

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

Friday, September 15, 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		
2) Commissioner Roundtable Updates, from your community	15 mins	
3) Action Items a) Minutes from August 18, 2023	5 mins	a) Review draft minutes in packet
4) Discussion Items a) Frequency of Economic Development, Regional Planning, and Transportation meetings. b) Metro Plan Project Solicitation and Selection	45 mins	See materials in meeting packet
5) Other Business a) CEDS Update [Angie and Natalie]	10 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 srpc@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.



Strafford MPO Policy Committee

September 15, 2023

Pre-meeting memo

Frequency of Economic Development, Regional Planning, and Transportation meetings.

SRPC staff have heard feedback from commissioners requesting greater balance of topics and staff engagement in commissioner meetings. Traditionally, the MPO Policy Committee (transportation), comprised of Commissioners and our transportation planning partners, meets monthly on the third Friday and the Commission meetings (regional planning and economic development) are held quarterly on Thursday afternoons. This creates a heavy focus on transportation planning where 12 of the 16 meetings Commissioners attend each year are dedicated to the MPO.

SRPC wears 3 hats, and we want to ensure Commissioners can fully engage with each, including:

- Regional Planning Commission (RPC): land use & environmental planning;
- Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO): transportation planning; and
- Economic Development District.

We would like your feedback on our meeting schedule and how to better balance these three programmatic areas. Some thoughts on how to do this include:

- The 3rd Friday morning of the month meetings could:
 - Rotate topics each month ensure 4 meetings per year for each of the RPC, MPO, and EDD.
 - Be conducted as joint RPC/EDD/MPO meetings as needed.
 - Stay the same.
- The quarterly Thursday afternoon meetings could
 - rotate topics – 1 each RPC, EDD, MPO and Annual meeting.
 - Be held in place of the Friday morning meeting that month (12 meetings per year instead of the current 16).
 - Be cancelled.
 - Stay the same.

Metro Plan Project Solicitation and Selection

I've begun to solicit projects from municipalities to be incorporated into the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The first decision for TAC and Policy members to make is to prioritize projects to be sent to our consultant engineer for development of designs and cost estimates. Designs and cost estimates are essential for any funding application to implement projects. There will likely be a round of funding through the Transportation Alternatives program, and in late summer/early

fall of 2024, Strafford MPO will be submitting a preliminary list of candidate projects for the next State Ten Year Plan.

Please look at the summary of MTP goals and Ten Year Plan criteria in the pages below. Central question: Do the Ten Year Plan categories adequately encompass our goals, are there goals that need to be emphasized?

*Note – we cannot directly modify the Ten Year Plan criteria at this time. Any questions, comments, concerns raised at the meeting I can bring to a future meeting with the other RPCs and NHDOT.

CEDS Update [Angie and Natalie]

Angie and Natalie will be giving an update from the Economic Development Program on local and regional outreach efforts on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). No decisions are needed, but for the discussion, they'd love to ask for any additional ideas for outreach and development of the plan.

Strafford MPO Policy Committee Meeting Friday, August 18, 2023 9:00 – 10:30 AM

1. Introductions: 9:12

At 9:18 A.M., Vice Chair Peter Nelson called the meeting to order and asked for introductions.

Members present: William Fisher, Farmington; Don Hamann, Rochester; Tom Crosby, Madbury; Peter Nelson, Newmarket; Barbara Holstein, Rochester; Katrin Kasper, Lee; Joe Boudreau, Rochester; Mark Richardson, Somersworth; Michael Bobinsky, Somersworth; Glen Davison, DOT

Members attending on Zoom: Jessica Wilcox, NHDES; Vanessa Partington, NHDES,

Staff present: Jen Czysz, Colin Lentz, Rachel Dewey

SRPC staff attending on Zoom: Angela Cleveland and Mark Davie

By Phone: Mary Woodward, Lee

2. Commissioner Roundtable

D Hamman reported that much progress has been made on the Strafford Square roundabout project and everything is on schedule,

P. Nelson stated that there was a break in a sewer line that runs under Lamprey River which caused a great deal of concern and required intensive repair work and Newmarket has fixed the problem. Sadly, this has not been the best year for the Lamprey River.

M. Bobinsky stated that, North on High Street, Somersworth had substantially finished the TAP project for sidewalk and pathway safety improvements. The CMAC project is just starting for traffic signal coordination improvements and upgrades of 6 intersections. Ultimately the synchronization of the traffic lights will be substantially improved. There is a Complete Streets meeting on September 1 with the engineers, DOT and Staff.

The potential developer pulled out of his proposal to purchase the National Guard facility. The town is regrouping to decide on the next steps.

M. Richardson stated that the improvements to the Forest Glade cemetery along a section of Maple Street is a noticeable improvement and has drawn significant feedback and support.

3. Action Items

a) Minutes from May 19, 2023



M. Bobinsky motioned to accept the May 19 minutes as written seconded by K. Kasper. A roll call vote was taken: W. Fisher, D. Hamann, T. Crosby, P Nelson, B. Holstein, K. Kasper, J. Boudreau, M. Richardson, M. Bobinsky, G. Davison J. Wilcox, M. Woodward Motion passed with all in favor.

b) Performance Targets: Pavements, Bridge, and Travel Time Reliability

C. Lentz and M. Davie gave an overview on the performance targets and explained that 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.

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.

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

Discussion ensued about comprehensive data on pavement and bridge conditions, and how to keep more bridges and miles of highway in good shape. Also discussed was concern that the targets do not address local infrastructure within the communities.

M. Bobinsky motioned to accept the Performance Targets as presented seconded by D. Hamann. A roll call vote was taken: W. Fisher, D. Hamann, T. Crosby, P Nelson, B. Holstein, K. Kasper, J. Boudreau, M. Richardson, M. Bobinsky, G. Davison J. Wilcox, M. Woodward. Motion passed with all in favor

4. Discussion Items

a) New Electric Vehicle Charging Toolkit

A. Cleveland presented on an online electric vehicle toolkit developed by SRPC staff to help municipalities navigate the world of Electric Vehicle charging and which has been designed for municipalities thinking about and planning for EV charging stations. The guide is in a storymap format for easy reading and focusing on topic areas of interest. There is an ever increasing need for EV charging stations largely due to increased tourism with electric vehicles.

The toolkit will be updated as new legislation, guidance, regional case studies, and technological information come to light. Members discussed the status of VW mitigation funds and their contribution to EV charging infrastructure.

5. Other Business

The group participated in a practice test exercise that will be presented at the September 21 Commission meeting for the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. The test was performed to determine what methods, including an online survey tool, worked best for participants. The consensus was that most members were comfortable with using the technology.



6. Citizen's Forum

There were no citizens present

7. Adjourn

D. Hamann motioned to adjourn seconded by T. Crosby. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 10:55 A.M.



Current Metropolitan Transportation Plan goals

1. OVERALL SYSTEM PERFORMANCE

- Maintain and improve the reliability of the highway system.
- Reduce congestion and travel delay.
- Increase accessibility to alternative modes of transportation.
- Increase safety for non-motorized modes of transportation.

2. INFRASTRUCTURE CONDITIONS

- Keep public roads in good condition.
- Restore or upgrade bridges and culverts in critical condition.
- Prioritize planning and projects focused on adapting to climate change and improving infrastructure resilience.
- Increase adoption of alternative transportation modes to reduce wear and tear on roads.

3. SAFETY

- Reduce the number of crashes on public roadways that result in fatalities and severe injuries.
- Reduce the number of crashes involving non-motorized users and build safer streets where bicycle and pedestrian activity is high.
- Reduce motorcycle crashes.
- Proactively identify high-crash locations.

4. INTRA-REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION

- Increase funding for public transit.
- Promote ridership on regional public transit.
- Increase frequency on existing public transit routes.
- Increase service coverage and coordination of demand-response transit service for seniors and people with disabilities.
- Coordinate new development with public transit access.
- Increase transit access for seniors and people with disabilities.

5. INTER-REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION

- Improve linkages to existing intercity bus and rail service for pedestrians, cyclists, and local transit.
- Support policy and develop projects that expand inter-city bus service to new destinations.
- Increase capacity of active railroads in the region to increase frequency of passenger and freight rail service.

6. ECONOMIC LINKAGES

- Improve multimodal connections that increase mobility and accessibility of people and freight.
- Support the development of walkable community centers that promote local businesses and create a sense of place.
- Increase capacity of existing rail infrastructure for passenger and freight.
- Increase economic resilience to the impacts of climate change.

7. HOUSING & JOBS

- Increase public transit service in the region
- Support coordination of affordable housing development with public transit and multimodal transportation improvements
- Improve accessibility for non-motorized modes, especially in areas with low income and limited transportation options
- Increase workforce mobility
- Build resilience in areas where people are most vulnerable to climate change

8. POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

- Increase transportation independence for a growing number of seniors
- Increase access to jobs and essential services for people with low income and limited vehicle access
- Increase funding for public transit

Current Ten Year Plan Scoring Criteria

These criteria were used by all Regional Planning Commissions and NHDOT in the 22-23 Ten Year Plan project scoring process.

Overall Criteria	MTP goals Overlap
Safety*	1, 3, 6
Mobility*	1, 2, 4, 5
Network Significance*	1, 2
State of Repair*	1, 2
Natural Hazard Resilience	2, 7
Equity, Environmental Justice, & Accessibility	4, 5, 8
Economic Development	6, 7
Support	NA

- Addresses national performance measures and targets applicable to the region