



Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission

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Minutes of the METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE PLANNING COMMISSION

January 28, 2020
11:30 A.M.
438 Dubuque Street
Manchester, New Hampshire

MEMBERS PRESENT

William Herman	Auburn
Paula Marzloff	Auburn
William Duschatko	Bedford
Charles Fairman	Bedford
Richard Snow	Candia
Andrew Hadik	Chester
Deb Munson	Chester
Robert Cote	Deerfield
Jeff Moulton, Chair	Derry
Linda Kunhardt	Francestown
David Pierce, Treasurer	Goffstown
Richard G. Marshall	Hooksett
Mark Chagnon	Hooksett
Cutler Brown	Hooksett
Brian Battaglia	Londonderry
Suzanne Brunelle	Londonderry
Arthur Rugg	Londonderry
Peter Capano	Manchester
Raymond Clement	Manchester
Dan O'Neil	Manchester
Tom Clow	Weare
Peter Griffin, Vice Chair	Windham
Elizabeth Strachan	NH DES
Mike Whitten	MTA
Dean Williams	Central NH RPC

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Barbara Salvatore, Alt.	Bedford
Al Hall, III	Candia
John O'Connor	Derry
Richard Tripp	Derry
Alfred Eisenberg, Alt.	Francestown
Prescott "Guy" Tolman	Francestown
Jennifer Vadney	Francestown
Henry C. Boyle	Goffstown
Jo Ann Duffy, Alt.	Goffstown
Barbara J. Griffin	Goffstown
Deb Lievens	Londonderry
Mark Suennen, Secretary	New Boston
John Hiltz	Windham
Tim Murphy	Southwest RPC

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ronald Poltak, Alt.	Auburn
David Danielson	Bedford
Bill Jean, Alt.	Bedford
Karen McGinley	Bedford
Frederick McGarry	Deerfield
Adam Burch	Derry
Martin Srugis	Londonderry
Kevin McCue, Alt.	Manchester
Joe Constance	New Boston
Angela Drake	Weare
Steve Schneider	UVLS RPC
Jay Minkarah	Nashua RPC
Leigh Levine	Fed. Hwy Admin
Tim Roache	Rockingham Planning Cmsn
William Rose	NHDOT
Jen Czysz	Strafford RPC

STAFF PRESENT

Sylvia von Aulock	Executive Director
Nathan Miller	Deputy Executive Director
Linda Moore-O'Brien	Office Administrator
Carl Eppich	Pr. Transportation Planner
Adam Hlasny	Sr. Transportation Planner
Zachary Swick	GIS Analyst
Cameron Prolman	Regional Planner
James Vayo	Project Manager
Madeleine Dilonno	Assistant Planner
Monique Duchesne	Assistant Planner

GUESTS PRESENT

Lucy St. John	NHDOT
Rachel Stevens	NH Fish & Game
Stoney Worster	Manchester

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Moulton called the MPO meeting to order at 11:30 A.M.

A moment of silence was observed for Pamela Garrity.

ACTION ON MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 26, 2019

Motion by Mr. Griffin to approve the minutes for November 26, 2019, seconded by Mr. Capano. Motion carried, with Mr. Snow and Ms. Munson abstaining.

OLD BUSINESS (none)

NEW BUSINESS

It was noted that the first scheduled agenda topic, Transit Needs in NH, is being postponed due to the speaker being ill.

Safety Performance Targets

SNHPC Principal Transportation Planner Carl Eppich and GIS Analyst Zachary Swick provided a presentation on 2020 regional safety performance targets.

Mr. Eppich explained the requirement to set safety targets started in the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), and the requirement was continued in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act of 2015. He added that the purpose is to track the performance of transportation system as it relates to safety.

Mr. Eppich reviewed the five required measures, which include:

1. **Number of Fatalities:** The total number of persons suffering fatal injuries in a motor vehicle crash during a calendar year.
2. **Rate of Fatalities:** The ratio of total number of fatalities to the number of vehicle miles traveled (VMT, in 100 Million VMT) in a calendar year.
3. **Number of Serious Injuries:** The total number of persons suffering at least one serious injury in a motor vehicle crash during a calendar year.
4. **Rate of Serious Injuries:** The ratio of total number of serious injuries to the number of VMT (in 100 Million VMT) in a calendar year.
5. **Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Non-motorized Serious Injuries:** The combined total number of non-motorized fatalities and non-motorized serious injuries involving a motor vehicle during a calendar year.

Mr. Eppich noted that MPOs are allowed the flexibility to establish their own region-specific numerical safety performance targets or support the State-level performance

targets. Last year, the SNHPC supported the State targets and stated the recommendation is to support the State targets again this year.

Mr. Swick reviewed data for each of the measures in the SNHPC region over the last nine years. The five-year average shows that fatalities are modestly increasing at the State level. Mr. Swick also mentioned that the serious injury calculations are more complicated due to reporting consistency, but the trend is going down.

Mr. Eppich noted that in Oslo, Norway there was only one traffic-related death in the past year. This statistic is attributed to a mindset that cars are guests in a pedestrian environment.

In response to a question from Mr. Capano, Mr. Miller explained the “penalty” for not reaching the goals would be at the State level, where NH would lose the ability to do discretionary transfers of safety funds.

The topic of setting a goal of fewer fatalities and injuries was discussed, and Mr. Miller stated the goal is supposed to be realistic and achievable, not aspirational. NHDOT and NHDOS coordinate to set the State-level goals each year. Federal requirements are based on a five-year moving average.

Mr. Hadik commented that the figures could be sensitive to conditions such as severe or mild winter weather.

In response to a comment about teenage drivers, Mr. Swick noted the figures are based on miles driven, not who’s driving.

Mr. Miller stated that 90% of accidents are caused by human error, not infrastructure.

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Clement, Mr. Miller said NH is in line with other small states for fatalities. Serious injuries are more difficult to quantify or compare due to historical reporting inconsistencies. Mr. Miller noted local police are coding accidents more accurately than in the past, so reporting has improved.

Motion by Ms. Kunhardt to support the State of NH 2020 Safety Performance Targets.

Motion seconded by Mr. Hadik.

Motion carried, with Mr. Duschatko opposed.

Mr. Clow stated that nearly 70% of traffic fatalities in NH are unrestrained drivers or passengers. He suggested that be the DOS focus, along with a motorcycle helmet law. Mr. Pierce mentioned a bill requiring people to wear a helmet when bicycling. Ms. Kunhardt commented that she does not like to be told what to do.

2019 Traffic and Pedestrian Counts

SNHPC Assistant Planners Madeleine Dilonno and Monique Duchesne provided a review of last year's counting program and a preview of 2020.

Ms. Duchesne stated that 334 traffic counts were completed during the 2019 season. She then reviewed the vehicle classification counts, which are more complex. Ms. Duchesne provided a breakdown of the counts conducted by state requirement and municipal request.

Ms. Duchesne noted special requests for turning movement counts, such as in Derry, were performed using a Miovision camera.

Ms. von Aulock mentioned a speed count was performed in Windham near a school, which helped the police know where to target enforcement efforts.

Ms. Dilonno stated SNHPC has performed pedestrian counts since 2017. The pedestrian counter uses different technology than vehicle counters. The pedestrian counter detects body heat in all weather conditions and counts bicyclists as well as pedestrians.

She noted the information gathered can help justify investments and plan future bike/ped infrastructure. Ms. Dilonno said the pedestrian counters have recently been used near Trinity and Bedford high schools as well as on the Hands Across the Merrimack bridge.

She mentioned seasonal trends in August and February show the hourly profiles are similar- most bike/ped traffic takes place between 8:00-9:00am and 4:00-5:00pm.

Ms. Dilonno also said the pedestrian counter was used in downtown Manchester to measure increased foot traffic during events such as the Labor Day car show. In addition, the device was used for trail management in New Boston, Hooksett and Goffstown.

The 2020 Bike/Ped count season is already underway (in Manchester now) via two pedestrian counters. There is a sidewalk focus, but there is also an effort to fill trail gaps.

The plan is to produce a more sophisticated, interactive trail map.

Ms. Dilonno stated that SNHPC welcomes town requests. There is no cost to SNHPC municipalities for bike/ped counting.

In response to a question, Mr. Miller said that vehicle counters cost about \$1,000-\$1,200 each; whereas pedestrian counters cost about \$3,000 each.

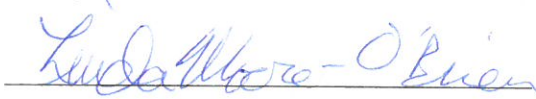
ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Whitten to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Rugg. Chair Moulton declared the MPO meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the January 28, 2020 meeting Metropolitan Planning Organization of the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission.



Sylvia von Aulock
Executive Director



Linda Moore-O'Brien
Office Administrator

Minutes approved on _____