

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  
SRPC Office, Dover, NH  
FINAL**

**January 8, 2010 Minutes**

**Present:** Rad Nichols (COAST), Wallace Dunham (Madbury), Charter Weeks (Barrington), Nick Alexander (NHDOT), Steven Ireland (NHDOT-District 6), Leigh Levine (FHWA), Larry Brown (Milton), Melodie Esterberg (Rochester), Dirk Timmons (UNH), Dave Sharples (Somersworth), Chris Parker (Dover) and Chris Skoglund (NHDES-ARD)

**Members Not Present:** Ed Lemos (Barrington), Bruce Woodruff (Dover), Jim Campbell (Durham), Paul Parker (Farmington), Laurel Cox (Lee), David Allen (New Durham), Diane Hardy (Newmarket), Victoria Parmele (Northwood), Patrick Carroll (Rollinsford), Nathaniel Leach (Rollinsford), Craig Wheeler (Somersworth), Rebecca Ohler (NHDES-ARD) and Tom Dube (Wakefield)

**Guests:** Marc Dixon (FHWA)

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

*Note: It was determined a quorum had not been established; so those action items requiring a motion would be deferred to the next TAC meeting in February.*

**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**

M. Barton stated M. McGowan had her baby on Tuesday, January 7, 2010 and that mother and baby were doing well. D. Camara noted the next SRPC/ Policy Committee meeting would be on January 28, 2010 at the Rochester Community Center starting at 6:30 p.m. C. Copeland noted the Office of Energy and Planning was releasing the guidelines for the Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant Program on January 8, 2010 and noted the turnaround time on these applications was rather quick. C. Copeland stated the applications could include not only energy activities, but also transportation activities, bike and pedestrian trails. C. Copeland noted the communities should take the time to look over the guidelines and the projects they have to see if they would be able to use this grant as another resource and encouraged those communities to contact SRPC if they have any questions or need any assistance with the grant.

### **3.1 Draft Strafford MPO TAC December 4, 2009 Minutes**

As a quorum had not been established, these were deferred until the next TAC meeting in February.

### **3.2 2009-2012 STIP Amendment #4: Review and Recommendation for Policy Committee**

D. Camara noted that STIP Amendment #4 was still on hold due to some changes and asked N. Alexander if he could address this further.

N. Alexander stated STIP #4 was initially drafted about a month ago and there were some statewide changes, T/E projects, bridge projects changes as well as a couple of Portsmouth Projects. N. Alexander stated that Interstate 93 had some schedule changes and that STIP #4 would be on hold until that has been worked out. N. Alexander stated once the conformity piece and the financial end were completed for the schedule changes and MPO amendment process complete, it would be around the end of April 2010 before STIP #4 would be out. It was also noted that NHDOT was advised by FHWA, that STIP #4 could include recovery jobs projects up to 200 million dollars.

### **3.3 Draft Environmental Justice Document: Review and Recommendation for Policy Committee**

D. Camara stated K. Pimental had created the Draft Environmental Justice Document and incorporated ideas suggested from the TAC meeting in December. D. Camara noted the document was currently out for a thirty-day public review and would be up for adoption at the January 28, 2010 Policy Committee meeting at the Rochester Community Center. D. Camara opened it up for discussion.

D. Sharples stated the document was not clear on who is responsible for implementing actions or how items would be implemented; he suggested specifying implementing specific actions or goals. R. Nichols stated that a tool kit for communities could be used as a resource to effectively reach out to those affected.

L. Levine stated there is a need to ask is there equity for transportation needs to those affected? After doing a benefits and burdens analysis, it may require the MPO to look at its Long-Range Plan and look at key transportation projects.

R. Nichols stated an effective way at getting input by those affected is to canvas neighborhoods a few times in the targeted locations.

A discussion ensued on various ideas for the document such as a pamphlet with links.

### **3.4 Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Grants Scoring Criteria: Review and Recommendation for Policy Committee**

D. Camara stated Round 9 of the CMAQ Grant Program had opened and the Letters of Interest were due at noontime on January 8, 2010. D. Camara noted SRPC received seven Letters of Interest for a total of nine projects. D. Camara stated there would be a mandatory municipally managed workshop sometime in early February and noted applications were due to SRPC and NHDOT by **3:00 pm, April 1, 2010**.

D. Camara went over the Letters of Interest received. D. Camara went over the CMAQ Round 9 project Evaluation Scoring Criteria and opened it to discussion to those in attendance.

D. Sharples had a question on page 4 of the scoring criteria, #3, as he didn't think it was clear. S. Pesci stated he thought that a financial partner carried more weight rather than a letter of support. A discussion ensued and it was stated the title on this needed to be changed to: "Community/Organization/Partnership. It was suggested to strike #8 from the scoring criteria and to award more points under section B of #4.

D. Camara noted there needed to be a subcommittee formed to look at the scoring criteria in further detail and asked for volunteers. The following people volunteered to be on the subcommittee: Dave Sharples, Steve Pesci, Wallace Dunham, Chris Skoglund and Dan Camara as SRPC staff member.

C. Parker stated he thought the bonus points to those communities that are dues paying members is discriminatory as the local match requirements to federal dollars doesn't apply in this case and wanted it in the record that the City of Dover did not apply for the grant funds because of the bonus points. He stated that C&J, who is not a dues paying member would be eligible for bonus points, and has a better chance of receiving funds rather than the City of Dover.

### **4.1 Transportation Enhancement Grants Update**

D. Camara asked N. Alexander to address the T/E update. N. Alexander stated any issues that may come up and need to be addressed will be communicated to the applicant and the MPO would be included in those discussions. N. Alexander noted the applications will be reviewed by resource agencies as well and that the T/E Advisory Committee will be meeting in sometime early February.

#### **4.2 GACIT & 2011-2020 Ten-Year Plan Update**

C. Copeland stated the Governor sent the plan to the legislature and N. Alexander noted the Legislature has until June 2010 to approve the update and sign into law and noted there were no changes since GACIT.

#### **4.3 Safe Routes to School Update**

M. Barton stated the scoring for Round 4 was sent to John Corrigan on December 28, 2009. M. Barton noted that she had received notice from John Corrigan that the presentations would be on February 11, 2010. M. Barton stated the schools that sent in applications were Oyster River Middle School, Farmington SAU and Woodman Park School.

#### **4.4 FHWA MPO Program Review Presentation**

C. Copeland noted that the upcoming FHWA/FTA MPO Program Review for SRPC was on February 10, 2010 and that the review would be open during lunch break for those who may be interested in attending and encouraged those who were interested in attending to do so. A handout was given to those committee members in attendance outlining discussion points for the presentation for the upcoming FHWA/FTA MPO Program Review. C. Copeland reviewed the discussion points and asked if anyone had any suggestions they would like to see included in the presentation.

S. Pesci stated on number nine of the outline, MPO Key Issues and Trends, that there should be a sub category that included funding for non-ARRA projects and the increasing challenge of mega projects such I-93 or the Spaulding Turnpike absorbing or crowding out the smaller local municipal projects. A discussion ensued regarding air quality conformity and its role with planning.

L. Levine stated participation is encouraged and they have been working with the MPO staff on this and recently an agenda was sent to the MPO staff and noted time had been left during lunch time so that those interested can stop by and chat informally. The purpose of this review was to see how needs are being served in the region and that basic work products would be looked at as well as federal requirements. L. Levine noted technical subjects such as modeling and conformity would also be looked at. R. Nichols asked if this review was similar as the one for the Rockingham Planning Commission? L. Levine stated that it was.

#### **5.2 Project Updates**

C. Weeks stated there are 135 acres on Route 125 and the Town is just about to sign a contract with a developer to create an industrial park. He stated the Town included in the contract a requirement of preserving up to five acres for the purpose of creating a Park and Ride, which is 1.25 miles north of the Lee Traffic Circle. C. Weeks noted Barrington had met with Joan Clinton.

C. Weeks discussed Barrington in its' role as an epicenter for the Waste Management Medical Facility and noted there would be a public hearing on January 26, 2010 in Rochester about this. C. Weeks stated his concern was there is a reservoir there and that if one of those trucks had an accident; there are a lot of pathogens that could go into the reservoir. A discussion ensued for various suggestions that the town could take to address their concerns.

D. Camara spoke about the Broadband Service Initiative in NH. He stated that NH has been awarded funding but has yet to receive the final contract. He stated that the ultimate goal of the project is map existing broadband service to identify gaps and assist in the implementation of broadband service within those gaps.

## 6. Adjournment

R. Nichols asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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



**Rad Nichols**

**Strafford MPO Technical Advisory Committee Chair**