

MPO Commission and Policy Committee Meeting

Friday, March 21, 2025 9:00-10:30 AM

Hybrid Meeting (Conference Rm 1A, SRPC Office & via Zoom)

1) Welcome and Introductions

Chair Katrin Kasper called the meeting to order and asked for introductions: Chris Kinville, Brookfield; Michael Williams, COAST; Joe Boudreau, Rochester; Mark Richardson, Somersworth; Teresa Bascom, Nottingham; Michael Bobinsky, Somersworth; Steve Pesci, UNH; Katrin Kasper, Lee; Rick Healy, Rochester; Glen Davison, NHDOT; Karen Golab, Milton; Matt Towne, Barrington; Kate Buzzard, Middleton; Paul Rasmussen, Durham; Mike Lehrman, Durham; Kevin Sullivan, Rochester.

Guest: Glen Griswold, Nottingham

Staff: Jen Czysz, Colin Lentz, Rachel Dewey, Michael Polizzotti

ZOOM: Jack Wade, NHDES; Barbara Holstein, Rochester; Lindsey Williams, Dover

2) Commissioner Roundtable

M. Bobinsky stated that the City of Somersworth planning board had a pre-construction meeting with the developer of the 2.16-megawatt solar array at the Blackwater superfund site. The contractor has a long-term lease. The project was on hold, but they are in a position now where they can start. It is anticipated that in the coming years it could expand.

3) Action Item

Review and approval of the January 17, 2025 MPO and February 21, 2025, MPO meeting minutes

M. Bobinsky motioned to approve the January 17 and the February 21 minutes. Following a second, a roll call vote was taken: K. Kasper, C. Kinville, M. Willimas, J. Boudreau, M. Richardson, Teresa Bascom, M. Bobinsky, S. Pesci, R, Healy, G. Davison, M. Towne, K. Buzard, M. Lehrman, K. Sullivan, all voted in favor. K. Golab, B. Holstein, P. Rasmussen, L. Williams. J. Wade abstained. The motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor.

Updates to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and 2025-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

C. Lentz gave an overview of the Transportation Improvement Plan. He stated that SRPC is updating the 4-year TIP to cover years 2025-2028. The TIP includes all federally funded projects in the region and is being coordinated with NHDOT and the other three MPOs. All of our TIPs need to match the Statewide TIP. SRPC concurrently updates its long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan (Metro Plan) because the projects are initially developed in the Metro Plan and eventually make their way into the TIP. Both documents must be fiscally constrained. Both have updated fiscal constraint information based on a consistent approach across the four MPOs.



A formal vote by TAC on March 7 was not possible without an in person quorum, but there was consensus among TAC members to recommend that Commissioners approve the draft TIP and Metro Plan.

M. Williams made a motion to approve the TIP and Metro Plan Drafts. Following a second by R. Healy, a roll call vote was taken: K. Kasper, C. Kinville, M. Willimas, J. Boudreau, M. Richardson, Teresa Bascom, M. Bobinsky, S. Pesci, R, Healy, G. Davison, M. Towne, K. Buzard, M. Lehrman, K. Sullivan, K. Golab, B. Holstein, and P. Rasmussen, and L. Williams, all voted in favor. J. Wade abstained. The motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor.

Review of TAC and Commissioner scoring results for candidate Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) projects

Mark Davie provided an overview of the scoring criteria results. Durham, Newmarket, and Farmington have applied for funding through the Transportation Alternatives Program. RPCs are responsible for ranking the projects from their regions, and that ranking is incorporated into NHDOT's final statewide scoring. At the February TAC meeting, we reviewed the criteria and weightings; then TAC and Commissioners scored the projects based on those criteria. The results are:

Municipality	Project Summary	Score (out of 50)
Durham	Madbury Rd complete streets improvements	40.6
Farmington	Downtown sidewalks and pedestrian safety improvements	40
Newmarket	Replace critical downtown pedestrian bridge over the Lamprey River	35.6

The current round of funding offered through NHDOT grants a greater weight to the regional planning commission's ranking of projects in their evaluation of submittals than they have in years past.

These scores are not the final determination. NHDOT's scoring rubric assigns points to each project depending on its regional rank. A formal vote by the TAC was not possible without a quorum, but there was consensus among TAC members to recommend that Commissioners approve the TAP project scores.

S. Pesci motioned to approve the Transportation Alternatives Project Scoring. Following a second by M. Bobinsky, a roll call vote was taken: K. Kasper, C. Kinville, M. Willimas, J. Boudreau, M. Richardson, Teresa Bascom, M. Bobinsky, S. Pesci, R, Healy, G. Davison, M. Towne, K. Buzard, M. Lehrman, K. Sullivan, all voted in favor. K. Golab, B. Holstein, P. Rasmussen, and L. Williams. J. Wade abstained. J. Wade abstained. The motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor.

Other funding will soon be available for recreational trails grants. SRPC will advertise when it becomes available.

Commissioners were encouraged to talk with C. Lentz on any potential projects their municipalities are considering.



Final selection of candidate 10-yr Plan projects

C. Lentz stated that last November, SRPC submitted four projects to NHDOT for possible inclusion in the upcoming draft state 10-year plan (2027-2036). The total estimated cost in 2036 (year-of-expenditure) of all projects was \$5,302,000, which was under our regional allocation of \$5,846,797. Following that submission, NHDOT has been reviewing candidate projects from all nine RPCs. Their review resulted in higher cost estimates for all projects. A total revised 2036 cost for all projects is \$9,397,650 which is well over our regional allocation. Farmington has opted to remove their candidate 10-yr plan project from consideration which does not affect Farmington's proposed TAP project, or a sidewalk project currently funded in the TIP. With the removal of the Farmington project, that brings the total impact to \$5,856,498 (\$9,701 over the regional allocation). NHDOT said that is an acceptable margin of error for this process.

A formal vote by the TAC was not possible without a quorum, but there was consensus among TAC members to recommend that Commissioners approve the following projects for a final submission to the draft 10-yr plan:

Municipality	Location/Road	Scope	Total 10-yr Plan Funding Request
Madbury A	NH9 and French Cross Rd Intersection	Intersection safety improvements	\$1,622,023
Madbury B	NH155/Madbury Rd/Town Hall Rd intersection	Intersection realignment & safety improvements	\$3,860,396
Middleton	NH153 & Wakefield Rd intersection	Intersection safety improvements	\$374,079
Total	\$5,856,498		

S. Pesci motioned to approve the proposed projects for a final submission to the draft 10-year plan. Following a second by M. Towne, a roll call vote was taken: K. Kasper, C. Kinville, M. Willimas, J. Boudreau, M. Richardson, Teresa Bascom, M. Bobinsky, S. Pesci, R. Healy, G. Davison, M. Towne, K. Buzard, M. Lehrman, K. Sullivan, all voted in favor. K. Golab, B. Holstein, P. Rasmussen, and J. Wade abstained. The motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor.

3) Other Business

J. Czysz announced that SRPC staff is hosting a workshop on April 11 to discuss the Regional Master Plan update. The workshop will be a good opportunity to talk about the long-range transportation plan. The April 18 Commission meeting will be held at the Rochester Childcare Center, 9:00 -10:30am

Czysz stated that the Executive Committee needs volunteers to serve as alternates on the Executive Committee.



4) Citizens Forum

There were no citizen comments.

5) Adjourn

Following a motion and a second, the committee members voted unanimously to adjourn.

