

STRAFFORD

Metropolitan Planning Organization

**Strafford MPO
Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 4, 2024
Suite 12, 150 Wakefield Street**

1) Introductions

Chair Michelle Mears called the meeting to order and asked for introductions.

Members present:

Michelle Mears, Somersworth; Katrin Kasper, Lee; Lindsay Butler, Newmarket; Wayne Lehman, Lee; Vanessa Price, Barrington; John Mullen, Middleton; Lucy St. John, NHDOT; Michael Williams, COAST; Marshall Goldberg, Brookfield.

Staff present: Colin Lentz

Members attending on Zoom: Donna Benton, Dover; Leigh Levine FH, Richard Kraus, Milton

Staff attending on Zoom: Jen Czysz, Megan Taylor-Fetter

2) Community Updates

L. Butler stated that the town of Newmarket recently established a transportation committee which will focus on community input as they prepare their transportation master plan

M. Williams reported that COAST will provide a shuttle bus for Apple Harvest Day in Dover.

3) Action Items

a) Minutes from June 7, 2024

Following a motion and a second, all members voted in favor to approve the June 7 meeting minutes. The motion passed.

b) Nominations for TAC officer

STRAFFORD REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

150 Wakefield Street, Suite 12, Rochester, NH 03867

Barrington | Brookfield | Dover | Durham | Farmington | Lee | Madbury | Middleton | Milton | New Durham
Newmarket | Northwood | Nottingham | Rochester | Rollinsford | Somersworth | Strafford | Wakefield



C. Lentz stated that Michelle Mears and Michael Williams have volunteered to continue in their roles as Chair and Vice Chair (respectively).

An official vote will be taken at the November TAC meeting.

c) Ten Year Plan Submission

C. Lentz stated that the Ten Year Plan was recently signed into law so we start the process all over again at the regional planning level. SRPC will need to present an initial list of candidate projects to NHDOT by early November. SRPC's allocation of funding for adding new projects to the Ten Year Plan is \$5,846,797. This initial submission must fit within that allocation, plus up to two contingency projects. Four projects are eligible for the Ten Year Plan and have received engineering review from BETA. Some projects include alternatives with different cost estimates. Using the most expensive alternative the four eligible projects total \$4,241,600.

The four projects are:

- Farmington: Two separate sidewalk sections (Main St, and Elm St) Sidewalk expansion or upgrade
- Madbury A: NH9 and French Cross Rd Intersection Intersection safety improvements
- Madbury B :NH155/Madbury Rd/Town Hall Rd intersection realignment & safety improvements
- Middleton: NH153 & Wakefield Rd intersection safety improvements.

This initial submission is part of the early development of a draft Ten Year Plan, to be signed into law in Summer of 2026. Around February 2025, SRPC committee members will need to vote on a final list of projects that is constrained to the \$5.8 million regional allocation.

The group discussed potential projects for BETA round 2 including projects in Durham, Farmington, and Northwood with priority on tidal culverts.

The group discussed modifications to the Farmington and Madbury B projects because they are replacing or upgrading projects currently in the 10-yr plan. Farmington has a sidewalk project in the current 10-yr plan with new sidewalks on Elm and Main St. The modifications will improve the accuracy of the scope and cost estimate of the existing project and requests that NHDOT broaden the scope to consider alternatives that improve pedestrian connectivity to the downtown.

The request for the Madbury project at NH155 and Madbury Rd is to advance the project from a study (in the current plan) to a full-fledged intersection improvement project.

K. Kasper motioned to accept the four projects that have received engineering review and are eligible for the 10-yr plan with modifications to the Farmington and Madbury B projects to have engineering look at those costs. M. Williams seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. The motion passed.

4) Other Business

Lucy St. John announced that NHDOT recently published an updated Public Involvement Process (Link to NHDOT's document). She also noted that there is a new funding opportunity for Scenic Byways development through the National Scenic Byways Program https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/hep/scenic_byways/grants/.

There will be a future announcement about a round of funding through the Transportation Alternatives Program this fall. This is facilitated by NHDOT and is exclusively for non-motorized transportation projects. If you have bicycle or pedestrian focused projects, reach out to Colin.

C. Lentz stated that on the annual transportation edition of SRPC's commission field trips a tour on Amtrak's Downeaster on December 10. An invitation with more information will be sent this week.

J. Czysz stated that Richard Krauss, new town administrator for the town of Milton, joined the meeting and will be the TAC representative for the town of Milton.

J. Czysz reported that SRPC will be embarking on an update to its Regional Master Plan and has begun internal discussions. Look for future opportunities to participate.

5) Adjourn

With a motion and a second, all members voted in favor to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 10:15