

STRAFFORD

Metropolitan Planning Organization

**Strafford MPO
Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 1, 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, Bruce Woodruff, Milton; Beverly Cray, UNH

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

2. Community Updates

3. Action Items

a) Minutes from October 4, 2024

Following a motion from M. Goldberg and a second from J. Mullen and a second, all members voted in favor to approve the October 4, 2024 meeting minutes. The motion passed.

b) TIP Amendment 7

C. Lentz stated that amendment 7 is the last before we begin to develop the next TIP. The draft amendment contains two projects in our region with changes that are locally significant:

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



- A bridge project in Durham (project 41432) that is being pushed from 2028 to 2036
- A bridge project from Milton to Lebanon Maine (project 40658) that is not proceeding.

An official public comment period will begin on November 4th and conclude with the public hearing at our next Commissioner meeting on November 15th. We are anticipating the addition of a UNH bus replacement project to the amendment during the public comment period. C. Lentz outlined the original projects and the anticipated projects:

Original projects:

- Dover-Somersworth-Rochester (29604)
- Dover, NH – Berwick, ME (Gulf Rd Bridge)
- Durham (41432)
- Milton, NH – Lebanon, ME
- Somersworth (40646)

Anticipated additions via public comment:

- Previously approved grant funding for COAST Bus Replacement.
- (Dover 44367) - Funding through the Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program to reinvigorate the CommuteSMART Seacoast program.
- Previously awarded funds for UNH to replace diesel powered buses with compressed natural gas buses.

Michael Williams motioned to recommend that the Policy Committee approve TIP amendment 7 and include the five projects in the original draft amendment and three new projects that will be added to the amendment through public comment. W. Lehman seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. The motion passed.

4. Discussion Items

a) Opportunity to customize long-range project scoring

C. Lentz stated that In the past, SRPC project scoring efforts have centered on the process for selecting projects for the Statewide Ten Year Plan update. SRPC has begun transitioning to an online database that will include a customizable module for project scoring. This is an opportunity for SRPC to adopt a region-specific scoring process to rank all projects in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Scoring can also be adapted depending on the funding opportunity. For example, SRPC developed its own scoring criteria for Transportation Alternatives Program projects from the region.

C. Lentz stated that SRPC is working with a company called EcoInteractive to develop an online transportation project database that will include a project scoring

module. We will have the opportunity to customize the scoring criteria SRPC uses to rank its long-range projects. We currently use the statewide 10-year plan criteria.

The group discussed the current project scoring criteria. The general consensus was that the current 10-year plan criteria are fairly comprehensive and adding any other criteria would likely just dilute the results. We need more data on things like public transit, crashes, demographics, to better support project scoring discussions. EcoInteractive is a GIS-based system, so those data can be better incorporated into the process.

5. Other Business

6. Adjourn