

SRPC ANNOUNCES THE DRAFT RELEASE OF Local Solutions for the Strafford Region



Public Review Period

December 7, 2014-January 11, 2015

*Please submit your comments via mail, email,
or fax.*

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This morning at the Strafford Transportation Technical Advisory Committee meeting, one of the SRPC staff introduced the draft regional master plan with a presentation entitled "From Here to There. At the conclusion of the meeting, Technical Advisory Committee Chairman Jon Hotchkiss commented on the irony of an old time New Hampshire farmer's stock response for directions being, "you can't get there from here", and yet today, he noted, we saw a way to do just that.

Local Solutions for the Strafford Region is our three year collaboration amongst citizens, agencies, and local and state governments that creates a path forward via the Strafford regional master plan. We heard from over 1400 citizens how much you love living in the Strafford region - how it has the best of many worlds at a scale that is enjoyable. We heard specifics on how the Strafford region could be improved and how to prioritize funding. We read every local and regional master plan to ground ourselves in Strafford perspectives and priorities. We listened to the concerns of citizens about the role of planning in our lives. Always we were listening to you to understand the needs, perspectives, and visions for the Strafford region.

From our Advisory Team, Technical Advisors and Strafford Commissioners, we were tasked to find a new way to provide local planning assistance for the region - new ways that respected the culture and history of our communities - understanding that "you can't get there from here". We looked at how to use information to form the right questions; we discussed how to select data and what models to use; we looked at how to use the technology best suited for each task; and we asked how to measure our success and progress. We hope that Local Solutions for the Strafford Region becomes a guiding document for our citizens and that together we can meet our challenges and exceed our aspirations.

My appreciation and thanks to the current and past SRPC employees for embracing this challenging task. You used these three years to create a set of planning documents that just might get all of us in the Strafford region "from here to there". It has been a journey that was worth taking. I appreciate your time, talents and professionalism.

Cynthia Copeland, AICP
Executive Director
December 5, 2014