



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

August 22, 2023

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.

MEMBERS PHYSICALLY PRESENT

Auburn	Paula Marzloff
Chester	Andrew Hadik
Chester	Deborah Munson
Derry	Jeff Moulton
Derry	Richard Tripp
Goffstown	Colleen Mailloux
Londonderry	Suzanne Brunelle
Londonderry	Arthur Rugg, Secretary
Manchester	Marcus Ponce de Leon
Manchester	Don Waldron
New Boston	Mark Suennen, Vice Chair
Windham	Peter Griffin, Chair

MEMBERS VIRTUALLY PRESENT

Bedford	Daniel Heath
Bedford	Bryan Lord
Candia	Rudy Cartier
Francestown	Alfred Eisenberg, Alt.
Francestown	Jennifer Vadney, Alt.
Goffstown	Jacob LaFontaine
Londonderry	Deb Lievens
NHDOT	William Rose

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY

NHDES	Ricky DiCillo
NHDES	Vanessa Partington
CNHRPC	Vincent Pagano
Strafford RPC	Colin Lentz

STAFF PHYSICALLY PRESENT

Nathan Miller	Deputy Executive Director
Linda Moore-O'Brien	Office Administrator
Suzanne Nienaber	Principal Planner
Cameron Prolman	Regional Planner
Zachary Swick	Sr. GIS Analyst

VOTING REPRESENTATIVE SEATS VACANT

Auburn	
Candia	
Deerfield	
Weare	

MEMBERS ABSENT

Bedford	Danielle Evansic
Bedford	Charlie Fairman
Chester	Dana Theokas, Alt.
Deerfield	Frederick McGarry
Goffstown	Jo Ann Duffy, Alt.
Londonderry	Brian Battaglia
Londonderry	Jeffrey Penta, Alt.
Londonderry	Lynn Wiles, Alt.
Manchester	Peter Capano
Manchester	Daniel O'Neil
Manchester	Ray Clement, Treasurer
Weare	Naomi Bolton
MTA	Mike Whitten
Manchester Airport	Ted Kitchens
FHWA	Leigh Levine

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Auburn	Jeffrey Porter, Alt.
Bedford	Bill Jean
Derry	John O'Connor
Francestown	Linda Kunhardt
Francestown	Gary Schnakenberg
Goffstown	Barbara Griffin
Hooksett	Denise Pichette-Volk
Windham	Edgar Lapointe

STAFF VIRTUALLY PRESENT

Sylvia von Aulock	Executive Director
Adam Hlasny	Sr. Transportation Planner
David Tilton	Regional Planner
Tammy Zamoyski	Regional Planner

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Peter Griffin called the MPO meeting to order at 11:33 AM. A quorum was present.

ACTION ON MINUTES OF JUNE 27, 2023

Motion by Mr. Rugg to approve the minutes of June 27, 2023.

Motion seconded by Ms. Mailloux, and carried with Messrs. Lord, Hadik, Ponce de Leon and Ms. Vadney abstaining. Vote was taken in conjunction with the roll call.

The meeting notes from July 25th were acknowledged.

OLD BUSINESS (none)

NEW BUSINESS

Title VI Program Update

Mr. Miller provided an abbreviated presentation of the draft SNHPC Title VI Program which was reviewed in detail on July 25th.

He stated this is a Federal requirement under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. SNHPC is required to ensure that its programs and services operate without regard to race, color, or national origin.

The Title VI Program document is comprehensively updated at least every three years. The draft document was released for a 30-day public comment period on June 23, 2023. No substantive comments were received, and the TAC recommended adoption by the MPO.

Mr. Miller said notable changes in this Title VI Program include the expansion of the SNHPC service area to 21 communities (including those towns in Rockingham Planning Commission region that belong to the Region 8 RCC), and the requirement to translate key documents into French in addition to Spanish due to the number of French speakers with Limited English Proficiency in the SNHPC service area.

Mr. Miller stated SNHPC staff are encouraged to participate in training (e.g. reviewing training videos on www.LEP.gov) regarding Limited English Proficiency (LEP). Mr. Ponce de Leon inquired about making the training mandatory rather than encouraged. He also asked about the date of the American Community Survey (ACS), as many immigrants, especially from Africa and Brazil, have moved to Manchester recently. Mr. Swick said that the document reflects the most recent ACS data available. There is a new American Community Survey data release due out in December, which may shed more light on this dynamic. Mr. Swick also confirmed that some languages, such Portuguese, are combined together in the ACS data as "Other Indo-European Languages." Mr. Miller reported SNHPC has not received any Portuguese translation requests.

In response to a question from Mr. Tripp, Mr. Miller stated the draft is posted on the SNHPC website.

Mr. Suennen requested that the table on page 3 be updated to reflect adoption in August rather than July.

Motion by Mr. Tripp to adopt the Title VI Program Update.

Motion seconded by Ms. Mailloux.

Motion carried, with Mr. Ponce de Leon abstaining.

SNHPC Region Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Development Plan

Regional Planner Tammy Zamoyski provided a summary of the Plan. As previously reviewed at the June and July meetings, SHNPC staff have prepared a draft regional Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Development Plan. The purpose of this Plan is to identify viable Direct Current Fast Charger (DCFC) locations along the region's major travel corridors. The charging locations are intended for use by the general public- those who live, work, and play in our region, as well as those who are just passing through.

Comments/suggestions received from Derry, Goffstown, and Manchester have been documented in an appendix. At the June 15, 2023 TAC meeting there was consensus to recommend adoption of the plan.

Ms. Zamoyski reviewed the differences between a Fast Charger (20-30 minutes); a Level 2 Charger (5-6 hours); and a Level 1 Charger (overnight charging). She also gave an overview of selected sites for plans or areas of interest. She noted site review was conducted by municipal staff and prioritized.

Mr. Suennen pointed out some discrepancies between the tables and appendices. Ms. Zamoyski will ensure these are corrected.

Mr. Tripp confirmed that the tentative Derry sites are not final. Hood Commons and the Walmart area were mentioned.

Ms. Brunelle expressed surprise there were only four Manchester sites mentioned. Ms. Zamoyski clarified there are 14 or 15 on the list.

Motion by Mr. Tripp to adopt the regional Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Development Plan as amended by today's suggestions.

Motion seconded by Mr. Ponce de Leon.

Motion carried, with Mr. Suennen abstaining.

Update on Climate Action Toolkit

Principal Planner Suzanne Nienaber gave an overview of the forthcoming Climate Action Toolkit focused on roadway adaptations in the face of climate change.

Noting the local flooding that has taken place since spring, she explained the most common risk to transportation infrastructure in the SNHPC region is inland flooding, typically due to heavy and more frequent rainfall events. Across the region's transportation network, stream crossings (specifically, culverts and bridges) are the locations most vulnerable to flood damage. The functionality and reliability of the transportation network is a priority issue for every community, and the Southern NH Planning Commission (SNHPC) has found that the topic of roadway adaptation offers an essential entry point for bringing stakeholders together to address pressing concerns.

In 2020, the SNHPC completed a [Regional Vulnerability Assessment](#) to analyze the region's most vulnerable stream crossings. This study and its associated GIS mapping provide essential data that can be used to inform future decision-making around climate adaptation needs.

Earlier this year, the SNHPC held a [regional climate workshop](#) that brought together a diverse group of local, state, and federal stakeholders to discuss key opportunities for adapting our roadways in the face of climate change.

Now, staff are integrating technical findings, collaborator feedback, and insights from other regional planning commissions into a forthcoming *Climate Action Toolkit* focused on roadway adaptations.

Featuring corridor-level data and a checklist of roadway adaptation strategies, the toolkit is intended to jumpstart critical conversations and help identify priorities and practical implementation opportunities at the local and regional levels.

Ms. Nienaber discussed temperature rise and the atmosphere holding more water, resulting in greater frequency of heavy rainfall events.

Technical analysis will focus on federal aid eligible roads for now as well as stream crossing vulnerability. Corridor level analysis will examine the highest density of vulnerable stream crossings, as well as proximity to flood zones or steep slopes.

She is looking for strategies for roadway adaptation- examples of successful projects, with photos if possible. Practitioner insights are welcome. Possible strategies include design and engineering and environmental approaches.

The toolkit will conclude with a section on adaptation in action, featuring a case study of NH-102 in Chester. The chapter will also look at asset lifecycle and cost considerations related to climate change.

Ms. Nienaber mentioned federal PROTECT funding as well as the next phase of this work, which will focus on developing a resilience improvement plan for the region.

She stated the proposed timeline is to release a draft in October, adopt it in November, and publicize it in December. Look for a related article developed with other RPCs in Town and City this fall. Ms. Nienaber also mentioned working with the NH Association of Conservation Commissions; she will be presenting the climate toolkit at their annual meeting in November.

In response to a question from Mr. Moulton about criteria, she said it's not just municipalities- SNHPC can help determine climate priorities to guide regional transportation planning efforts.

Responding to Mr. Tripp, Ms. Nienaber said the draft is not online yet.

There was discussion about beaver dams retaining a lot of water, and if it breaks, culverts can be flooded and clogged. Ms. von Aulock said best management practices from conservation commissions are important.

Ms. Munson said towns have to have funds stockpiled for such events. Cost considerations are key – e.g. put a patch on a road versus a permanent fix. Installing a box culvert with a wildlife corridor.

Ms. von Aulock said the conversation will continue another time due to time constraints. Ms. Nienaber will stay after the meeting to discuss/answer questions.

Week Without Driving

Regional Planner Tammy Zamoyski briefly reviewed the first National Week Without Driving, **October 2-8, 2023**.

The Week Without Driving Challenge is not a celebration of active transportation, but an opportunity for our leaders and decision makers to learn about the barriers non-drivers face in accessing our community. Ms. Zamoyski invited the MPO to join SNHPC staff and others in taking the challenge so we can learn together.

She began by stating that 31 out of every 100 U.S. residents lack a drivers license and are likely to face exclusion from work, social activities, education and community inclusion. These include low-income populations, people with disabilities, youth and seniors.

If you must drive, take time to observe your neighborhood- are there barriers to pedestrians? How can we level the playing field for non-drivers?

Other Business

Mr. DiCillo said two grants are available through NHDES: 1) The NH Clean Diesel Program; 2) The Granite State Clean Fleets Program. Mr. DiCillo advised that additional information about these programs can be found on the NHDES website.

Ms. Moore-O'Brien reminded everyone about the Annual Meeting on September 8th.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Tripp, seconded by Mr. Moulton. Chair Griffin declared the meeting adjourned at 12:45.

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of the notes of the August 22, 2023 meeting Metropolitan Planning Organization of the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission.

Sylvia von Aulock, Executive Director

Linda Moore-O'Brien, Office Administrator