Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission
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Minutes of the
SNHPC MPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

July 18, 2019
9:30 A.M.
Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission
438 Dubuque Street
Manchester, New Hampshire

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT
Jo Ann Duffy, Chair – Goffstown
Tom Clow – Weare
Todd Connors – Manchester DPW
Linda Dusenberry – NHDOT
Becky Hebert – Bedford
Colleen Mailloux – Londonderry
Laurie Makarawicz – MTA/CART
Ryan Renauld-Smith – MTA
Fred Roberge – ESNH
George Sioras – Derry
R.H. Snow – Candia
Mark Suennen – New Boston
Bruce Thomas – Hooksett
P.G. Tolman – Francestown
Sylvia von Aulock – SNHPC
Tim White – NHDES
Dean Williams – CNHRPC

OTHERS PRESENT
Tracy Whitehead - MTA

SNHPC STAFF PRESENT
Nate Miller, Deputy Executive Director
Maddie DiIonno, Assistant Planner
Monique Duchesne, Assistant Planner
Carl Eppich, Principal Transportation Planner
Pamela Garrity, Planning Technician
Adam Hlasny, Senior Transportation Planner
Cam Prolman, Regional Planner
Zach Swick, GIS Analyst
James Vayo, Project Manager

MEMBERS EXCUSED
Jonathan Golden – Manchester Planning

MEMBERS ABSENT
Dick Gregory – Windham
Bill Herman – Auburn
Ted Kitchens – MHT Airport
Leigh Levine – FHWA
Nancy Michels – GMCC/GDLC
Dick Perusse – New Boston
Tim Roache – RPC

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1./2. Call to Order/Introductions
Vice Chair Colleen Mailloux called the meeting of the Southern NH Planning Commission TAC to order at 9:34 AM.

3. Action on Minutes of June 20, 2019
Motion by Mr. R.H. Snow to approve June 2019 minutes, seconded by Mr. George Sioras and approved unanimously. Messrs. Fred Roberge, Suennen, and Mses. Hebert, Mailloux abstain.

4.1 Manchester Transit Authority (MTA) Update
Mr. Ryan Renauld-Smith gave an overview of the services MTA provides, from regular fixed routes within Manchester to its StepSaver and ZipLine services to Concord and Nashua.

Mr. James Vayo asked about the process of data collection and route revision. Mr. Renauld-Smith said that monthly and year-to-date trends are examined regularly. Also, farebox info is pulled every 15 minutes, which gives a good idea of where people are boarding.

Ms. Sylvia von Aulock noted that SNHPC has recently been working to assist MTA and CART get the word out about their services. Staff have been working with the "Hooksett-ites" senior group to familiarize them with MTA vehicles, and to emphasize that riding a bus is a clean, comfortable, non-scary experience.

Mr. P.G. Tolman asked about the effect of rideshare (Lyft, Uber) on bus ridership. Mr. Renauld-Smith replied that while the decline in transit ridership (mirrored nationally) began before the increased popularity of rideshare, it still may be having an effect.

There was a brief discussion about the recent closing of the Bedford Walmart, and its transit ramifications. Mr. Renauld-Smith said that if a new store doesn't take over that space, MTA will likely pull back service significantly. Ms. Becky Hebert added that Bedford may be willing to reopen a discussion about service within the community.

4.2 Overview of SNHPC Regional Bicycle Level of Traffic Stress (LTS) Analysis

Mr. Zach Swick gave an overview of this FHWA-funded pilot project being undertaken by the four NH MPOs (Nashua, Southern, Strafford, Rockingham), Central NH RPC, and Plymouth State University. He noted that the model considers many factors that contribute to the perceived level of stress a cyclist would experience on New Hampshire roads.

Ms. von Aulock asked whether the model references posted speed limits or actual speeds traveled. Mr. Swick replied that while imperfect, posted speed limits are the only defensible data that could be used. He added that using actual speeds would not change model results much anyway.

In response to a question from Mr. Tolman, Mr. Nate Miller replied that the reason for conducting this modeling/analysis is largely to provide an objective means of evaluating the bicycle-related benefits of proposed Ten-Year Plan and TAP projects. Results will determine which projects have the greatest benefit for the cycling public and will also help inform municipal infrastructure decisions across the region and state.

In response to a question from Mr. Dean Williams, Mr. Swick said that STRAVA data was not used in this project.

Mr. Mark Suennen asked who will maintain the model once published. Mr. Miller replied that updates will likely occur on a 2-4-year cycle, with the four MPOs potentially incorporating this task into their UPWPs.

Mr. Tom Clow asked if this tool is for public consumption. Mr. Swick responded that it is first and foremost a planning tool, with a secondary emphasis on public use.

4.3 Final Review of SNHPC FY 2019-2022 TIP Amendment #1

Mr. Miller led a brief discussion about TIP Amendment #1, noting that the public comment period has ended. He said that one comment has come in from NHDOT advising that the Department would like to program $250,000 in PE phase funding for Bedford project #40664 in FY 2020 and

therefore this project should remain as is in the FY 2019-2022 TIP. As such, the NHDOT requests that no amendment by made to Bedford project #40664.

Motion by Mr. Sioras to recommend adoption of TIP Amendment #1 as presented, including the removal of Bedford Project #40664 from the amendment, seconded by Mr. Suennen and carried unanimously.

5. Project/Schedule Updates

The project and schedule updates were made available.

6. Other Business

There was no other business.

7. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Laurie Makarawicz to adjourn, seconded by Mr. R.H. Snow and carried unanimously. The meeting stood adjourned at 11:01 am.

Next meeting: August 15, 2019

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Southern NH Planning Commission for July 18, 2019.

Sylvia von Aulock
Executive Director

Minutes Approved: August 15, 2019