



# Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission

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## Minutes of the METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE PLANNING COMMISSION

February 23, 2021  
11:30 A.M.

Meeting Held via Zoom due to COVID-19

### MEMBERS VIRTUALLY PRESENT

William Herman	Auburn
William Duschatko	Bedford
Charles Fairman, Alt.	Bedford
Barbara Salvatore, Alt.	Bedford
Bill Jean, Alt.	Bedford
Bryan Lord, Alt.	Bedford
Richard Snow	Candia
Andrew Hadik	Chester
Deb Munson	Chester
Frederick McGarry	Deerfield
Jeff Moulton, Chair	Derry
John O'Connor	Derry
Linda Kunhardt	Fracestown
Jennifer Vadney	Fracestown
David Pierce, Treasurer	Goffstown
Cutler Brown	Hooksett
Brian Battaglia	Londonderry
Deb Lievens	Londonderry
Arthur Rugg	Londonderry
Martin Srugis	Londonderry
Peter Capano	Manchester
Raymond Clement	Manchester
Dan O'Neil	Manchester
Mark Suennen, Secretary	New Boston
Tom Clow	Weare
Peter Griffin, Vice Chair	Windham
Mike Whitten	MTA
Tim White	NHDES
William Rose	NHDOT

### MEMBERS EXCUSED

Al Hall, III	Candia
Robert Cote	Deerfield
Alfred Eisenberg, Alt.	Fracestown
Suzanne Brunelle	Londonderry
John Hiltz	Windham
Jen Czysz	Strafford RPC

### MEMBERS ABSENT

Paula Marzloff	Auburn
Jeffrey Porter, Alt.	Auburn
David Danielson	Bedford
Richard Tripp	Derry
Patrick Behen	Fracestown
Henry C. Boyle	Goffstown
Jo Ann Duffy, Alt.	Goffstown
Barbara J. Griffin	Goffstown
Richard G. Marshall	Hooksett
Kevin McCue, Alt.	Manchester
David Litwinovich	New Boston
Leigh Levine	Fed. Hwy Admin
Tim Roache	Rockingham Plan. Cmsn

### STAFF VIRTUALLY PRESENT

Carl Eppich	Pr. Transportation Planner
Adam Hlasny	Sr. Transportation Planner
Cameron Prolman	Regional Planner

### STAFF PHYSICALLY PRESENT

Sylvia von Aulock	Executive Director
Nathan Miller	Deputy Executive Director
Linda Moore-O'Brien	Office Administrator
Zachary Swick	Sr. GIS Analyst

### GUESTS PRESENT

Will Stewart	Stay Work Play
Greg Lantos	Nashua RPC

Ms. von Aulock took a “photo” (screenshot) of the group.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Moulton called the MPO meeting to order at 11:34 A.M. and read the required statement regarding electronic meetings due to the State of Emergency as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Roll call was taken in conjunction with the minutes.

### **ACTION ON MINUTES OF JANUARY 26, 2021**

A few corrections were noted: On page 3, Ms. Salvatore voted to close (not open) the public session; on page 2 it should read August 2020 (not 2021); and B. Martin listed as a guest is Ben Martin from VHB.

Motion by Ms. Salvatore to approve the minutes as amended for January 26, 2021, seconded by Mr. Hadik. Vote was taken by roll call. Motion carried, with Messrs. McGarry, Brown and Ms. Vadney abstaining.

### **OLD BUSINESS** (none)

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **SNHPC FY2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Mr. Miller reviewed how the TIP fits into the project development process, along with the MTP and TYP.

He noted that a detailed overview of each project in the draft TIP was provided at the January MPO meeting. The public review and comment period ended yesterday. There were two comments:

- NHDOT updated the fiscal constraint analysis, which is an appendix to the TIP.
- NHDES noted there were no transportation control measures for air quality. This will be corrected.

Mr. Miller stated that the TAC has recommended adoption of the draft TIP, and this meeting is the public hearing.

In response to a question from Mr. O'Connor, Mr. Miller said Figure 5 on page 7 is an annual project to update signage, and doesn't include milepost based exit numbering.

Motion by Mr. Whitten to adopt the draft FY2021-2024 TIP.

Motion seconded by Mr. Hadik.

Motion carried.

### **2021 Safety Performance Targets**

Mr. Eppich reviewed the history of Safety Performance Targets at the state and regional level. The goal remains significant reduction of fatalities and serious injuries.

For 2021, staff is recommending adoption of the state safety performance targets.

Mr. Swick reviewed fatalities and serious injuries trends for the SNHPC region and the state. He noted there is more of a decline in serious injuries than fatalities. Projections show a continued downward trend for serious injuries.

Mr. Eppich reported fatalities go up and down each year, so the targets are based on the five-year moving average. The number of fatalities has increased recently, but are trending downwards overall.

In response to a question from Mr. Moulton, Mr. Eppich reported that we expect to receive the 2020 crash data sometime during the summer of 2021.

Mr. Capano inquired about the low fatality rate, and if SNHPC should go with a lower number. Mr. Eppich said that is at the MPO's discretion. Beating a target is good, but the number should be realistic, not aspirational.

Mr. Miller clarified there would be no penalty to SNHPC for missing regional targets. If the state misses its targets, then the ability to conduct discretionary transfers of Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funding could be lost.

Mr. Miller noted that safety data are affected by a variety of behavioral and infrastructure considerations. As an MPO, we can program projects to address some of the infrastructure related concerns, but there are many behavioral factors (e.g. speed, distraction, impairment) we can't control.

Mr. Whitten agrees the target should be an attainable number. Mr. Eppich noted that the TAC had a similar discussion about the SNHPC adopting more aggressive targets at the regional level, but ultimately recommended adopting the state targets because there are so many variables beyond our control.

Mr. Fairman noted that overall vehicle miles traveled likely dropped in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Whitten suggested reviewing the performance measures mid-year. Mr. Eppich agreed a deeper dive would be a good idea and we could invite NHDOT and NHDOS to provide context about how the state targets are determined.

Ms. Kunhardt agreed. What cost is attainable? What purpose? Mr. Eppich clarified what goes into supporting those targets. Ms. Kunhardt agreed.

Motion by Ms. Kunhardt to adopt 2021 safety performance targets.

Motion seconded by Mr. Capano.

Motion carried. Roll call was taken by Ms. von Aulock.

### **FY2023-2032 Ten-Year Plan Update**

Mr. Miller provided a series of updates on the FY 2023-2032 Ten-Year Plan. The SNHPC allocation is \$8.554M, but Mr. Miller pointed out that is not in today's dollars. Between inflation (2.8%) and NHDOT indirect costs (10%), the present value of this amount is substantially lower.

Mr. Miller noted that the final decision about the use of the region's allocation is due to NHDOT at the end of March.

Mr. Miller reviewed the seven regional projects under consideration in this Ten-Year Plan update.

- Manchester - I-293/Second Street Engineering Study
- Bedford - U.S. Route 3 Widening from Hawthorne Dr. to Manchester Airport Access Rd. (Existing TYP Project)
- Londonderry - Safety and Operational Improvements at the Intersection of NH 28/NH 128 (Existing TYP Project)
- Derry - Expansion of Derry Rail Trail from Madden Road to the Londonderry Town Line
- Manchester - I-93 Exit 8 Interchange Improvements
- Manchester - Intersection Improvements at Hooksett Road/Campbell Street and Campbell Street/Hamel Drive
- Deerfield - Convert Intersection of NH Route 107/Candia Road/Church Street to a Roundabout

The SNHPC assigned 5 of the 7 projects to our on-call engineering consultant (VHB) for scoping and cost estimating. Mr. Miller reviewed the following findings and recommendations for each project.

#### **Manchester - I-293/Second Street Engineering Study**

- NHDOT has advised that Turnpike funds are already fully-subscribed and toll revenues are under pressure from reduced travel due to the COVID pandemic.
- Recommendation is to pursue funding from the pending NHDOT Corridor Study Program for the Second Street component and revisit I-293 component with next TYP Update.

Bedford - U.S. Route 3 Widening from Hawthorne Dr. to Manchester Airport Access Rd. (Existing TYP Project)

- The Town of Bedford continues to support the project and has submitted correspondence to the SNHPC requesting supplemental funding be allocated for the project in this Ten-Year Plan update.
- Recommendation is to commit a portion of the SNHPC's regional Ten-Year Plan allocation to add supplemental funding to this existing project.

Londonderry - Safety and Operational Improvements at the Intersection of NH 28/NH 128 (Existing TYP Project)

- Original design concept needed to be reconfigured to avoid impacts to recent development at the intersection, which has resulted in a higher cost estimate for the project.
- Recommendation is to commit a portion of the SNHPC's regional Ten-Year Plan allocation to add supplemental funding to this existing project.

Derry - Expansion of Derry Rail Trail from Madden Road to the Londonderry Town Line

- Recommendation is to pursue TAP funding for this project in the current solicitation.

Manchester - I-93 Exit 8 Interchange Improvements

- VHB developed a concept that considered adaptive signal control, intersection capacity improvements, and a bike lane
- Recommendation is to pursue CMAQ funding for the adaptive signal control component of the project in the next solicitation, and revisit intersection capacity improvements in the next TYP update.

Manchester - Intersection Improvements at Hooksett Road/Campbell Street and Campbell Street/Hamel Drive

- Recommendation is to pursue CMAQ funding for the Hooksett Road/Campbell Street intersection in the next solicitation and revisit the proposed Campbell Street/Bicentennial Drive improvement in the next TYP update.

Deerfield - Convert Intersection of NH Route 107/Candia Road/Church Street to a Roundabout

- VHB developed a 4-leg roundabout concept for the intersection based on the Town's vision for the project.
- Recommendation is to coordinate with Town and VHB to further refine the project concept and detail potential historic resource and ROW impacts, and revisit in the next TYP update.

Mr. O'Neil asked if a toll increase would have allowed the funding of the proposed Manchester I-293 engineering study. Mr. Miller noted that this was one of the projects that NHDOT identified to fund with additional turnpike revenues when a toll increase was last proposed in 2017. Mr. Miller noted that turnpike revenues have decreased as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.


Mr. Miller advised that a decision the final regional funding allocation for the FY 2023-2032 Ten-Year Plan will be on the March MPO meeting agenda.

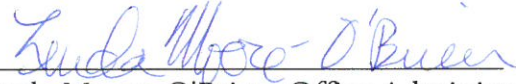
**OTHER BUSINESS** (none)

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion by Ms. Salvatore to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Munson. Chair Moulton declared the MPO meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m. following a roll call vote.*

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the February 23, 2021 meeting Metropolitan Planning Organization of the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission.

  
Sylvia von Aulock, Executive Director

  
Linda Moore-O'Brien, Office Administrator