



Minutes of the SNHPC METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

June 27, 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

| | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| Chester | Andrew Hadik |
| Chester | Deborah Munson |
| Derry | John O'Connor |
| Derry | Jeff Moulton |
| Francestown | Gary Schnakenberg |
| Goffstown | David Pierce |
| Goffstown | Barbara Griffin |
| Manchester | Peter Capano |
| Manchester | Raymond Clement |
| New Boston | Mark Suennen |
| Windham | Peter Griffin, Chair |
| Windham | Edgar Lapointe |

MEMBERS VIRTUALLY PRESENT

| | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| Candia | Rudy Cartier |
| Goffstown | Colleen Mailloux |
| Goffstown | Jacob LaFontaine |
| Hooksett | Denise Pichette Volk |
| Londonderry | Brian Battaglia |
| Londonderry | Suzanne Brunelle |
| Londonderry | Arthur Rugg |
| Londonderry | Lynn Wiles |
| NHDES | Ricky DiCillo |
| NHDOT | Bill Watson |

GUESTS PRESENT

| | |
|-------|------------------------|
| NHDOT | Commissioner Bill Cass |
|-------|------------------------|

STAFF PHYSICALLY PRESENT

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Sylvia von Aulock | Executive Director |
| Nathan Miller | Deputy Executive Director |
| Adam Hlasny | Sr. Transportation Planner |
| Andrew Lawpaugh | Data Collection Intern |
| Suzanne Nienaber | Senior Planner |
| Zachary Swick | Sr. GIS Analyst |
| Tammy Zamoyski | Regional Planner |

STAFF VIRTUALLY PRESENT

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Cameron Prolman | Regional Planner |
| David Tilton | Regional Planner |

VOTING REPRESENTATIVE SEATS VACANT

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Auburn | |
| Candia | |
| Deerfield | |
| Weare | |

MEMBERS ABSENT

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Auburn | Paula Marzloff |
| Auburn (Alt) | Jeffrey Porter |
| Bedford | Charlie Fairman |
| Bedford | Bill Jean |
| Deerfield | Frederick McGarry |
| Francestown (Alt) | Alfred Eisenberg |
| Francestown (Alt) | Jennifer Vadney |
| Londonderry | Suzanne Brunelle |
| Londonderry | Jeffrey Penta, Alt. |
| Manchester | Daniel O'Neil |
| Manchester | Marcus Ponce de Leon |
| Manchester | Donald Waldron |
| Weare | Naomi Bolton |
| Windham | John Hiltz |
| FHWA | Leigh Levine |

MEMBERS EXCUSED

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Bedford (Alt) | Bryan Lord |
| Chester | Andrew Hadik |
| Derry | Richard Tripp |
| Francestown | Linda Kunhardt |
| Goffstown (Alt) | Jo Ann Duffy |
| Goffstown | Barbara Griffin |
| Londonderry | Lynn Wiles, Alt. |
| New Boston | David Litwinovich |
| New Boston | Mark Suennen |
| Windham | Peter Griffin |
| MTA | Mike Whitten |
| Manchester Airport | Theodore Kitchens |

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Peter Griffin called the MPO meeting to order at 11:30 AM. A quorum was present in-person.

ACTION ON MINUTES OF MAY 23, 2023

Motion by Mr. O'Connor to approve the minutes of May 23, 2023, seconded by Mr. Schnakenberg. Motion carried, with Messrs. Moulton, Pierce, Lapointe, Suennen, and Ms. Brunelle abstaining. The vote was taken by roll call.

OLD BUSINESS (none)

NEW BUSINESS

Guest Speaker: NHDOT Commissioner Bill Cass

Mr. Miller introduced Commissioner Cass, noting his 35+ year career at NHDOT before being appointed commissioner in December 2022. Commissioner Cass outlined agency goals, which include responsiveness, accountability, collaboration, and customer service. Current challenges include a 20-25% job vacancy rate at NHDOT, homelessness issues in Rights of Way, and climate change issues. The governor's recent approval of a 10% pay increase will go a long way in the recruitment/retention of employees. NHDOT is also trying to streamline a bureaucratic system at various levels. Additional resources are available to address municipal red-list bridges, as well as to match transit services throughout the state. He complimented local advocacy efforts for approval of the latter.

In response to a question from Mr. O'Connor regarding I-93 Exit 4A, Mr. Cass said that the recreational trail element of the project has been resolved. To re-design it at this point would impact the project delivery schedule. When complete, it will be a safe, ADA-accessible, grade-separated crossing, and much effort will go into doing it properly.

Ms. Griffin expressed appreciation at NHDOT's focus on safety. She suggested a pre- and post-COVID survey on crashes per mile.

In response to a question from Mr. Suennen regarding I-293 Exits 6&7, Mr. Cass said that schedules have been pushed back by a combination of inflation and reduced turnpike funding streams. There may be an opportunity for an interim project to address safety issues with the Exit 6 interchange in 2025 or 2026.

In response to a comment from Mr. Moulton regarding a lack of EV charging stations in the northern half of the state, Mr. Cass said that the initial focus will be on the I-93 corridor between Concord and Littleton. He noted that one of the first Volkswagen project awards was to the Errol Country Store. More private businesses (i.e. Tanger Outlets in Tilton, Bretton Woods) have been adding EV charging to support their customers' needs.

In response to a question from Mr. Pierce regarding buried gas lines, Mr. Cass said that NHDOT has adjusted its utilities accommodations manual and is trying to partner with other agencies as well as possible.

In response to a question from Mr. Griffin regarding the capacity of I-93, Mr. Cass said that it will have capacity for a long time, especially with changing commuter patterns. He added that he expects commuter bus service to continue on both the I-93 and Everett Turnpike corridors.

Ms. von Aulock thanked Mr. Cass for joining the MPO and offered SNHPC's assistance. She added that SNHPC would be very interested in coordinating the efforts of the "safety czar" and the Complete Streets Advisory Committee to create some new ideas on how to tackle pedestrian safety issues.

SNHPC Public Participation Plan

Senior Planner Suzanne Nienaber gave a presentation summarizing the Public Participation Plan and related comments.

Motion by Mr. Hadik to adopt the SNHPC Public Participation Plan, seconded by Mr. Clement. Motion carried unanimously.

SNHPC Region Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Development Plan

Regional Planner Tammy Zamoyski reviewed the comments received during the plan's 30-day public comment period. She reviewed a comment from an Auburn resident which opposed the inclusion of EV charging stations in that town. Ms. Zamoyski noted that the intent of the plan is to identify potential charging sites that would have regional significance, and there would be no commitment for the town to install them at those particular locations.

Mr. Hadik thanked Ms. Zamoyski and Mr. Zach Swick of SNHPC for their work on this study, as it's very important to lay the groundwork for a future network of EV charging stations. The Chester Board of Selectmen has supported the suggested locations within Chester.

Ms. von Aulock said that this plan is meant to provide guidance for future funding for potential charging sites. Mr. Swick added that the suggested sites are not just for drivers passing through but also the local populace.

Ms. Griffin said that this important topic deserves fuller discussion; if it doesn't reflect community feedback, it could have implications for the commission.

Motion by Mr. Suennen to continue the public hearing at the July 25, 2023 MPO meeting, seconded by Mr. Clement and carried with one opposed.

Other Business (none)

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Capano to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Clement. Chair Griffin declared the MPO meeting adjourned at 1:03 PM.

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the June 27, 2023 meeting Metropolitan Planning Organization of the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission.

Sylvia von Aulock, Executive Director

Adam Hlasny, Senior Transportation Planner