

Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission

438 Dubuque Street, Manchester, NH 03102-3546, Telephone (603) 669-4664 Fax (603) 669-4350
www.snhpc.org

Minutes of the SNHPC METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

January 25, 2022
11:30 A.M.

Meeting held in-person at the SNHPC office (438 Dubuque Street, Manchester, NH). Virtual participation in the MPO meeting was also accommodated via Zoom due to COVID-19.

MEMBERS PHYSICALLY PRESENT

Auburn	William Herman
Auburn	Paula Marzloff
Bedford	William Duschatko
Bedford	Charlie Fairman
Bedford	Bill Jean
Chester	Deborah Munson
Deerfield	Robert Cote
Derry	Jeff Moulton
Derry	Richard Tripp
Francestown	Linda Kunhardt
Goffstown	David Pierce
Londonderry	Suzanne Brunelle
Londonderry	Martin Srugis
Manchester	Peter Capano
Manchester	Raymond Clement
Manchester	Daniel O'Neil
Manchester	Donald Waldron
New Boston	Mark Suennen
Windham	Peter Griffin
Windham	Edgar LaPointe

MEMBERS VIRTUALLY PRESENT

Bedford (Alt)	Barbara Salvatore
Derry	John O'Connor
Francestown (Alt)	Alfred Eisenberg
Goffstown	Jacob LaFontaine
Hooksett	Nicholas Williams
Londonderry (Alt)	Brian Battaglia
Londonderry	Deborah Lievens
Londonderry	Arthur Rugg
Londonderry	Lynn Wiles, Alt.
Manchester	Marcus Ponce de Leon, Alt.
Weare	Tom Clow
Windham	John Hiltz
Timothy White	NHDES
William Rose	NHDOT

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Candia	Rudy Cartier
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VOTING REPRESENTATIVE SEATS VACANT

Bedford	3 rd Seat
Hooksett	3 rd Seat

MEMBERS ABSENT

Auburn (Alt)	Jeffrey Porter
Bedford (Alt)	Bryan Lord
Bedford	Danielle Evansic
Candia	Albert Hall
Deerfield	Frederick McGarry
Goffstown (Alt)	Jo Ann Duffy
New Boston	David Litwinovich
NHDOT FHWA	Leigh Levine
Manchester-Boston Regional Airport	Theodore Kitchens
Manchester Transit	Mike Whitten

STAFF PHYSICALLY PRESENT

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

STAFF VIRTUALLY PRESENT

Adam Hlasny	Sr. Transportation Planner
Cam Prolman	Regional Planner
Carl Eppich	Pr. Transportation Planner
Tammy Zamoyski	Regional Planner
Monique Duchesne	Assistant Planner

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC PHYSICALLY PRESENT

Ray Breslin	Londonderry
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Chester	Andrew Hadik
Fracestown (Alt)	Jennifer Vadney
Goffstown	Barbara Griffin
Weare	Naomi Bolton

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Griffin called the MPO meeting to order at 11:32 AM. A quorum was present in-person.

Chair Griffin then welcomed two new representatives: Edgar LaPointe from Windham and Nicholas Williams from Hooksett.

ACTION ON MINUTES OF DECEMBER 21, 2021

Motion by Mr. O'Neil to approve the minutes for December 21, 2021, seconded by Mr. Pierce. Motion carried, with Messrs. Herman, Williams, LaPointe as well as Ms. Marzloff, Salvatore and Brunelle abstaining.

OLD BUSINESS (none)

NEW BUSINESS

SNHPC FY 2021 – 2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #3

Mr. Miller stated that NHDOT has been coordinating with MPOs on TIP Amendment #3. Today's public hearing follows a 10-day public comment period, which was held between January 10th and January 20th. No comments were received. Mr. Miller noted that the projects in Amendment #3 were reviewed in detail at last month's MPO meeting. The SNHPC TAC reviewed Amendment #3 last week and has unanimously recommended adoption.

Motion by Mr. Tripp to adopt TIP Amendment #3.

Motion seconded by Ms. Kunhardt, and carried unanimously.

Introduction of Proposed 2022 Safety Performance Targets

Mr. Eppich explained there are five federally-required safety measures to monitor fatalities and serious injuries. These are: 1) Number of Fatalities; 2) Fatality Rate; 3) Number of Serious Injuries; 4) Serious Injury Rate; and 5) Number of Non-motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries. MPOs can set their own annual safety targets or support the state-level performance targets.

For 2022 SNHPC recommends supporting the state-level targets for 4 of the 5 measures. The regional fatality rate has been consistently lower for the SNHPC region, so a lower target is recommended.

Mr. Swick illustrated rates in New England versus NH, explaining history and seatbelt use, which has a significant impact on the fatality rates.

Mr. Swick also discussed motorcycle, bicycle and pedestrian factors, and said the target is based on the state's Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). Mr. Swick noted there are more highway miles here than in northern NH.

Responding to a question from Mr. Fairman, Mr. Swick explained the state determines VMT from AADT information. Traffic counts factor into this calculation.

In response to a question from Ms. Lievens, Mr. Eppich said the adoption of targets is a federal requirement. He referred to the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds. There are no "penalties" for MPOs that do not achieve the safety performance targets. If the State of NH does not demonstrate significant progress in meeting safety targets, then they lose the flexibility to transfer HSIP funds to other uses.

In response to a question from Ms. Salvatore, there was a discussion about how to lower fatality and injury rates in the SNHPC region. It was noted that behavioral factors, including the lack of seatbelt use is a problem. Mr. Eppich commented that the recent statewide Strategic Highway Safety Plan process looked at whether requirements for motorcycle helmets and seatbelts would be helpful.

Mr. Swick noted that locations of crashes can help identify trouble areas. Mr. Tripp commented that perhaps publishing the locations of crashes would be helpful to reduce incidents. Mr. Swick said there is varying levels of accuracy so exact placement of crash locations can be difficult. Mr. Swick noted that police reports (used in Road Safety Audits) are more accurate.

Mr. Suennen inquired about a delay in data. For instance, a crash may not be included in the data if there is a long investigation. He also questioned whether the proposed fatality rate target may be too aggressive. Mr. Suennen suggested a rate of 0.77 rather than 0.7. Mr. Capano agreed that 0.77 may be appropriate.

Mr. Eppich said next year they will have 2021 data. This summer, SNHPC plans to invite Mike Dugas of NHDOT to make a presentation about this topic.

In response to a question from Mr. Tripp, Mr. Swick said there is crash location data, but some of the information is not public due to privacy concerns.

It was noted the targets cover all public roads, and SNHPC works with the state and stakeholders on the implementation of the HSIP.

Mr. Waldron commented that the location of incidents can be a valuable tool. He wondered if the personal information can be stripped and a "heat map" generated. Mr. Swick said he is working on this, but it can be a complex process.

Other Business

Ms. Zamoyski reviewed the February 11th International Winter Bike to Work Day to encourage health and economic development. She noted there are two breakfast stations, and one afternoon refuel station in the afternoon. In addition, MTA will provide free rides for those using bus bike racks.

Ms. Zamoyski also reported there will be other bike events in warmer months. In response to a question from Mr. Waldron, Ms. Zamoyski confirmed the Manchester DPW is aware of this event.

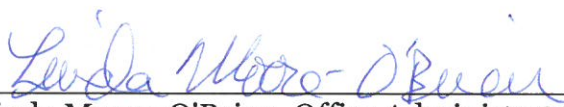
Mr. Eppich stated there will be a regional Freight Stakeholders meeting on February 7th at noon. Those participating in person will be treated to pizza, but there will be a Zoom option as well. The meeting will feature an initial discussion of the state freight plan and bottlenecks. The idea is to meet periodically. Please email Mr. Eppich to RSVP.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Capano to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Pierce. Chair Griffin declared the MPO meeting adjourned at 12:35 PM.

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the January 25, 2022 meeting Metropolitan Planning Organization of the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission.


Sylvia von Aulock, Executive Director


Linda Moore-O'Brien, Office Administrator