



**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**



*William Cass, P.E.*  
*Assistant Commissioner*

August 21, 2015  
Division of Project Development

The Honorable Neal M. Kurk, Chairman  
Fiscal Committee of the General Court  
State House  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Her Excellency, Governor Margaret Wood Hassan  
and the Honorable Council  
State House  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

**REQUESTED ACTION**

Pursuant to RSA 14:30-a, VI, authorize the New Hampshire Department of Transportation to accept and expend revenue in the amount of \$300,000 for the Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP2) Implementation Assistance Program (IAP) upon the date of Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approval through December 31, 2015. This federal program will be administered by the Department of Transportation and implemented by the Strafford Metropolitan Planning Organization (SMPO). 100% Federal Funds

| 04-096-096-962515-2944                   | Current Budget<br>FY 2016 | Requested<br>Change | Revised<br>Budget<br>FY2016 |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>SPR Planning Funds</b>                |                           |                     |                             |
| <b>Expenses:</b>                         |                           |                     |                             |
| 010 500100 Personal Services – Permanent | \$2                       | \$0                 | \$2                         |
| 018 500106 Overtime                      | 121,491                   | 0                   | 121,491                     |
| 020 500200 Current Expense               | 13,418                    | 0                   | 13,418                      |
| 024 500225 Maint Other Than Build-Grn    | 9,022                     | 0                   | 9,022                       |
| 030 500311 Equipment New Replacement     | 246,917                   | 0                   | 246,917                     |
| 037 500174 Technology-Hardware           | 253,003                   | 0                   | 253,003                     |
| 038 500175 Technology-Software           | 431,144                   | 0                   | 431,144                     |
| 039 500180 Telecommunications            | 7,883                     | 0                   | 7,883                       |
| 046 500463 Consulting                    | 3,302,050                 | 0                   | 3,302,050                   |
| 050 500109 Personal Services-Temp        | 83,300                    | 0                   | 83,300                      |
| 060 500601 Benefits                      | 25,236                    | 0                   | 25,236                      |
| 070 500704 In-State Travel Reimbursement | 3,100                     | 0                   | 3,100                       |
| 072 500574 Grants Federal                | 3,799,899                 | 300,000             | 4,099,899                   |
| 081 509081 Out of State Travel Fed Reim  | 22,196                    | 0                   | 22,196                      |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>\$8,318,661</b>        | <b>\$300,000</b>    | <b>\$8,618,661</b>          |
| <b>Source of Funds</b>                   |                           |                     |                             |
| <b>Revenue:</b>                          |                           |                     |                             |
| 000-409151 Federal Funds                 | \$8,318,661               | \$300,000           | \$8,618,661                 |

## EXPLANATION

The Department requests authorization to accept and expend SPR Federal Funds in the amount of \$300,000 for the SHRP 2 Implementation Assistance Program (IAP) award received by the Strafford Metropolitan Planning Organization (SMPO) and administered by the Department. All expenditures are federally reimbursable.

The SHRP2 award will allow SMPO staff, as a lead adopter, to implement a product entitled "Plan Works: Better Planning. Better Projects" into their newly initiated Collaborative MPO Approach to Transportation Performance Based Planning in New Hampshire project. As explained by SHRP2, "Plan Works is a Web resource that supports collaborative decision making in transportation planning and project development". With this funding, SMPO will be able to facilitate meaningful collaboration among Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO), Department of Transportation (DOT), Department of Environmental Services (DES), and other partners to develop a performance based transportation planning approach and a set of performance measures for New Hampshire. Performance measures simply refer to the ways in which transportation planners and the public can evaluate the transportation system to see if progress is being made toward desirable goals.

SMPO plans to use the Assessment, Application, and Library components of Plan Works, with some references to certain steps in the Long-Range Planning Decision Guide. Specifically, we will apply Plan Works toward the Performance Measure Application, and use its components, along with the Assessments to determine the current effectiveness and 'health' of the Workgroup - specifically the network of partnerships and stakeholder relationships that is associated with this process. Our innovative use of Plan Works will be transferable and adaptable to other MPOs and even DOTs nationwide. Specifically, our process and use of the Plan Works tools would provide lessons learned and guidance to other MPOs and DOTs testing this tool in the following areas:

- Interagency collaboration (between MPOs, DOTs, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transportation Administration, etc.).
- Interdisciplinary and cross sector collaboration - We are trying to be creative and engage with stakeholders whom we don't normally engage with. Specifically we are working on including diverse 'voices' and perspectives, which in the past may have been excluded from the transportation decision-making process.
- Example of a small MPO (SMPO) leading the way for other MPOs and the state (DOT) can demonstrate that even a small MPO can be a leader in implementing effective PBP
- Integration of beyond the mainstream measures, sectors, and even approaches (e.g. public health, economic development, environment, etc.) into transportation planning. For example, SMPO is including a local MPO in a neighboring state due to its shared watershed with two other MPOs in NH, thus incorporating a watershed approach recognizing watershed-scale level decisions and implications, as well as their relation to shared infrastructure.
- The use of a qualitative and participatory research approach and analysis in transportation planning and stakeholder engagement practices to increase transparency, rigor, and validity of the decision-making and solution implementation. Specifically, results of Plan Works Assessments will be used not only for assessment of the general 'health' of the existing PBP Workgroup and its stakeholder network, but also for comparison of Assessment results to those of the current ongoing qualitative research and analysis that SMPO is conducting.

At the conclusion of this effort, New Hampshire's MPOs, Department of Transportation, and rural regional planning commissions (RPCs) will have a solid foundation for performance based transportation planning that will be scalable to all levels, adaptable for future updates, and transparent to all stakeholders. A key product of this effort will include a set of common, baseline performance metrics

– derived from collaboratively established planning goals and objectives – that can be used at all levels of planning to make informed decisions about improvements to transportation systems.

Listed below are answers to standard questions required of all Fiscal Committee item requests, related to RSA 14:30-a, VI “Expenditure of funds over \$100,000 from any Non State Source”, or RSA124:15, “Positions Authorized” or both:

1. Is the action required of this request a result of the Continuing Resolution for FY 2016? No, this is a request for new funding.
2. If this request is **retroactive** what is the significance and importance of the action being effective from an earlier date? This request is not retroactive.
3. Is this a previously funded and ongoing program established through Fiscal Committee and Governor and Executive Council action? (If so, include as an attachment the original documents as approved and cite the specific dates of authorization and end dates for each action as part of your answer to this question.) This is a new program.
4. Was funding for this program included in the FY 2014-2015 enacted Budget or requested and denied? No, this is a new funding request.
5. Is this program in total or in part, included in the vetoed FY 2016-2017 Operating Budget proposal currently pending for your department, or was it requested and denied? No, this is a new funding request.
6. Does this program include, either positions or consultants, and if so are the positions filled, vacant, or have offers pending? (Please provide details for each position and note whether consultant contracts have been awarded.) This program does not require new consultants or positions.
7. What would be the effect should this program be discontinued or not initiated as a result of this request being denied? The Strafford Metropolitan Planning Organization would be unable to receive the \$300,000 for the program.

Your approval of this resolution is respectfully requested.

Sincerely,



William Cass, P.E.  
Assistant Commissioner