

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

Friday, August 18, 2023 9:00 – 10:30 AM

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

In accordance with RSA 91:A, the Commission requires a minimum of an in-person quorum. To organize this, the Commission staff will confirm the necessary in-person attendance. It is the preference of the Commission that others participate via Zoom, however, guests may attend the meeting at the SRPC Office. All participants, both in-person and virtual, can communicate contemporaneously. View the remote access information below.

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.trafford.org. If anybody is unable to access the meeting, please email mtaylorfetter@trafford.org or call 603-994-3500 (x115).

Agenda Item	Time	Pre-Meeting Task/Notes
1) Introductions	5 mins	
2) Commissioner Roundtable Updates, from your community	15 mins	
3) Action Items a) Minutes from May 19, 2023 b) Performance Targets: Pavement, Bridge, and Travel Time Reliability	5 mins	a) Review draft minutes in packet b) See prep memo c) Review draft target setting memo in packet Link to draft System Performance Report
4) Discussion Items a) New Electric Vehicle Charging Toolkit	15 mins	LINK to New Toolkit
5) Other Business	5 mins	
6) Citizen's Forum		
7) Adjourn		

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 rpc@trafford.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.



MEMO

Stafford MPO Technical Advisory Committee

August 18, 2023

Preview and prep for meeting agenda items:

- Performance Target Setting

SRPC is federally required to set performance targets in coordination with NHDOT. Some of those performance areas are pavement and bridge conditions, and travel time reliability. The attached memo provides an overview of the measures, the data involved, and the target setting process.

In all target areas, staff are recommending that SRPC support the state targets rather than set specific regional targets. The primary justification is that SRPC does not directly influence pavement or bridge maintenance.

Mark Davie will give an overview presentation on the performance areas and targets.

The new targets will be included on a draft System Performance Report that will be published once the pavement and bridge targets are approved.

[Link to draft System Performance Report](#)

- SRPC's online electric vehicle charging toolkit

Angie Cleveland is one of SRPC's new planners and she's developed an online toolkit to help municipalities navigate the world of Electric Vehicle charging.

The guide is in a storymap format for easy reading and focusing on topic areas of interest.

[LINK to the toolkit](#)

Strafford MPO Policy Committee Meeting

Friday, May 19, 2023 9:00 – 10:30 AM

1. Introductions: 9:18

At 9:18 A.M., Chair Dave Landry called the meeting to order and asked for introductions.

Members present: William Fisher, Farmington; Don Hamann, Rochester; Tom Crosby, Madbury; Michael Williams, COAST; Peter Nelson, Newmarket; Barbara Holstein, Rochester; Katrin Kasper, Lee; Matt Towne, Milton; Joe Boudreau, Rochester; Mark Richardson, Somersworth; Chris Horton, Somersworth; Michael Bobinsky, Somersworth; Dave Landry, Dover; W. Burton, Durham

Members attending on Zoom: Steve Diamond, Barrington; Jessica Wilcox, NHDES; Ricky DiCillo, NHDES; Mary Woodward, Lee; Glen Davison, NHDOT

Staff present: Jen Czysz, Colin Lentz, Mark Davie, Troy Troy

SRPC staff attending on Zoom: Stephen Geis, Zuzzy Duffy, Rachel Dewey, Matthew Winders, Natalie Gemma

2. Commissioner Roundtable

J. Czysz introduced new staff member Troy who has joined SRPC as the summer traffic count intern.

W. Burton gave an update on the dumping of wastewater into the Lamprey River by the Town of Epping and stated it is under investigation by DES.

M. Williams reported that COAST will be returning suspended services starting Saturday.

3. Public Hearing on the 2023-2026 TIP Amendment 1

At 9:40 A.M. D. Landry opened the Public Hearing.

C. Lentz highlighted the projects and changes to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Amendment 1 includes proposed changes to three projects in the Strafford region:

- Somersworth (43840) – change in overall project timing
- Lee (41322) – additional funding for right-of-way
- Rochester (43552) – merging of two concurrent projects on NH11

C. Lentz stated that the TAC reviewed the draft amendment at their May meeting and recommended it for approval by the Policy committee.



The group reviewed the amendments and discussed the progress made on projects in their communities.

C. Lentz stated that for communities that have a project this is an opportunity to request a change with DOT for forthcoming minor or amendment.

D. Landry closed the Public Hearing at 9:48 A.M.

4. Action Items

a. Minutes from April 21, 2023

D. Hammon motioned to accept the minutes of April 21, 2023 as written. T. Crosby seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A roll call vote was taken: W. Fisher, D. Hamann, Tom Crosby, M. Williams, P. Nelson, B. Holstein, K. Kasper, M. Towne, J. Boudreau, M. Richardson, C. Horton, M. Bobinsky, D. Landry, W. Burton, S. Diamond, J. Wilcox, M. Woodward and Glen Davison voted unanimously in favor. Motion passed.

b. Approve Amendment 1 to the 23-26 TIP

D. Hammon motioned to approve Amendment 1 to the 23-26 TIP. T. Crosby seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A roll call vote was taken: W. Fisher, D. Hamann, Tom Crosby, M. Williams, P. Nelson, B. Holstein, K. Kasper, M. Towne, J. Boudreau, M. Richardson, C. Horton, M. Bobinsky, D. Landry, W. Burton, S. Diamond, J. Wilcox, M. Woodward and Glen Davison voted unanimously in favor. Motion passed.

5. Discussion Items

a. Presentation of draft Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

SRPC staff members Natalie Gemma and Zuzzy Duffy provided an overview of the Draft CEDS. The draft is in public comment until June 12 and there will be a public hearing at the Policy meeting on June 16th.

After the presentation, discussion ensued on topics including economic growth, inflation, labor force, unemployment. The members discussed business office vacancies due to increased telecommuting.

6. Other Business

J. Czynsz stated that the Annual Commission Meeting will be split. The business portion will be a combined meeting with Policy on June 16 followed by the June 22 formal annual meeting luncheon. This year's theme is Planning for Solar, guests how to prepare.

B. Fisher thanked J. Czynsz for all her hard work and outstanding job while covering for K. Pimental.



M. Woodward stated that she has been tracking news on the Epping water dumping situation. Durham. Town Manager Todd Selig has expressed his concern given projection in periods of drought.

M. Woodward stated that air quality in Strafford County is not reported in the American Lung association study. It assumed Portsmouth air is the same. Do we keep digging or do we feel comfortable?

The committee was in consensus that Mary should pursue this issue adding it is difficult to separate environmental from economic.

J. Wilcox reported that DES has organized a clean city coalition event June 9 at the speed way – which will be geared towards highlighting different investments, fuels.

M. Richardson reported on the fires in Canada and that he is keeping an eye out.

7. Citizen's Forum

None

8. Adjourn



Strafford Metropolitan Planning Organization 2023 Performance Targets for Pavement and Bridge Condition & Travel Time Reliability

August 18, 2023

Background

Performance-based planning requirements were first incorporated into federal transportation law in 2012 and were reaffirmed in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law on November 15, 2021. Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) are required to set targets for federal performance measures linked to the seven national performance goals described in [23USC §150\(b\)](#). This document concerns targets associated with the condition of pavements and bridges, and the reliability of travel on the National Highway System. Federal requirements include 12 performance measures for which targets must be set (depending on applicability). They apply to highways and bridges designated as part of the National Highway System (NHS) and the Interstate Highway System. Strafford MPO is required to set targets only for the measures in bold.

Pavement Conditions

- **Percentage of the Non-interstate NHS in Good condition**
- **Percentage of the Non-interstate NHS in Poor condition**
- Percentage of the Interstate in Good condition (*No interstate miles in the region)
- Percentage of the Interstate in Poor condition (*No interstate miles in the region)

Bridge Conditions

- **Percentage of NHS bridges in Good condition**
- **Percentage of NHS bridges in Poor condition**

Travel Time Reliability

- **Percent of person-miles traveled on the non-Interstate NHS that are reliable**
- Percent of person-miles traveled on the Interstate that are reliable
- Truck Travel Time Reliability (TTTR) Index (Interstate only)

Congestion

- Annual Hours of Peak Hour Excessive Delay (PHED) Per Capita
- Percent of Non-Single Occupancy Vehicle Travel

Emissions

- Total Emissions Reduction

Congestion and emission measures only apply to urbanized areas that have populations over 1 million and are in non-attainment or maintenance for air quality standards for ozone, carbon monoxide, or particulates.



Pavement Conditions and Targets – Statewide

Federal rules require the condition of its asphalt pavements to be measured using three distresses: international roughness index (IRI); rutting; and cracking. IRI is a measure of how rough a surface feels to drive on. Rutting is what happens to asphalt when heavy vehicle traffic creates permanent grooves in pavement along wheel tracks. NHDOT uses a “keep the good roads good” approach to pavement maintenance – as opposed to a “fix the worst first” approach.

Performance Measure	Current Baseline	2-Year Target	4-Year Target
Percentage of Pavements of the Non-Interstate NHS in Good Condition	45.3%	35.0%	35.0%
Percentage of Pavements of the Non-Interstate NHS in Poor Condition	1.8%	7.0%	7.0%

Bridge Conditions and Targets – Statewide

Bridges have four major components used to measure their deterioration: decks, superstructures, substructures, and culverts (any structure with a span of 10 feet or less is a culvert). A bridge’s overall condition is determined by the lowest scoring component. For example: if any one component on a bridge is rated 4 or below, the whole bridge is considered in poor condition. NHDOT describes these bridge conditions on a 1 – 10 scale. 10 being a brand-new, pristine bridge; anything below a 4 and the bridge is considered in poor condition.

Performance Measure	Current Baseline	2-Year Target	4-Year Target
Percentage of NHS Bridges Classified as in Good Condition	58.4%	57.0%	57.0%
Percentage of NHS Bridges Classified as in Poor Condition	4.3%	5.0%	5.0%

SCORE	NAME	DESCRIPTION
9	Good	Pristine condition.
8		No problems noted.
7		Insubstantial flaws.
6	Fair	Minor deterioration.
5		Elements sound, some defects.
4	Poor	Advanced defects.
3		Local failures, cracking begins.
2		Support failure, closure possible.
1		Elements moving, bridge closed.
0		Out of service, beyond repair.

Travel Time Reliability – Statewide

The national highway system is designed to be a reliable transportation network. It is important to note that “reliability” and “congestion” are separate topics. Most commuters travel between home and work at consistent times (e.g. 8-9am and 4-5pm on weekdays) causing congestion. If the congestion is relatively the same every day, and commuters can expect the congestion to take the same amount of time each day, then that is still considered reliable. Across the state, travel time reliability averages over 95%.

Performance Measure - Statewide	Base Line	2-Year Target	4-Year Target
Percent of the person-miles traveled on the non-interstate NHS that are reliable	96.3%	85.0%	85.0%

Commute Time Scenario	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Reliable?
A – Consistent congestion	45 min (15 in traffic)	43 min (13 in traffic)	46 min (16 in traffic)	45 min (15 in traffic)	44 min (14 in traffic)	Yes
B – Inconsistent congestion	45 min (15 in traffic)	55 min (25 in traffic)	35 min (5 in traffic)	65 min (35 in traffic)	90 min (45 in traffic)	No
C – Mostly consistent, with crash one day	45 min (15 in traffic)	43 min (13 in traffic)	60 min (30 in traffic)	45 min (15 in traffic)	44 min (14 in traffic)	Yes

Target Development and Summary

Strafford MPO analyzed performance data from the National Bridge Inventory (NBI) and Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) and used an analysis tool for the National Performance Management Research Data Set (NPMRDS) in preparation for target setting. Based on our analyses and on recommendations from FHWA, the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT), and other stakeholders, Strafford MPO recommended to its Technical Advisory and Policy committees that the MPO support the statewide targets set by NHDOT, shown in the table below.

Summary of Statewide 2023 Performance Targets for Pavement & Bridge Conditions and Travel Time Reliability				
Measure Area	System	Baseline Estimate	2-Year Target	4-Year Target
Pavement Condition	Non-interstate NHS: Good	45.3%	35.0%	35.0%
	Non-interstate NHS: Poor	1.8%	7.0%	7.0%
Bridge Conditions	NHS: Good	58.4%	57.0%	57.0%
	NHS: Poor	4.3%	5.0%	5.0%
Travel Time Reliability	Non-Interstate reliable person-miles	96.3%	85.0%	85.0%

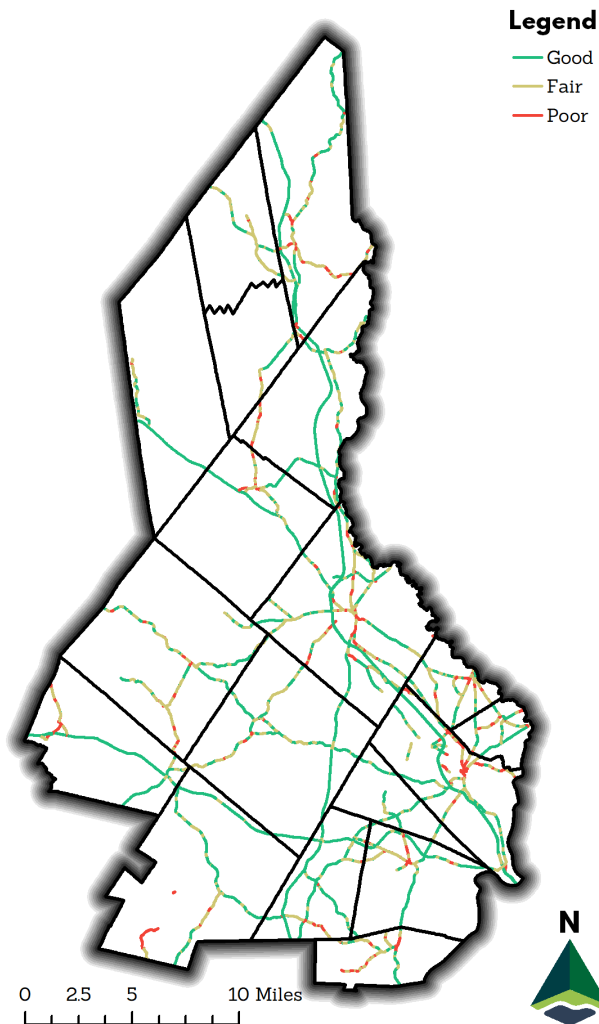
Regional Performance Comparison

The table below shows regional performance data for the pavement, bridge, and travel time reliability measures. These data are shown for illustration and are not meant to affect regional target setting. Strafford MPO programs have very limited impact on the management of bridges and pavement on the NHS. Strafford MPO assists municipalities with prioritizing maintenance and repairs on local pavement and bridges, but those are not part of federal performance-based planning and are managed through local decision-making.

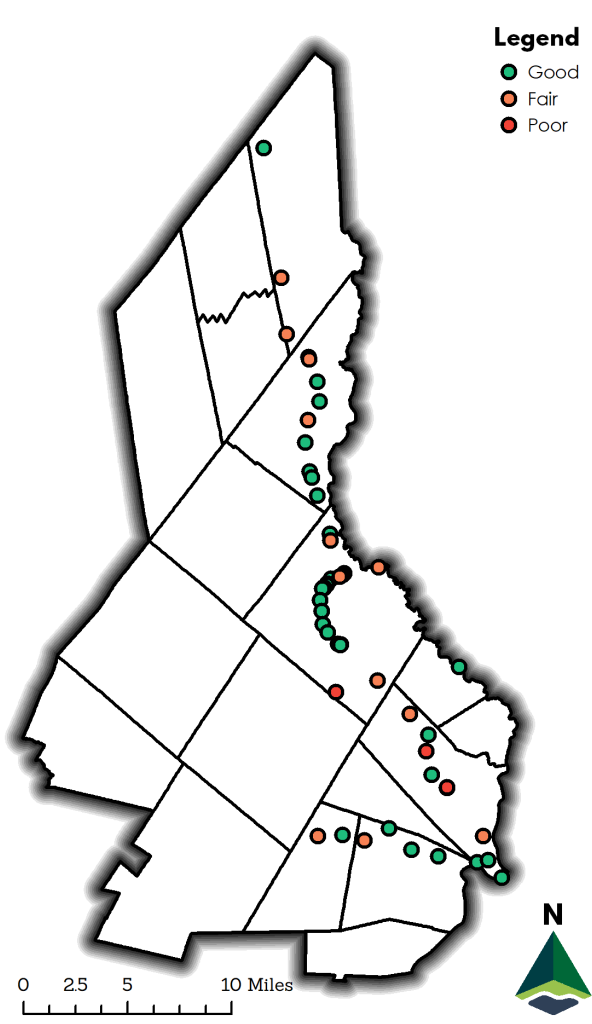
Strafford Region Current Conditions		
Measure Area	System	Conditions
Pavement Condition (Most recent data from 2021)	Non-interstate NHS: Good	34.0% in good condition
	Non-interstate NHS: Poor	0.6% in poor condition
Bridge Conditions (Most recent data from 2022)	NHS: Good	81.8.0% in good condition
	NHS: Poor	9.0% in poor condition
Travel Time Reliability**	Non-Interstate reliable person-miles	97.8% reliable travel

** Congested travel can be considered reliable if it happens predictably (e.g., during commuting hours).

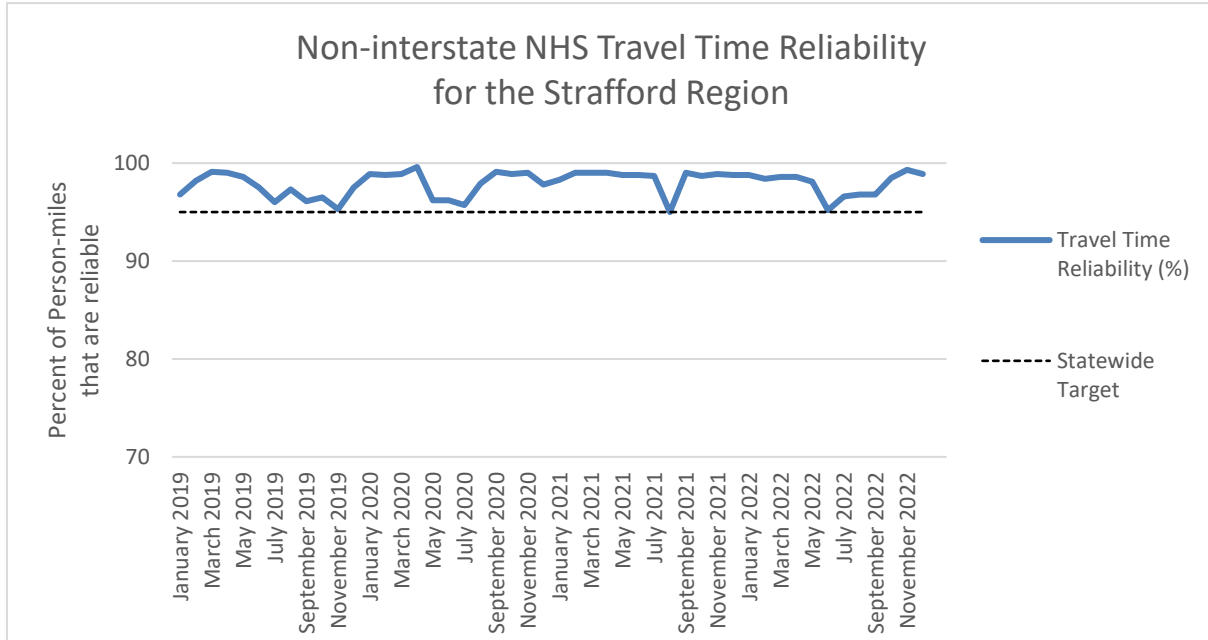
Most current (2021) pavement conditions on the National Highway System



Most current (2022) bridge conditions on the National Highway System



Travel time data for NHS roads in the Strafford region is shown from January 2019; the pandemic appears to have had no long-term effect on travel time reliability. Only twice since January 2019 has it fallen to 95%.



Regional Performance Improvement

Strafford MPO will continue to collaborate with NHDOT to sustain the Strafford region's good performance in these and other performance areas. Strafford MPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan has been restructured to incorporate performance measures and link them to planned and programmed projects in the region.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Czysz, AICP
Executive Director
Strafford Regional Planning Commission
Strafford Metropolitan Planning Organization