

Meeting of the RPC Commissioners and MPO Policy Committee
Friday, May 17, 2024 9:00-10:30 AM
Hybrid Meeting (Conference Rm 1A, SRPC Office & via Zoom)

1. Introductions

Chair Dave Landry called the meeting to order and asked for introductions.

Members attending in person: Dave Landry, Dover; Barbara Holstein, Rochester; Katrin Kasper, Lee Joe Boudreau, Rochester, Mike Bobinsky, Somersworth. Mike Williams, COAST; Kate Buzard, Middleton; Lindsey Williams, Dover; Lee; Steve Brown, Dover; Mike Lehrman, Durham; Karen Golab, Nottingham; Matthew Towne, Barrington; Teresa Bascom, Nottingham; Lucy St. John, NHDOT

Members attending on Zoom: Steve Diamond, Barrington; Jack Wade, NHDOT; Mary Woodward, Lee; Scott Martin, Nottingham; Wayne Burton, Durham

Staff attending in person: Jennifer Czysz, Colin Lentz, Lisa Murphy, Rachel Dewey,

Staff attending on Zoom: M. Taylor-Fetter and Natalie Gemma

2. Commissioner Roundtable

M. Towne stated that installation of solar panels on the Barrington Town Hall has begun; the town is looking at other opportunities and is increasingly going solar.

M. Bobinsky stated that there are numerous plans for housing developments in Somersworth.

J. Czysz stated that a Commissioners 101 will be scheduled in the near future.

J. Boudreau stated that there are plans for an apartment complex for 62 and over in Rochester.

3. Public Hearing: Active Transportation Plan

D. Landry opened the public hearing at 9:24 AM. C. Lentz stated that SRPC published the draft Active Transportation Plan for public comments on Tuesday, April 16th. It was posted on the SRPC website and was available as a hard copy at several locations for this public comment period. Staff has received largely grammatical and structural comments about the document and is working to correct those.

The group engaged in discussion touching on topics such as trails and the variety of vehicles used by the public.



C. Lentz stated that the final version will be posted after final formatting and typo corrections. There are several great bike/ped related projects in-progress, and a ton of strategies in the plan to be implemented over the coming months and years.

The public hearing closed at 9:48 AM

4. Business Items

a. Vote to adopt the Active Transportation Plan

D. Landry motioned to adopt the draft Active Transportation Plan seconded by D. Hamann. All members voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.

b. Review and approve the Minutes of 4/19/2024

D. Hamann motioned to approve the 4/19/2024 minutes. With a second and a unanimous vote in favor, the motion passed.

5. Discussion

a. Public Participation Plan Update Presentation

Colin stated that effective planning cannot happen without effective public participation. The public participation plan is required for SRPC's transportation planning program. It establishes goals and objectives for engaging with the public in general, with various agencies, and other partners. The plan includes specific tasks and outcomes for improving SRPC's public outreach and engagement. Staff have conducted interviews and focus groups with various agencies; staff and commissioners recently completed an organizational bias assessment. That information will be incorporated into a draft update of the plan for review by Commissioners.

The group provided suggestions to aid in the development of the plan update:

- How to increase outreach and engagement at the local level, especially in rural communities? We can better utilize local websites, newsletters, and official town facebook pages to get the word out about draft plans, and solicit local input about specific topics.
- Identify agencies like Chambers of Commerce to access stakeholders in the business community.

6. CEDS Discussion and Feedback on Draft Plan

N. Gemma and R. Dewey presented on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) which is in the process of being updated. This is an interim update on recent changes in regional economic metrics. The CEDS contains an analysis of the region's economy and identifies goals, strategies, and priority projects for implementation. Adoption of a new CEDS requires public input as part of state and federal regulations. SRPC will be soliciting comments for the draft CEDS from Friday, May 17, 2024 to Friday, June 17, 2024. A public hearing will be held by the Strafford EDD Board of Directors at 9:00 am on Friday, June 21, 2024 to consider adoption of the 2024 CEDS.



The Commissioners provided feedback on including more information about the role of community colleges in workforce development and the economy at large.

7. Other Business

J. Czysz stated that alternates are needed on the Executive Committee. M. Towne volunteered. J. Czysz reported that long-time Commissioner, Tom Crosby, stepped down as treasurer due to health conditions but will remain on the Executive Committee. He has been on the commission for over 40 years.

8. 8. Adjourn

Following a motion and a second to adjourn, all members voted unanimously to adjourn.

