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WAKEFIELD

## **Strafford Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee Meeting**

# **DRAFT**

APPROVED AT NOVEMBER 6, 2009 TAC MEETING

### **September 3, 2009 Minutes**

**Present:** Rad Nichols (COAST), Bruce Woodruff (Dover), Stephen Pesci (UNH), Melodie Esterberg (Rochester), Wallace Dunham (Madbury), Nicholas Alexander (NHDOT), Steven Ireland (NHDOT-District 6), Jim Campbell (Durham) and Laurel Cox (Lee)

**Proxy Votes:** Chris Skoglund (NHDES-ARD), Ed Lemos (Barrington), Victoria Parmele (Northwood) and Diane Hardy (Newmarket)

**Members Not Present:** Charter Weeks (Barrington), Chris Parker (Dover), Paul Parker (Farmington), Mark Stevens (Middleton), Larry Brown (Milton), Michael Clark (New Durham), Mark Fuller (New Durham), Ed Wojnowski (Newmarket), Patrick Carroll (Rollinsford), Nathaniel Leach (Rollinsford), David Sharples (Somersworth), Craig Wheeler (Somersworth), Tom Dube (Wakefield), Jeremy LaRose (COAST), Rebecca Ohler (NHDES-ARD), William Watson (NHDOT) and Dirk Timmons (UNH)

**Guest:** Rebecca Brown (Greenman-Pedersen, Inc)

**Staff:** 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.

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

**2. Staff Communications**

There were no staff communications.

**3. Draft Strafford MPO TAC August 7, 2009 Minutes**

R. Nichols asked for a motion to adopt the draft TAC August 7, 2009 minutes. B. Woodruff stated he would like an amendment to the minutes on page two, fourth paragraph down under section five, to portray more accurately what he stated. B. Woodruff stated there were a couple of sentences missing in the minutes that he wanted on the record. 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.

M. Barton stated the minutes had been taped at the August 7, 2009 meeting and would correct that portion of the minutes.

R. Nichols asked for a motion to adopt the draft TAC August 7, 2009 minutes as amended. B. Woodruff made a motion and S. Pesci seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

**4. STIP Amendment #3: Review and Recommendation for Policy Committee**

M. McGowan reviewed the SRPC projects that were included in STIP Amendment #3 and gave an overview of the State projects included in this amendment. M. McGowan noted some of these statewide projects were dropped, as there was no ARRA funding available. M. McGowan stated funding received was not as much as hoped for.

M. McGowan noted there was a public comment period in place that began on August 27, 2009 and would end on September 29, 2009. M. McGowan stated the public hearing would take place on September 24, 2009 at the historic Middleton Town Hall and noted that if any more public comments were received, she would forward those to the TAC Committee.

It was noted if funding was secured through the earmark process, it has to be placed in the TIP.

R. Nichols asked for a motion to recommend approval to send STIP Amendment #3 to the Policy Committee. S. Pesci made a motion and W. Dunham seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

**5. GACIT/Ten Year Plan Update**

M. McGowan stated she attended a meeting on August 24, 2009 at NHDOT to discuss the 2011-2020 Ten Year Plan. M. McGowan went over the upcoming schedule for public hearings in our

region. M. McGowan reviewed the 2011-202 Ten Year Plan priority areas and noted the 2011-2020 Plan would still continue to focus on the priorities from the 2009-2018 Ten Year Plan. M. McGowan noted that one more public hearing was added to the list and that it would be held in Newmarket on October 15, 2009 at 6:30 p.m at the Town Hall and stated DOT would like the communities to tell their stories.

A discussion ensued regarding the I-93 Corridor. M. McGowan stated after the GACIT meeting, she met with the Commissioner and he is interested in knowing what the regions think about the I-93 Project.

B. Woodruff stated that for years the number one focus was for the Spaulding Turnpike in Dover-Rochester and bridge rehab.

S. Pesci stated the splitting of the Strafford MPO and the Rockingham MPO split the view of priorities in terms of voicing those priorities. S. Pesci stated smaller projects would bring more “bang for the buck” and noted that even cutting ten percent from the I-93 project and spread that around the state for smaller projects would result in a better transportation system overall.

M. McGowan noted a new legislative committee, started by Representative Candace Bouchard, is looking at ways to figure fiscal constraints. M. McGowan noted this committee was called Commission to Study Future Sustainable Revenue Sources for Funding Improvements to State and Municipal Highways and Bridges.

M. McGowan gave a few other updates: NHDOT will increase funding to municipalities. NHDOT is interested in conducting a one-day summit post Ten-Year Plan public hearings to meet with RPC staff and TAC members and Commissioners to discuss the Ten Year Process. M. McGowan noted they the workshop is anticipated to be some time in October and that NHDOT Commissioner Campbell has expressed that he is available to meet with TAC Committees and Policy Committees after September.

M. McGowan stated the draft 2011-2020 Ten Year Plan is not available and should be released within the first two weeks of September. M. McGowan noted that the draft version would be very similar to the final 2009-2018 Ten Year Plan.

## **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 send information to TAC members when they became available.

## **7. Transportation Enhancements Grants**

M. McGowan noted that draft scoring criteria, as reviewed at the August 7, 2009 TAC meeting was finalized and sent to all applicants. M. McGowan gave updates and deadlines regarding the Transportation Enhancements Grants. M. McGowan reminded everyone that final applications

are due to DOT and SRPC by September 15, 2009 by 3 p.m. and the final project scores are due to the NHDOT by December 10, 2009.

M. McGowan noted SRPC is looking for volunteers to be part of the sub-committee to rank scores of those applications and stated members cannot be from any municipality that has applied for a grant or any SRPC staff members. M. McGowan noted that W. Dunham has volunteered and that four other volunteers were needed.

S. Pesci stated UNH may not apply for a grant and if that were the case, he would volunteer to be on the subcommittee.

M. McGowan then asked how the sub-committee would handle the following: How would the subcommittee handle ties in scoring? Is the subcommittee interested in having pictures of all locations or taking field visits to all locations? Will applicants give presentations to the subcommittee?

S. Pesci stated in the event of a tie, have TAC make the final decision. N. Alexander stated if TAC wasn't comfortable making the final decision, then perhaps the MPO could make that determination.

S. Pesci stated after the subcommittee scored the applications, TAC would take that list and up to their discretion accept or re-rank the projects. W. Dunham stated he agreed with S. Pesci that it needed to be an unbiased objective.

It was decided the subcommittee would reserve the right to ask applicants to come in if they have any questions and that the subcommittee would meet to come up with the final overall score and then send those scores back to TAC for their final recommendation.

S. Pesci stated a non-current member of TAC, such as SABR, would be good to have on the subcommittee.

N. Alexander stated DOT would be reviewing applications for costs and eligibility and noted if the application were incomplete, DOT would let the RPC know. N. Alexander noted some examples of ineligible projects would include things such as parking lots, roundabouts and intersection projects

M. McGowan noted SRPC received a letter from Chris Parker from the Planning Office in Dover, dated August 12, 2009, requesting an explanation as to the reason that SRPC dues is a factor in the TE scoring process. M. McGowan stated an email from Leigh Levine, dated August 20, 2009 wrote: "As discussed at your recent TAC meeting, we also support your scoring criteria related to dues paying status, and are not aware of any conflict with law or regulation." M. McGowan noted an email received from Bill Watson of NHDOT dated August 20, 2009 wrote: "I am not aware of any case law, statutes, or FHWA regulations that prevent the development of scoring criteria for the TE program that includes dues as a criteria...I can speak for both Leigh and myself when I say that we continue to support the development of regional criteria for all of the transportation programs we are involved with. As long as the criteria are

developed openly, with opportunity for comments and considerations by the TAC and other policy committees, then I think we are all in the right place.”

B. Woodruff said the intent of that letter was to request information on where this process is written in regulation code or FHA policies. B. Woodruff stated that the Dover Planning Office has not received a response from SRPC on this matter.

M. McGowan noted the letter had been forwarded to SRPC’s legal council for review and would contact Chris Parker upon completion.

## **8. Project Updates**

M. McGowan stated that Round Four of the Safe Routes To School Program would be opening on September 14, 2009.

S. Pesci noted regarding the UNH-Durham Main Street West Project, that the NHDES wetlands permit was received yesterday and that was the last hurdle. S. Pesci stated the contract should be in place by the November ARRA deadline and noted the road construction would begin in May 2010 and non-road edits would begin right away.

## **9. Adjournment**

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

Respectfully submitted,



**Marilyn Barton**  
**Recording Secretary**



**Rad Nichols**  
**Strafford MPO Technical Advisory Committee Chair**

