges. R. Nichols noted that there would be more to come including an extensive marketing campaign.

L. Cox asked R. Nichols what the relationship between Lee and COAST was. R. Nichols noted that they are proposing a new bus route along Route 125 through the Lee traffic circle to service UNH and that Lamprey Health Care provides a weekly bus in the Town of Lee. L. Cox noted that this information should be added into the Lee Town newsletter.

S. Pesci noted the Main St. west project would hopefully begin construction in the fall of 2010. He also noted that UNH has begun using their micro simulation model for Durham's Mill Plaza redevelopment and that it will be likely used in calculating the air quality benefits for an upcoming CMAQ application. S. Pesci noted the proposed high-speed rail corridor through Nashua will not be applying for federal funds under the "High Speed Passenger Rail Program" as

the state has not been able to work out a deal with PanAm. He emphasized that this did not mean the death of rail through the central corridor. S. Pesci also noted that Maine is continuing to propose an extension of Amtrak service through Freeport as well as rail improvements all along the corridor to decrease the travel time to Boston by as much as 15 minutes. S. Pesci noted that there has also been talk of a train station in Plaistow.

M. McGowan passed out a memo related to the September Minor Revisions and explained that the proposed increase in funding relates to the Betterment Program and funds will go towards district resurfacing needs. M. McGowan explained that this revision would be reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee at their meeting on October 15th.

L. Cox asked if statewide bicycle route maps were available so that she could distribute them. D. Sharples noted that they are available on NHDOT's website but are difficult to find. R. Nichols noted that they are also available at local bike shops.

## 9. Adjournment

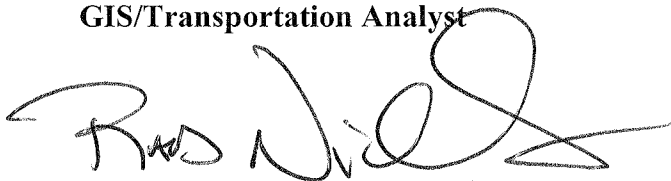
Having no quorum to adjourn the meeting R. Nichols closed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



**Dan Camara**

**GIS/Transportation Analyst**



**Rad Nichols**

**Strafford MPO Technical Advisory Committee Chair**

