

**SNHPC**

# Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission

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www.snhpc.org

## Minutes of the SNHPC METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

October 26, 2021

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	Paula Marzloff
Bedford	William Duschatko
Bedford	Bill Jean
Chester	Andrew Hadik
Chester	Deborah Munson
Deerfield	Robert Cote
Derry	Richard Tripp
Franchestown	Linda Kunhardt
Londonderry	Suzanne Brunelle
Londonderry	Martin Srugis
Manchester	Peter Capano
Manchester	Raymond Clement
Manchester	Donald Waldron
New Boston	Mark Suennen
Windham	Peter Griffin

### MEMBERS VIRTUALLY PRESENT

Auburn	William Herman
Bedford (Alt)	Bryan Lord
Bedford (Alt)	Barbara Salvatore
Candia	Rudy Cartier
Derry	Jeff Moulton
Derry	John O'Connor
Franchestown (Alt)	Alfred Eisenberg
Goffstown (Alt)	Jo Ann Duffy
Goffstown	Jacob LaFontaine
Goffstown	David Pierce
Londonderry (Alt)	Brian Battaglia
Londonderry	Deborah Lievens
Londonderry	Arthur Rugg
Londonderry	Lynn Wiles, Alt.
Weare	Tom Clow
Windham	John Hiltz
CNHRPC	Dean Williams
NH DOT	Lucy St. John

### MEMBERS EXCUSED

Bedford	Charlie Fairman
Candia	Albert Hall
Franchestown (Alt)	Jennifer Vadney

### VOTING REPRESENTATIVE SEATS VACANT

Bedford	3 <sup>rd</sup> Seat
Hooksett	3 <sup>rd</sup> Seat

### MEMBERS ABSENT

Auburn (Alt)	Jeffrey Porter
Deerfield	Frederick McGarry
Hooksett	Cutler Brown
Manchester	Daniel O'Neil
Weare	Naomi Bolton
Manchester Transit	Laurie Makarawicz
NHDOT FHWA	Leigh Levine

### STAFF PHYSICALLY PRESENT

Sylvia von Aulock	Executive Director
Nathan Miller	Deputy Executive Director
Linda Moore-O'Brien	Office Administrator
James Vayo	Project Manager

### STAFF VIRTUALLY PRESENT

Adam Hlasny	Sr. Transportation Planner
Cam Prolman	Regional Planner
Zachary Swick	Senior GIS Analyst
Carl Eppich	Pr. Transportation Planner
Tammy Zamoyski	Regional Planner

### PRESENTERS & PUBLIC VIRTUALLY PRESENT

Erik Garr	Consolidated Communications
George Sioras	Town of Derry

### GUEST PHYSICALLY PRESENT

Raymond Breslin	Londonderry
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Goffstown	Barbara Griffin
Manchester	Marcus Ponce de Leon, Alt.
New Boston	David Litwinovich
North Country RPC	Michelle Moren-Grey
Strafford RPC	Jen Czysz

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Griffin called the MPO meeting to order at 11:35 AM. A quorum was present in-person.

### **ACTION ON MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2021**

Mr. Suennen pointed out a typo where Michele Cota's name was spelled incorrectly. Ms. Moore-O'Brien will correct this.

Motion by Mr. Tripp to approve the minutes for September 28, 2021, seconded by Mr. Hadik. Vote was taken by roll call. Motion carried with Messrs. Hadik, Wiles, Capano and Ms. Kunhardt, Duffy and St. John abstaining.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Presentation of the Raymond E. Closson Award**

Mr. Moulton presented the Raymond E. Closson Award to John O'Connor in recognition of his many years of volunteerism at both the local and State level. Those present applauded Mr. O'Connor, and he expressed his appreciation for the honor.

#### **Thank You to Former Chair Jeffrey Moulton**

Chair Griffin thanked Mr. Moulton for his leadership over the past two years. The Commission applauded Mr. Moulton.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **SNHPC FY 2021-2024 TIP Amendment #2**

Mr. Miller provided an overview of draft TIP Amendment #2, which includes just one project amendment in the Town of Weare. Specifically, a bridge on NH Route 77 which will have a different federal funding source, and the engineering will begin earlier than originally anticipated.

The public comment period for TIP Amendment #2 has ended and no comments were received.

The Amendment also includes the incorporation of regional public transit safety targets, which were previously adopted by the SNHPC.

Motion by Ms. Kunhardt to adopt TIP Amendment #2.

Motion seconded by Mr. Tripp.

Motion carried, with Ms. St. John abstaining. The vote was taken by roll call.

### **Overview of Freight Traffic Regional Bottleneck Analysis**

Mr. Eppich explained that while freight planning is fairly new, it is very important to the economic vitality of New Hampshire. He added that approximately ten percent of the cost of a product is due to freight transportation.

Mr. Eppich explained that the NHDOT Freight Plan is required by the FAST Act, which provides the state of NH with dedicated freight transportation funding each year.

SNHPC has prioritized 20 regionally significant freight bottlenecks, measuring quantitative and qualitative data. There are 74 miles of freight bottlenecks in total.

Bottlenecks occur primarily on first and last mile connections, not on interstate highways. Mr. Eppich provided an example on Candia Road in Manchester, noting that SNHPC examines the characteristics of the road, the causes of congestion, and potential strategies to address the issues.

Characteristics of the road could include traffic signals and ramp access, and congestion could be apparent only at certain times of day (i.e. some bottlenecks only occur during the morning or evening).

Mr. Eppich announced the formation of a Regional Freight Stakeholders group, and volunteers are being sought for this group. Meetings will begin late fall or early winter.

Mr. Griffin began a discussion about the effect that the possible sale of Pan Am Railroad to CSX might have on active and former trackage in Maine and Vermont. He noted track conversion to rail trails is being evaluated.

Mr. Eppich noted corridors could be converted back, and upgrading rail is good for all.

In response to a question from Mr. Tripp regarding the criteria for signaling and roundabouts, Mr. Eppich said engineering studies are conducted, and provided an example in Keene on Route 101, a major trucking route. Space, volume, and throughput are considered as part of the engineering analysis.

Mr. O'Connor inquired about the definition of a "truck", whether it depends on a CDL license or if delivery vehicles are included. Mr. Eppich advised that it may be defined in the NHDOT Freight Plan.

Responding to a question from Ms. Munson regarding truck only lanes, Mr. Eppich said he is not aware of any in New England. Separate infrastructure for trucks could be very expensive. However, the stakeholder group can advise on this issue.

Mr. Breslin expressed his opinion that moving freight by rail is essential, and converting rails to rail trails should be reconsidered. He feels there are too many cars and trucks on the roads already and called for a better way of doing things.

Ms. von Aulock explained that due to time constraints, the MPO must move on to the next agenda item. She encouraged those present to consider volunteering for the stakeholder group.

Mr. Griffin confirmed all of the presentations will be on the SNHPC website.

### **2020 Census Redistricting Data Review**

Mr. Swick stated the first dataset was released in August 2021 and included information on population, race, ethnicity, and housing at a census block, county subdivision, and county level. He provided an overview of these data for the SNHPC region and previous information to examine change over time. The state as a whole and its metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas were reviewed, as well the SNHPC region divided into three groups: municipalities over 100,000 residents, municipalities with over 10,000 residents, and municipalities with less than 10,000 residents.

He explained that the population in the SNHPC region is growing slower than in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Minors have fallen as a percentage of population (although overall numbers have increased). This change is similar to the State of New Hampshire as a whole.

Mr. Swick reported that New Hampshire is now the 4<sup>th</sup> least diverse state. The United States as a whole is 1.6 times as diverse as Manchester. Young people are much more likely to be racial or ethnic minorities.

Over the previous decade housing units were mostly added in metro areas. Non-metro areas saw limited or no growth.

Overall, the SNHPC region is growing, but is now older and more diverse.

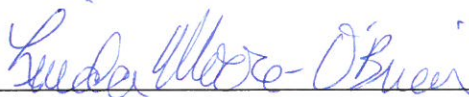
### **ADJOURNMENT**

***Motion by Mr. Capano to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Hadik. Chair Griffin declared the MPO meeting adjourned at 12:40 PM.***

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the October 26, 2021 meeting Metropolitan Planning Organization of the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission.



Sylvia von Aulock, Executive Director



Linda Moore-O'Brien, Office Administrator