

DRAFT

Seacoast Policy Meeting

Minutes

January 25, 2007
Newington Town Hall

Members Present: Ted Tocci, Chair, Hampton Falls; Warren Bambury and Maury Friedman, Hampton; Dave Holden, Portsmouth; Ken Ortmann and Mary Lou Beaver, Rochester; Larry Brown, Milton; Bob Goodrich, Stratham; Mel Jenkins, Lee; Becky Ohler, DES; Bill Watson and Ann Bogart, NH DOT.

Proxy Votes: Sandra Keans, Rochester; Scott Martin, Northwood; and Tom Willis, Dover.

Staff Present: Dave Walker, Scott Bogle and Roxanne Rines, RPC; Dale Abbott and Cynthia Copeland, SRPC.

7:00 p.m. Policy Meeting Opened

1. Introductions/Communications

Attendees introduced themselves and stated what municipality they were from or the agency they represented.

2. Minutes from October 26, 2006

Motion: Ortmann made a motion to approve the minutes of October 26, 2006, as written. Ohler seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED

3. Public Hearing to Initiate a 45-Day comment period on the adoption of the SAFETEA-LU compliant Public Participation Plan

Bogle stated no action or motion is needed at this item, there will be ample opportunity between now and April 2007. He reviewed the MPO's responsibility in the past and what changes are needed to comply with SAFETEA-LU. The expectations include: the electronic availability of planning documents and data; an increased emphasis to involve population in the region that may have been underrepresented to this point; and the use of visualization techniques.

Goodrich asked where seniors fit into the disability category? **Bogle** stated seniors should be included as their own group of citizens. **Ohler** suggested the title be "transit dependent population".

Watson stated that DOT must include a limited English speaking proficiency section to their public involvement document.

Bogle stated the 45-day comment period started today, all comments received will be included in the document that members will be voting on at the April meeting.

Seacoast Metropolitan Planning Organization

4. Public Hearing to initiate the update of the Long Range Plan

Walker gave a power point presentation of the updates that will be completed for the Long Range Plan and distributed an outline for members. There are six major items that need to be addressed, they are: the public participation plan; environmental mitigation; consultations with state and local land use boards; address transportation system security; discuss operations and maintenance strategies for the region; and to use visualization techniques to show and demonstrate what will be accomplished.

Walker continued that the plan needs to be adopted by the end of August 2007. The goal is to have a draft of the plan completed by late next spring, early summer. Hopefully, when the 10-Year Plan and TIP are ready for approval the long range plan can also be adopted at the same time; triggering the Air Quality Conformity determination to be completed once.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

5. 2007-2010 TIP/STIP Status

Walker stated the TIP was adopted in October and the STIP is not yet finalized. Our air quality conformity analysis for the region has gone forward. **Watson** stated DOT has an extension for completion of the STIP until February 15th. **Ohler** stated she heard from EPA and the preliminary review of the air quality conformity analysis looks good.

6. MPO Boundary Realignment Update

Copeland distributed a timeline. She met with Carol Murray, Commissioner of DOT. She liked the report and agreed that it's time for the realignment to happen. Murray has signed a letter that will be sent to municipalities explaining why the realignment should happen. The City of Rochester is the largest city in the combined MPO regions; therefore, they need to approve the realignment before any more work can be completed. Once this is done, staff from both commissions will present the realignment proposal to City Council and Boards of Selectmen for their approval.

Once realignment is completed, there will be a Strafford Regional Planning Commission MPO and a Rockingham Planning Commission MPO. This means there will be separate UPWP's in fiscal year 2008-2009. The realignment could be completed by July 1st. We need 75% of the communities population to vote in the affirmative along with the City of Rochester's approval. Every community will be given a presentation and vote privileges.

Walker stated the RPC staff is asking commissioners to be involved with the presentations to their community and that if they are comfortable giving the presentation staff will accompany them.

7. UPWP for 2008-2009

Copeland distributed a timeline for approval of the 2008-2009 UPWP. She stated project solicitations are due at DOT by April 1st. She asked for a week extension so that the MPO can have another TAC meeting before submitting projects. Our UPWP this round will have three components: SRPC; RPC; and a combined UPWP complete with budgets. She continued with the timeframe for completing the 2008-2009 UPWP.

8. Ten Year Plan Update

Copeland stated there will be no new projects (unless an emergency or safety issue) added to the 10-year plan. **Watson** stated there will be no increase in funds in the Highway Trust Fund. There currently are no appropriation bills coming out of Congress to fund any state this year.

Copeland explained a DOT map showing the major corridors in the region and how they are identified as Tier I, II, or III. **Walker** stated the concept of the Tier I corridors, is to make sure the regional economic centers are connected.

She explained that because no new projects can be added to the plan, staff will visit communities that have projects in the 10-year plan and review those projects for inclusion in the plan.

Walker explained the Tier system: Tier I is the interregional roads (major highways); Tier II is are the number state highways that are not part of the Tier I system; and Tier III would be essentially the remaining state and local roads that are eligible for federal funding.

Watson stated DOT has recommended that there is nothing in the 10-year plan that is not off limits. The DOT considers Tier I roadways their major goal. Discussion ensued about what communities can do to help with identifying a projects goals better.

Bambury stated the Town of Hampton has had a project on the long range plan for 20 years, will this project not more forward again. **Watson** stated if there is a project in the plan that has to be completed, the department might be able to help with one or two projects in each region.

Discussion ensued amongst members about the lack of funds for transportation projects.

9. Project Updates

Bogle distributed a memo containing update information and discussion ensued.

10. Meeting Adjourn

Motion: **Ortmann** made a motion to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. **Holden** seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne M. Rines
Recording Secretary