

STRAFFORD

Metropolitan Planning Organization

**Strafford MPO
Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 5, 2024
Suite 12, 150 Wakefield Street**

1) Introductions

Chair Michelle Mears called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Members present:

Michelle Mears, Somersworth, John Mullen, Middleton, Vanessa Price, Barrington
Marshall Goldberg, Brookfield, Wayne Lehman, Lee, Jill Semprini, Dover, Katrin Kasper, Lee,
Lucy St. John, DOT, Michael Williams, COAST

Staff present: Colin Lentz, Mark Davie

Members attending on Zoom: April Talon, Durham, Lyndsay Butler, Newmarket
Bruce Woodruff, Milton, Donna Benton, Dover, Leigh Levine, FHWA, Vanessa Partington,
DES

2) Community Updates

Mr. Williams announced that COAST will be restoring Saturday service, bringing service back to six days a week.

Mr. Lentz relayed an ongoing discussion about bump outs in Somersworth. The understanding is that bump outs can be a great improvement for pedestrians but pose challenges in plowing and winter maintenance.

Members and SRPC staff concur UNH tour "field trip" on December 15 was a successful event and gave thanks to Beverly Cray and Steve Pesci at UNH.

3) Action Items

a) Minutes from August 4, 2023

A motion to approve the November 3, 2023 minutes was made by Mr Williams and seconded by Mr. Mullen. The motion carried.

4) Discussion Items

Overview of project to be submitted to engineer for cost estimates.

Mr. Lentz stated that SRPC will be hiring BETA engineering for seven projects and provided an overview of each.



1. Tolend Road in Barrington. SRPC had considered this as a bike route in the past and Strava data indicates that this roadway is still used heavily by cyclists. The road lacks significant shoulders. Mr. Mullen asked if new development across the river in Dover had been considered. Mr. Lentz confirmed the project as proposed is only to the town line. Dover and Barrington may discuss the extent and further costs following more information from BETA.
2. Closing southeast loop ramp of exit 8W on Route 16. Proposing sending traffic to roundabout to get onto Route 16 northbound. DOT has expressed concern about the ability of trucks to safely use the roundabout. The project will likely be turnpike funded. Ms. Talon voiced support for the project, hypothesizing that all of Exit 8 may not be up to standard – proposes that the interchange needs a holistic approach or at least the remaining ramps may need further study. Mr. Lentz proposed closing of the ramp could be a 'Phase I' of a greater project. Ms. Kasper and Mr. Lehman seconded that the existing roundabout is a tight fit. Ms. Kasper reiterated the regional significance of this interchange. Mr. Williams stated that COAST's policy is for their busses to use the roundabout and it is passable for those vehicles, acknowledging that a trailer may not be as easy to navigate.
3. Farmington sidewalks along Route 153 – upgrades closer to downtown, new sidewalks the majority of the way to Route 11. Largely seeking a cost estimate of connecting downtown to the rail trail.
4. Lee driveway entrance to Market Basket west of the traffic circle. No signal currently creates difficulty for those making left turns onto Route 4.
5. Route 155/Town Hall Rd/Madbury Rd. SRPC recommends an engineer's cost estimate rather than wait for results of study, a current TYP project. Suspect earth-moving aspects may be quite expensive.
6. Route 9 and French Cross Road blind spots, including the odd median/bump out. Seeking recommendations if not a cost estimate.
7. Curb cuts of Middleton Building Supply on Route 153. Satisfactory visuals but high volume.

Mr. Williams asked how many projects will be submitted to BETA. Mr. Lentz responded that is the main discussion being held today. Mr. Lentz stated that the scope of the projects must be discussed prior to submitting to the engineer. Mr. Lentz distinguished the different funding sources the potential projects may or may not be eligible for. He reiterated that this is not the same as the TYP project solicitation process.

Performance measures

(9:38 Donna Benton, Dover joins virtually)

Ms. Dewey reviews FHWA performance measures, their purposes, and data sources used to track progress. Ms. Dewey introduces the newest performance measure from FHWA, the GHG emissions measure. The data source is federal fuel sales tracked by the federal gas tax.

Mr. Mullen inquired about penalties for not meeting targets. Ms. Dewey confirmed there are no penalties for MPOs.

Mr. Lentz relayed SRPC's target-setting history for safety measures as it relates to the state's targets. Ms. Dewey added that data such as FARS is out of sync with when targets must be set by MPOs. Mr. Lentz stated that data for non-fatal incidents is not as streamlined because it is largely supplied by local authorities. Mr. Lentz described the Safe System

Approach. Ms. Kasper asked that a determination be made based on what the RPC/MPO can do. Mr. Goldberg asked about data available for cell phone-related incidents. Mr. Lentz relayed legislation that has had meaningful impact on safety measures in the past. Mr. Williams voiced concern about the project scoring and review methodology used by SRPC members. Mr. Mullen reiterated that action items must be included in target-setting. Conversation about GHG targets resumed. Mr Lentz indicated that MPOs are required to set declining targets.

5) Other business

Ms. Mears expressed concern for local infrastructure in relation to the December rainstorms. She proposed taking SRPC staff or commissioners out to the field to examine pieces of infrastructure in the next incident and expressed a need for documentation as climate change progresses. Discussion ensued.

6) Citizens Forum

There were no citizens present.

7) Adjourn

Ms. Mears motioned to adjourn seconded by K. Kasper. All in favor, meeting adjourned at 10:11 AM.