

Quarterly Meeting of the Strafford RPC Commissioners

Thursday, December 7, 2023, 3:45 – 5:30 PM

Hybrid Meeting (Conference Rm 1A, SRPC Office & via Zoom)

In accordance with RSA 91:A, the Commission requires an in-person quorum. So long as an in-person quorum, Commissioners may participate virtually. Guests may attend the meeting virtually or at the SRPC Office. All participants, both in-person and virtual, can communicate contemporaneously.

Meeting URL: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85802372877>

Meeting ID: 858 0237 2877

Telephone-only Access: +1 646 558 8656

These instructions have also been provided at www.strafford.org. If anybody is unable to access the meeting, please email mtaylorfetter@strafford.org or call 603-994-3500 (x115).

Agenda Item	Time	Pre-Meeting Notes
1) Introductions	3:45-3:55	
2) Action Items a) Minutes from October 20, 2023	3:55-4:00	Review draft minutes in meeting packet
3) Discussion Items a) Water Resource Planning <i>Kyle Pimental, Assistant Director</i> <i>Lisa Murphy, Senior Planner</i> <i>Autumn Scott, Regional Planner</i> b) Strategic plan update and equity <i>Jen Czysz, Executive Director</i> <i>Autumn Scott, Regional Planner</i> c) Future agenda topics (All)	4:00-5:00	See enclosed memo and come prepared to brainstorm
4) Commissioner Roundtable	5:00-5:15	Updates, from your community
5) Other Business	5:15-5:20	
6) Citizens Forum	5:20-5:25	
7) Adjourn	5:30	

Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Include a detailed description of the accommodation you will need along with your contact info. Please make your request as early as possible; allowing at least 5 days advance notice. Last minute requests will be accepted but may be impossible to fill. Please call (603) 994-3500 or email srpc@strafford.org.



RULES OF PROCEDURE

*Strafford Regional Planning Commission
Strafford Metropolitan Planning Organization, and
Strafford Economic Development District*

Meeting Etiquette

Be present at the scheduled start of the meeting.

Be respectful of the views of others.

Ensure that only one person talks at a time. Raising your hand to be recognized by the chair or facilitator is good practice.

Do not interrupt others or start talking before someone finishes.

Do not engage in cross talk.

Avoid individual discussions in small groups during the meeting. When one person speaks, others should listen.

Active participation is encouraged from all members.

When speaking, participants should adhere to topics of discussion directly related to agenda items.

When speaking, individuals should be brief and concise when speaking.

The Strafford Regional Planning Commission & Metropolitan Planning Organization holds both public meetings and public hearings.

For public meetings, guests are welcome to observe, but should follow proper meeting etiquette allowing the meeting to proceed uninterrupted. Members of the public who wish to be involved and heard should use venues such as Citizen Forum, Public Hearings, Public Comment Periods, outreach events, seminars, workshops, listening sessions, etc.



STRAFFORD

Regional Planning Commission

DATE: November 30, 2023

TO: SRPC Commissioners

FROM: Jen Czysz, Executive Director
Kyle Pimental, Assistant Director
Lisa Murphy, Sr. Regional Planner
Autumn Scott, Regional Planner

RE: December 7, 2023, Discussion Items & Upcoming Meeting Schedule

Water Resources Planning

SRPC staff will lead a discussion on the commission's achievements in water resource planning over the last several years, including updates on new funding sources, specific project highlights, and future opportunities. Water resource planning is a cornerstone of SRPC's environmental program and offers staff the chance to work with municipalities in thinking about issues outside their borders and more on a watershed-wide level. Our work includes developing watershed-based plans, enhancing drinking water protection, writing open space and master plan chapters, and offering technical assistance with land use policy and regulatory amendments. In addition to hearing about past projects, **SRPC commissioners are encouraged to participate in the discussion on local issues in the communities they represent, which may be slated for future grant applications.**

Summary of [Local Source Water Protections](#) in the Region (click  for selectable layers)

SRPC Strategic Planning and Organizational Assessment

Over the course of the next calendar year, we will periodically host conversations to guide the update of SRPC's Strategic Plan. Last updated in 2020, the strategic plan was created to guide SRPC's programs and services over the last couple of years. One area of continued growth is in how we communicate about the commission and engage with the communities we serve. Concurrently, our outreach and engagement and transportation staff are working to build broader community engagement.

Before the meeting, take a moment to look at [SRPC's Who We Are and Strategic Plan](#) and [Sample Organizational Assessment](#). At the meeting we will introduce these efforts, and [request that you complete the Organizational Self-Assessment](#). The [Praxis Project Working Principles for Health Justice and Racial Equity](#) will help you to complete the assessment. Paper surveys will be available and can be returned to the office to be left at Autumn's desk. At the January meeting we will review the results and engage in a brainstorming exercise to envision how we can improve.

Future Agenda Items

Are there hot topics in your community you would like to learn about? Resources you are interested in? Recent work you would like to share? **Come prepared to share your suggestions for future agenda discussion items.**

STRAFFORD REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

150 Wakefield Street, Suite 12, Rochester, NH 03867

Barrington | Brookfield | Dover | Durham | Farmington | Lee | Madbury | Middleton | Milton | New Durham
Newmarket | Northwood | Nottingham | Rochester | Rollinsford | Somersworth | Strafford | Wakefield



Upcoming Meeting Schedule

Reminder: At the September 15, 2023, Policy Committee meeting, commissioners requested a refocus of the regularly scheduled meetings to better balance SRPC's work. The following schedule repurposes meetings to balance our 3 programs:

- **EDD:** Economic Development District Board of Directors (Commissioners)
- **MPO:** Metropolitan Planning Org. Policy Committee (Commissioners + Partners)
- **RPC:** Regional Planning Commission (Commissioners)

Monthly Meetings: 3rd Friday of the month, 9-10:30 AM, SRPC Office, Conf. Room 1A

Quarterly Field Trips: Thursdays, 3:45-5:30 PM, in Sept., Dec., Feb., and Jun.

Date	Location	Program	Tentative Agenda Items
Fri. Dec. 15, 2023 9-10:30 AM*	Durham UNH	MPO EDD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus tour of ongoing projects and initiatives at UNH (Colin & Angie)
Fri. Jan. 19, 2024 9-10:30 AM	SRPC	RPC MPO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SRPC/EDD/MPO Bylaws (Colin/Megan) • Mid-Year Budget Amendment (Jen) • Organizational Assessment interactive discussion (Autumn) • Active Transportation Plan (Mark)
Fri. Feb. 16, 2024 9-10:30 AM	SRPC	MPO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation and vote on transportation priority projects for the MTP • Hearing: Adopt Active Transportation Plan • Hearing: Adopt Safety Performance Measures
Thu. Feb. 22, 2024 3:45-5:30 PM	TBD	EDD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD
Fri. Mar. 15, 2024 9-10:30 AM	SRPC	RPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD

* The December 2023 meetings are reversed to accommodate UNH's availability



**Joint Meeting of the Strafford RPC Commissioners
& MPO Policy Committee Meeting**

Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2023
9:00-10:30 a.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Vice Chair Peter Nelson called the meeting to order and asked for introductions:

Members attending in person: Peter Nelson, Newmarket; Don Hamann, Rochester; Bill Fisher, Farmington; Joe Boudreau, Rochester; Barbara Holstein, Rochester; Tom Crosby, Madbury; John Mullen, Middleton; Michael Bobinsky, Somersworth, Matthew Towne, Barrington; Michael Williams, COAST; Beverly, UNH; Kate Buzard, Middleton

Staff attending in person: Jen Czysz, Colin Lentz

Members attending on Zoom: Bill Watson, DOT; Wayne Burton, Durham; Steve Diamond, Barrington, Leslie Schwartz, Durham; Mary Woodward, Lee; Jessica Wilcox, DES

Staff attending on Zoom: Megan Taylor-Fetter

2. Commissioner Roundtable

J. Boudreau stated that the meeting C. Lentz hosted in Rochester was very insightful. The new roundabout is now open and in general has been a success.

M. Bobinsky reported that in Somersworth the 85 Elm Street project has finally been approved after a second historic review and agreement was made with the developer on the façade. The project will proceed over the next year.

M. Bobinsky stated that the three cities met with COAST on the route 108 complete streets project preliminary design. A public hearing will be scheduled for next spring or summer.

B. Fisher stated there will be a Route 11 Corridor Study meeting on November 29 in Farmington at Old Town Hall-5-8 PM

S. Diamond shared an experience he had riding his motorcycle which prompted him to ask what could be done about large vehicles driving recklessly over the speed limit and other dangerous driving situations.

**3. Public Hearing – Transportation Improvement Program Amendment 3
At 9:22 AM D, Hamann motioned to open the public hearing seconded by T. Crosby. All members voted in favor by roll call vote.**

C. Lentz stated this public hearing is for the proposed Amendment #3 to the adopted 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP is a prioritized list of federal and state funded regional transportation projects programmed for the next four years. The amendment is necessary to account for project changes and to maintain consistency with the 2023-2026 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). SRPC is conducting this process in accordance with the Strafford MPO's public involvement procedures and federal and state regulations.

Amendment #3 impacts projects listed in the 2023-2026 TIP which is part of the 2023-2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) for the region. Full amendments to the TIP require a 10-day public comment period, a public hearing, and approval by the Strafford MPO Policy Committee. The 10-day public comment period began on Tuesday, November 7, 2023 and will ended at the close of business on Thursday, November 16, 2023.

At 9:36 AM D. Hamann motioned to close the public hearing seconded by T. Crosby. All members voted in favor by roll call vote.

4. Action Items

a. Approval of the October 20, 2023 Minutes

D. Hamann motioned to approve the October 20, 2023 minutes seconded by T. Crosby There was no discussion. The motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote in favor with L. Schwartz abstaining.

b. Approve Amendment 3 to the Transportation Improvement Program

D. Hamann motioned to approve Amendment 3 to the Transportation Improvement Program seconded by T. Crosby. The motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote in favor.

5. Discussion Items

a. Updates to the MPO Bylaws

C. Lentz stated that the changes presented in the draft update to the MPO bylaws are meant to improve consistency with SRPC bylaws and reduce confusion about the dual role of SRPC commissioners as members of the MPO Policy Committee. With the recent change to the commission meeting schedule (rotating the third Friday of the month meeting between Regional Planning, Economic Development, and Transportation), it may be appropriate and efficient to merge MPO-specific elements into the overall SRPC bylaws. This would reflect SRPC being the

overarching organization, with adjoining regional planning, economic development, and transportation programs.

The group discussed the proposed changes and agreed it makes sense and asked for an alternative draft to be presented at a future meeting.

b. Safe Streets for All – Commitment to Vision Zero Goals

C. Lentz stated that Strafford, Nashua, Southern, and Rockingham Planning Commissions have received a grant through the Safe Streets and Roads for All program (SS4A). The RPCs will be hiring a consultant to write *Safety Action Plans* for each region. Those will make each municipality eligible to apply for implementation funds in future funding rounds. Each plan will include a list of safety projects to be constructed using implementation funds. Central to each safety action plan will be a political commitment to a “Vision Zero” goal. The guidance from Federal Highway Administration describes this as: An official public commitment by a high-ranking official and/or governing body to an eventual goal of zero roadway fatalities and serious injuries. The commitment must include a goal and timeline for eliminating roadway fatalities and serious injuries achieved through one, or both, of the following:

- (1) the target date for achieving zero roadway fatalities and serious injuries, OR
- (2) an ambitious percentage reduction of roadway fatalities and serious injuries by a specific date with an eventual goal of eliminating roadway fatalities and serious injuries.

The group engaged in discussion and touched on topics including road design, causation, data quality, police reports and how agencies are mandated. They asked how are we held responsible when we have no control. Vehicle technology is helping and will continue to evolve.

6. Other Business

J. Czysz stated that the next Commission meeting is December 7, 3:45 PM. The regular 3rd meeting of the month will be a field trip to UNH. Details to follow.

B. Fisher thanked C. Lentz for sending a data report on route 11 collisions.

7. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

8. Adjournment

D. Hamann motioned to adjourn seconded by T. Crosby. All members voted unanimously in favor. Meeting adjourned.

 **the praxis project** has organized a set of **Working Principles* for Health Justice and Racial Equity** to help guide our work in partnership with allies to center community interests in the design, promotion, implementation, and evaluation of policies and initiatives that support health justice and racial equity for everyone.



THROUGH THESE PRINCIPLES, WE ENVISION A SOCIETY IN WHICH BASEBUILDING COMMUNITY ORGANIZERS, AFFECTED COMMUNITIES, ADVOCATES AND POLICYMAKERS MOVE BEYOND JUST ADDRESSING INEQUITABLE OUTCOMES, TO WHERE THE STRUCTURES AND SYSTEMS THAT LEAD TO INEQUITY ARE TRANSFORMED THROUGH COMMUNITY-CENTERED INITIATIVES AND ENGAGEMENT.

* Inspired by the **Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing**

WORKING PRINCIPLES* FOR HEALTH JUSTICE & RACIAL EQUITY

To make a positive impact on health inequities, radical shifts need to occur in many of our day-to-day activities, practices and approaches. The current status quo is not working; we see health and racial disparities continue to increase across sectors, geography, and issues. As such, Praxis' underlying goal is to promote the authentic engagement of basebuilding community organizers in health- and justice-affirming transformative policies and practices while acknowledging and learning from the historical and contemporary unjustness of policy processes and outcomes shaping where we are today. This includes acknowledging that:

- **Inequity has been intentionally created and protected over centuries through the imposition of racist, discriminatory practices and systems targeting underrepresented, oppressed communities.** We must deliberately and affirmatively take stock of and address past injustices while working for a future filled with opportunities for health and justice for all. Unless there are interventions or course corrections, many contemporary policies and practices will continue to perpetuate the inequitable status quo.
- **Historical repair and reparations are necessary for making amends with communities that have been harmed.** This approach encompasses the intentional and affirmative redistribution of resources, power, and opportunity to communities impacted by systemic and structural failures in a manner that accounts for past and present injustices.
- **We cannot take a one-size-fits-all approach.** The capacities, resources, and opportunities necessary to build a better world for health justice and racial equity are as diverse as our communities. Our unique conditions, histories, and contexts require intentional and meaningful solutions.
- **Meaningful solutions need to simultaneously serve as compassionate, intentional community investment.** Developing solutions in partnership with community partners should build community and programmatic capacity and infrastructure, ultimately strengthening the community beyond the initial engagement or financial support.

To help us get to a place where everyone has the same opportunity for health justice and racial equity, Praxis offers these Working Principles for Health Justice and Racial Equity to ensure that our programmatic, community, and policy work aligns with our intended impact of supporting health justice and racial equity for all.

*These principles are inspired by the **Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing**, a guiding framework, created in 1996 by 40 diverse environmental justice leaders and organizers to help large environmental entities better understand authentic collaboration with smaller community-based, justice-oriented advocates.

1. ACT WITH CARE: PROCEED THOUGHTFULLY. BE DELIBERATE. SEEK TO UNDERSTAND. BUILD TRUSTING RELATIONSHIPS. LEAD WITH LOVE.

- A trending approach to “move fast and break things” at the expense of authentic relationship-building may have irreparable negative consequences on historically marginalized communities who disproportionately experience harm.
- No matter what the perceived initial benefit, decision-makers and advocates must avoid risking intended or unintended consequences of increasing health inequities of marginalized populations to achieve a short term gain. Policies are to be evaluated by their impact, not their intentions.
- We must instead act through valuing all human beings and considering all needs of all residents. We must fight bias and stigmatized statuses that are based on privilege, class, race, ethnicity, immigration status, gender, identity, and ability.
- We must act responsibly, and recognize that any harm we may cause affects communities seven generations forward.

2. INCLUSIVITY: THOSE MOST AFFECTED BY INEQUITIES ARE IN THE BEST POSITION TO DEFINE THE PROBLEM, DESIGN APPROPRIATE SOLUTIONS, AND DEFINE SUCCESS.

- Policies should reflect community priorities for needs and solutions, and communities that bear the greatest burden of health inequities should be at the table driving said solutions from inception. “Evidence based” and “trauma informed” approaches need to avoid completely displacing or silencing lived experience with academic or professional expertise.
- This requires mindful attention to how policies impact different communities due to intersecting systems of oppression.
- Ensure individual and communities’ identities and cultures are recognized, respected, and genuinely valued through intentional inclusivity.

3. AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY COLLABORATION: AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY COLLABORATION BUILDS DIGNITY AND ALLOWS FOR ALL PERSPECTIVES TO BE CONSIDERED, INTEGRATED, AND RECOGNIZED; SOLUTIONS SHOULD BE CO-DESIGNED, CO-IMPLEMENTED, AND CO-MEASURED/EVALUATED.

- An early step in advancing health equity and health justice is building trusting relationships to understand needs and co-create solutions.
- The design, implementation, and evaluation of solutions require ongoing leadership by community members to ensure transparency in decision-making and alignment with local priorities.
- Community is the primary source of information in evaluating problems and developing solutions. This requires trust-building and a genuinely reciprocal relationship.
- No two communities are exactly alike; policy solutions should provide flexibility to accommodate diverse relationships based on local priorities, contexts, and capacities.
- Participation must ensure community respect and dignity, while further elevating the needs, wants, and skills of community members from their own perspectives (rather than speaking for community members or solely providing a seat at the table).
- Policy leaders and advocates must develop intentional partnerships with basebuilding organizers to help authentically connect with community.
- Support should be provided to ensure accessibility for community members of all abilities to authentically participate in the governance process including, but not limited to, compensation, transportation, child-care, translation services, meals, accessible meeting times, and observance of cultural and religious celebrations and holidays.
- Communities know what is needed for residents to survive and to thrive. Authentic community participation must be integrated into policy-making in a genuine and respectful manner that does not reproduce past traumas.

4. SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS: SOLUTIONS SHOULD BE COMMUNITY-DRIVEN, BUILD COMMUNITY CAPACITY AND RESIDENT KNOWLEDGE, DEEPEN RELATIONSHIPS, INCREASE PROGRAMMATIC CAPACITY, BUILD LASTING INFRASTRUCTURE, AND ENSURE RESPECT FOR ALL.

- Policies should seek to address health equity and justice by prioritizing healing, and building community strength, relationships, and power.
- In addition to creating policies to mitigate the severest inequities, equal or greater effort should go towards creating community wellness and healing through the redistribution of resources, power, and opportunities.
- The strengths of communities that have experienced historical oppression are profound: their existence is proof of their adaptability and ingenuity in creating tools to survive. Sustainable, long-term solutions should build on these histories and strengths. Follow the leadership and honor the wisdom of those who have experienced trauma and resistance.
- Solutions should build organizational capacity and community infrastructure through a radically transformative healing-centered lens that goes beyond conventional trauma-informed practices.

5. COMMITMENT TO TRANSFORMATION: ALL PARTICIPANTS CAN LEARN FROM ONE ANOTHER, REFLECT ON THEIR OWN STRUCTURES AND PRACTICES, AND FIND AREAS TO CONTINUOUSLY IMPROVE ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE AND PRACTICES.

- Community healing, convening, and community-building are valuable opportunities for self-reflection and transformation.
- We must all commit to creating and sustaining an organizational culture that applies these working principles internally in order to advance health justice and racial equity in our communities.
- Authentic partnership and collaboration will result in shared learning for all stakeholders involved.
- Implementers must work with communities to create mechanisms for community oversight of assessing and evaluating progress towards the outcomes needed for equity.

Through these principles, we envision a society in which basebuilding community organizers, affected communities, advocates and policymakers **move beyond just addressing inequitable outcomes, to where the structures and systems that lead to inequity are transformed through community-centered initiatives and engagement.**

THE PRAXIS PROJECT is a values-driven, national nonprofit organization that seeks to improve justice and equity through partnerships to build community power. Praxis believes strongly that organized communities are critical partners in the struggle to create just and equitable communities.

Our mission is to build healthy communities by transforming the power relationships and structures that affect our lives and communities.

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR WORK

Visit our website, www.thepraxisproject.org, to learn more about our initiatives and explore our multimedia resources.

CONTACT US

Email: info@thepraxisproject.org
Phone: (510) 652-5250

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Follow us on social media to see what is on our radar and how we're reframing the narrative.

