

BARRINGTON  
BROOKFIELD  
DOVER  
DURHAM  
FARMINGTON  
LEE  
MADBURY  
MIDDLETON  
MILTON



NEW DURHAM  
NEWMARKET  
NORTHWOOD  
NOTTINGHAM  
ROCHESTER  
ROLLINSFORD  
SOMERSWORTH  
STRAFFORD  
WAKEFIELD

**Strafford Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee Public  
Hearing & Meeting  
October 15, 2010  
Rochester Community Center, Rochester, NH  
Minutes  
FINAL**

**SRPC Policy Members Present:** Stephen Pesci (UNH), Lou Vita (Middleton), Stephen Jeffery (Barrington), Leigh Levine (FHWA), Rick McMenimen (Newmarket), Bob Jaffin (Rochester), Tom Crosby (Madbury), Kenn Ortmann (Rochester), Bruce Woodruff (Milton), Sandra Keans (Rochester), Glenn Davison (NHDOT), Eric Abrams (NHDES-ARD), Rad Nichols (COAST) and John Parry (Durham)

**SRPC Policy Members Not Present:** Jim Murfey (Brookfield), Tom Clark (Dover), Caren Rossi (Lee), Dot Veisel (New Durham) and Scott Martin (Northwood),

**SRPC Staff Present:** Cynthia Copeland (Executive Director), Dan Camara (GIS/Transportation Analyst), Marc Ambrosi (Regional Transportation Planner), and Marilyn Barton (Administrative Assistant)

**1. Convene Strafford Metropolitan Planning Organization Meeting/Introductions**

Vice-Chair L. Vita convened the meeting of the Strafford Metropolitan Planning Organization at 9:10 a.m. and introductions were given around the room.

**2.1 Open Public Hearing to consider Items 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4**

L. Vita opened the public hearing at 9:11 a.m. and opened the hearing up for discussion.

M. Ambrosi provided copies of a summary of changes he made for the three items for adoption, based on comments from committee members at the October 1, 2010 TAC meeting and NHDES. He went over the methodology and processes he used and went over the changes made since receiving comments.

It was asked if these tables included toll funding and M. Ambrosi stated it did. S. Pesci asked if in theory we're getting our full share based on the theoretical models in the TIP, would we zero out and really be receiving under our share of program projects of the amount per year on the tables? M. Ambrosi stated the turnpike funding is a large part of the region's transportation revenue. C. Copeland stated that is a user fee that was developed. G. Davison stated if the I-93 project were taken out of the

calculations, it would make what the region gets that much smaller. A discussion ensued that the I-93 project takes away money from smaller local projects in the region and that it would probably not be accepted regionally.

L. Levine noted it would be helpful to hear about the theoretical allocation and how it was developed. M. Ambrosi stated it was basically a formula that included population, lane miles and road classification. M. Ambrosi explained that different values were assigned to different road classifications. M. Ambrosi noted Rockingham is around 13.4% and our region was in the middle of the state for funding allocation. M. Ambrosi stated he didn't split the funding for COAST between SRPC and Rockingham, as it would have been very challenging to split it up accurately.

R. Nichols had a question on page sixteen under the 5307 funding and whether that included CMAQ funding for the Dover Fast Trans? It was determined that it did. C. Copeland asked if the earmark funding for the Little Bay Bridges was included? M. Ambrosi stated NH DOT did not provide a breakdown of that information in the Tables they told to use as a resource. K. Ortmann asked when match is shown, is it real money or toll credits? M. Ambrosi stated it was real money. G. Davison stated it is real money and the goal is not to use toll credits in the future. R. Nichols stated he would have liked a breakdown between the FHWA and FTA numbers. S. Pesci stated in the future it would be good to graphically show the percentage split by agency and mode as done in the past. S. Pesci stated on page nineteen, it would be helpful to have it in simple terms what the numbers show. M. Ambrosi stated if you take the subtotals of the FHWA and FTA balances and add the theoretical revenue for both calculations and compare actual program expenditures per year from the revenue, that is the remainder left over at the end of the year (page 11-18 2011-2014 TIP).

M. Ambrosi stated on the next line down, it showed funding from FHWA, FTA, local contributions, state contributions, and was basically everything not including the Spaulding Turnpike projects. M. Ambrosi noted the total balance is including the turnpike funding, all the local, all the state and federal funding per year versus the revenue we would theoretically receive. T. Crosby asked if the total funding includes the Little Bay Bridges? M. Ambrosi stated that it did. G. Davison noted turnpike funds could only be spent on a turnpike road.

S. Pesci stated that one of the critiques in this region is that we are in a relatively high tolled section of the turnpike and much of the I-93 corridor is in a relatively low tolled section due to political decisions and it seems some of the money used to do some of the I-93 project was money from outside the I-93 turnpike. It was noted it was a political decision to not add tolls to help fund the project and it impacts our region and Berlin not to do that. C. Copeland noted this region pays a proportionately higher amount in tolls.

K. Ortmann asked about the -8.6 million we are investing in this area: is that more than the revenue that is available? M. Ambrosi stated that was theoretical revenue. C. Copeland stated we are fiscally constrained. Marc stated the federal funding needs to be fiscally constrained and without the theoretically allocated turnpike funding we are fiscally constrained for all four years.

M. Ambrosi noted the change to the Long-Range Plan; that the Dover Route 108 upgrade from Weeks Crossing to Route 108 was renamed a "vision element" and that was the only change to that. C. Copeland noted it was an alternative to Exit 10. M. Ambrosi reviewed the projects moved out of the state Ten Year Plan and noted SRPC would be addressing comments from DES as soon as possible. S. Pesci commented on page twenty-five of the TIP, table six, the Durham US-4-Rt. 108 project has a schedule construction date of 2011. S. Pesci stated he didn't think that was possible as he was recently at a meeting with the Town and DOT where needs and concepts were being discussed and suggested M.

Ambrosi check with Jim Campbell on that. S. Pesci said the next project-155A Main Street could have the status changed to "completed, 2010". S. Pesci stated the next project listing, Durham various, can be changed to completed FY 2011.

B. Woodruff asked about the Rochester-Newington-Dover-Portsmouth Express Bus Service and if it was completed. R. Nichols stated it was not completed because there was no local match to get it done. B. Woodruff asked if there were discussions in regard to the record of decision for the Newington-Dover project which some of the aspects of the record of decision called for this project to be accomplished, along with others. B. Woodruff noted he thought there was funding from the Newington-Dover project and asked if that could be used for local match to get this going? R. Nichols stated there was funding to expand on the shoulders of the Spaulding Express Service and if there is no express service, DOT has stated there were no shoulders to expand on and thus is an ongoing, outstanding issue. B. Woodruff stated the status of the Spaulding Express Project was not correct and suggested someone (NHDOT) go back and take a look at the record of decision for the ongoing Dover-Newington project regarding the record of decision because the project should go forward. And he stated that officials make decisions that may not be in line with the record of decision, but they are still obligated to follow the decisions they created. C. Copeland stated that would be a larger discussion than this one project. R. Nichols stated they were looking for other ways to get similar type service off the ground other than using state funding.

K. Ortmann commented about the dropped ROW for Strafford Square and asked if the funds have been committed. M. Ambrosi stated N. Alexander sent him an update telling him to include ROW for 2012. K. Ortmann confirmed that the ROW was not dropped at this time? M. Ambrosi stated that was correct and the original ROW was in place and the project is scheduled for 2015 construction. M. Ambrosi stated he had just not updated this information on the table prior to the meeting and was looking to conditionally approve the document with changes at this meeting. K. Ortmann confirmed they would receive an updated version and M. Ambrosi stated he would send them an updated version in the future.

T. Crosby asked if there were any updates regarding the Lee traffic circle? M. Ambrosi stated he had not heard anything recently. G. Davison stated it is in design and different options were being discussed and there was no decision yet.

R. Jaffin asked how a community starts the process of prioritizing projects? M. Ambrosi stated he would be going to the communities with project portfolios and lists of regionally significant projects as outlined in relevant plans over the next couple of months. C. Copeland noted M. Ambrosi would also be going to agencies and transit providers as well. S. Pesci noted there might be a local existing study depending on the need or rationale.

B. Woodruff suggested connecting the West Ossipee Rail gap as a Long Range Plan project. R. Jaffin asked if any resources were available for transportation studies? C. Copeland stated the Route 108 upgrade from Weeks Crossing to Rochester project was an example of State Planning and Research funding in use.

J. Parry noted that a project in Durham was delayed. He asked if that was because of local town issues? And asked if projects have to be completed if they are delayed? M. Ambrosi stated if a project is included in the TIP, then money has been committed for funding the project within the four year TIP horizon, but if the project isn't completed in the timeframe it is programmed as an amendment or minor amendment can be voted on to change the year the project is scheduled.

D. Camara noted the changes made to the Air Quality Conformity document. He stated the Dover FastTrans off-model analysis did negatively impact the non-attainment area and will be included with our region's final emission figures. Minor changes will need to be made to the bus emission factors within the analysis and will be completed shortly. D. Camara noted the figures will still be well below the budget and that NOx and VOC's levels were in conformity and would change slightly after receiving each MPOs final figures. D. Camara stated they would be addressing additional comments received from DES yesterday as soon as possible.

## **2.2 Close Public Hearing**

After no other comments, L. Vita closed the public hearing at 10:10 a.m.

### **3.1 Draft Metropolitan Planning Organization Minutes of August 20, 2010**

L. Vita asked for a motion to adopt the draft Metropolitan Planning Organization minutes of August 20, 2010 as written. K. Ortmann made a motion and R. McMenimen seconded that motion. All in favor, motion passed.

### **3.2 Draft 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program**

L. Vita asked for a motion to conditionally approve the Draft 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program with changes made as discussed and addressed and comments received from the Department of Environmental Services (DES). S. Pesci made a motion and R. McMenimen seconded that motion. All in favor, motion passed.

### **3.3 Draft Minor Updates for 2011-2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan**

L. Vita asked for a motion to conditionally approve the Draft Minor Updates for the 2011-2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan with technical revisions as discussed. R. McMenimen made a motion and T. Crosby seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

### **3.4 Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis and Determination**

L. Vita asked for a motion to conditionally approve the Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis and Determination Document with technical revisions as discussed. R. McMenimen made a motion and T. Crosby seconded that motion. All in favor, motion passed.

## **4. Long Range and Ten Year Combined Solicitation Process**

M. Ambrosi reminded everyone in the upcoming months he would be meeting with communities and organizations to solicit long-range projects and would be putting together and sending out a project portfolio to assist the communities with this task and get feedback to see what kind of projects the region's looking at.

K. Ortmann stated there have been a series of processes with the TIP where the communities were asked to submit new projects and then not to submit new projects or to move projects. K. Ortmann asked if there was a recommended protocol for approval this time around? C. Copeland noted the project solicitation needs to be fiscally constrained and new projects have to have real importance in order to move forward. C. Copeland stated because so much of the TIP focuses on improvements to the Spaulding Turnpike, our local projects and process have to balance the need for long-range projects and state fiscal requirements.

S. Pesci stated in communications with the communities it is important to state what's in the long-range plan and the vision as it benefits everyone to reevaluate what's changed, as projects may not have the same merit or weight as they did ten years ago. S. Pesci noted it is beneficial to take another look at projects in the TIP that was just approved at the meeting because the funding on page twelve of the TIP

shows it is rather robust and noted that may be due to stimulus funding. S. Pesci noted in FY 2014 there would be twenty-five percent less funding and eventually up to thirty percent by the time we get to FY 2015 and that would influence decisions made now.

M. Ambrosi stated he plans to compile a list of projects to incorporate into the project portfolio that will be used in the long-range project selection process.

B. Woodruff stated the Long-Range Plan vision element was used to place projects that were priority; that didn't fit into the fiscal constraint model and that's where those projects are and encouraged not to get rid of those projects as they were not completed due to a lack of money.

C. Copeland thanked the TAC committee and SRPC staff for their hard work over the last few months.

## **5. Project Updates**

D. Camara stated there would be a Broadband Forum at the Rochester Community Center at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, October 25, 2010 and encouraged those who were interested to attend. D. Camara stated there would be a presentation on the proposed 2010 Urbanized Area criteria and that Christopher Henrie, from the U.S. Census Bureau, would be here from Washington DC to give the presentation and noted information would also be sent to the Southern Maine Planning Commission as well as the ACT Committee. D. Camara noted the CMAQ presentations would not be on November 10, 2010 as previously announced and would be on Friday, December 10, 2010 and would most likely go all day.

S. Pesci stated UNH would be having a ribbon-cutting walk at Main Street West on October 18, 2010 at 12:15 p.m and invited all those interested to attend. S. Pesci stated the CNG Project should be fully completed by December 2010 and would be receiving six new buses in a month or so – four large and two small and were stimulus funded.

R. Nichols stated COAST received 3.3 million in ARRA funds and COAST has drawn down seven hundred thousand so far and were under contract for five new vehicles to be delivered in February or March 2011- two new low floor busses and three new low floor trolleys.

B. Woodruff stated there would be a walkthrough of the Community Trail in Dover on November 13, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. and invited those interested in attending.

K. Ortmann reminded everyone regarding proposed changes to the bylaws regarding changes for establishing a quorum and that would be voted on at the November 19, 2010 Policy meeting. M. Barton noted copies of those changes had been mailed out about a week ago.

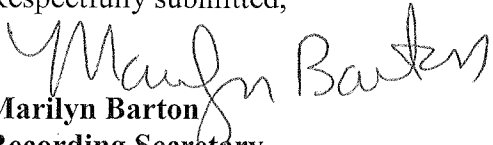
## **6. Other Business**

There was no other business.

## **7. Adjournment**

L. Vita asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m. R. McMenimen made a motion and K. Ortmann seconded that motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



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



**Lou Vita**  
**Strafford Regional Planning Committee Commission Vice-Chair**