

**JOINT MEETING OF THE STRAFFORD RPC COMMISSIONERS AND
TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

July 12, 2024, 9:00 A.M.

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

1. Introductions

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

Members Present: D. Landry, Dover; John Mullen, Middleton (Commission, Policy & TAC); Peter Nelson, Newmarket (Commission & Policy); Katrin Kasper, Lee (Commission, Policy, & TAC); Matt Towne, Barrington, (Commission & Policy); Wayne Lehman, Lee, (TAC); L. Butler, Newmarket, (TAC); Vanesa Price, Barrington, (TAC); Michelle Mears, Somersworth, (TAC).

Staff members present: Rachel Dewey, Jen Czysz, Colin Lentz, Jackson Rand.

Members participating on Zoom: Barbara Holstein, Rochester, (Commission),; Steve Brown, Dover; Bruce Woodward, Milton (TAC); Jack Wade, NH DES (Policy & TAC); Bill Watson, NHDOT (Policy & TAC); Leigh Levine, NHFHA, (Policy and TAC); Steve Pesci, UNH, (Policy & TAC); Mike Lehrman, Durham, (Commission); Donna Benton, Dover (TAC).

Staff on Zoom: Michael Polizzotti, Megan Taylor-Fetter,

Chair David Landry waived the requirements for a physical quorum since immediate action on certain agenda items was imperative; the meeting would continue under the emergency provisions clause of RSA-91-A.

2. Municipal Roundtable

J. Mullen reported on a transportation study completed in Middleton.

Matt Towne spoke about the issue of boundaries and how trails do not connect between towns. D. Landry suggested Matt speak with someone at the Dover Community Trails Commission.

Michelle Mears reported on the redevelopment of a 148 unit building in Somersworth.

S. Pesci stated that UNH was awarded a 2.7 million dollar Low/No Emissions grant. He also thanked the SRPC staff for hosting the Commissioners Annual Luncheon and that it was a very nice event.



B. Woodward stated that Milton has a new Town Administrator, Richard Krauss; has a new Town Hall; and is working on a storm watershed management program plan a grant which is sorely needed on the Milton Three Ponds.

J. Czysz introduced SRPC's new Economic Development Planner Michael Polizzotti.

3. Public Hearing: Transportation Improvement Program Amendment 6

At 9:10 A.M. D. Landry opened the Public Hearing.

C. Lentz presented on the Transportation Improvement Program Amendment 6 and stated this is the sixth amendment to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). It includes changes to two funding programs that are relevant to the Strafford Region: Pavement resurfacing on Tier 2 highways, and a funding program for public transportation. Both are statewide "programmatics" that support individual projects.

4. Action Item

Approve Transportation Improvement Program Amendment 6

For TAC, M. Mears, motioned to recommend approval of the Transportation Improvement Program Amendment 6 to the Policy Committee. Second by J. Mullen. A roll call vote was taken, and all TAC members voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

For the Policy Committee, D. Landry motioned to approve the Transportation Improvement Program Amendment 6 as recommended by TAC. Katrin Kasper seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and all Policy members voted in favor. The motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor.

At 9:35, D. Landry closed the Public Hearing

5. Long-range project engineering updates

C. Lentz reported that engineers at BETA have developed initial reports on projects in Barrington, Farmington, and Madbury. Municipal staff and board members are in the process of reviewing those reports and prioritizing alternatives where relevant. TAC and Policy will review candidate projects for initial submission to NHDOT in August or September. Staff will provide additional updates at the meeting.

The group briefly discussed the process and timeline of the projects.

6. Discussion item: Rethinking the project pipeline

C. Lentz stated that the goal of Metro Plan development is to have a plan full of projects that have received engineering support so they are funding-ready and have a well-defined scope and cost estimate developed by professional engineers. Currently, projects enter the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (Metro Plan) almost exclusively from submission by municipalities, or through discussion between SRPC and a municipality. In the past, individual projects also came from efforts such as corridor studies. For example, NH108 complete streets in Dover, Somersworth, and Rochester.



Currently, the Ten Year Plan development process includes a project ranking process that includes quantitative and qualitative consideration of regional impact. Many projects have positive impacts outside the municipality where they are located. What would an "MPO project" look like – one that was collaboratively identified, developed, and prioritized by SRPC committee members?

A project could broadly be defined as a transportation improvement – including infrastructure, technology, or other initiatives. Funds for projects are limited and competitive; the intent is not to take away from funding opportunities that could support local projects.

The group held a brief discussion on options for rail and transportation improvements in NH's future and funding opportunities.

7. Other Business

J. Wade stated that DES has initiated a second round of the Clean Diesel Grant Program. More information can be found on the DES [website](#). K. Kasper stated if anyone needs help with these grants to please contact her at Clean Energy NH.

8. Citizens Forum

There were no citizens present

9. Adjourn

With a motion and a second and all in favor, the meeting adjourned at 10:10 A.M.

