

MPO Policy Committee Meeting

Friday, August 16, 2024 9:00-10:30 AM

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.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 Notes
1) Welcome and Introductions	5 minutes	
2) Commissioner Roundtable	10 minutes	Updates, from your community
3) Public Hearing Update to the Public Participation Plan	5 minutes	
4) Action Items a) Minutes of 7/19/2024 b) Adopt Draft Public Participation Plan	10 minutes	a) Minutes in meeting packet b) Plan is on the website and a link to draft plan in meeting memo
5) Discussion Items Preparing for MTP project scoring and 10-yr plan submission a) Review of MTP projects in development b) Review project scoring criteria weights c) Second round of project reviews with BETA	30 minutes	See meeting memo and attached materials
6) Other Business	5 minutes	
7) Citizens Forum		
8) 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.





DATE: August 9, 2024

TO: SRPC Commissioners

FROM: Jen Czysz, Executive Director
Colin Lentz, Transportation Planner

RE: August 16, 2024 Meeting Discussion Items & Upcoming Meeting Schedule

Public Participation Plan Update

The draft update to the Public Participation Plan has been in public comment since July 1st. This plan establishes SRPC’s goals and objectives for engaging with the public and ensuring diverse voices in the region are represented in the transportation planning process. Please review the draft plan prior to the meeting: overall goals and objectives on page 14 to 19.

Draft plan includes a new Organizational Self-Assessment for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice impact starting on page 11.

Draft Plan: https://www.straftford.org/uploads/documents/plans/mpo/ppp_2024.pdf

Preparing for MTP project scoring and Initial 10-year plan submission

SRPC’s engineers (BETA) have completed initial reviews for five Metro Plan projects. They will be providing more detailed analysis and drawings of priority alternatives for the five projects. These projects are essentially ready for submission to NHDOT for initial review of candidate 10-yr plan projects.

It will be valuable to rank all projects in the Metro Plan that have a scope and cost estimate developed through engineering review. This will be important for the final 10-yr plan submission in early 2025. In February, SRPC committee members weighted the project scoring criteria for the 10-year plan process. Those criteria overlap with the goals in the Metro Plan, and with federal performance goals. The criteria are included in the packet and projects will be discussed at the meeting.

SRPC still has \$50,000 for a second round of project reviews. Potential candidate projects will be discussed at the meeting.

Draft Schedule of Upcoming Meetings (subject to change)

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. Sep. 20, 2024	SRPC	RPC	TBD
Thur. Sep. 26, 2024	Field Trip TBD	EDD	TBD
Fri. Oct. 18, 2024	SRPC	MPO	Review MTP projects for initial submission to NHDOT

RPC = regional planning topics, EDD = Economic Development topics, MPO = transportation topics

**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

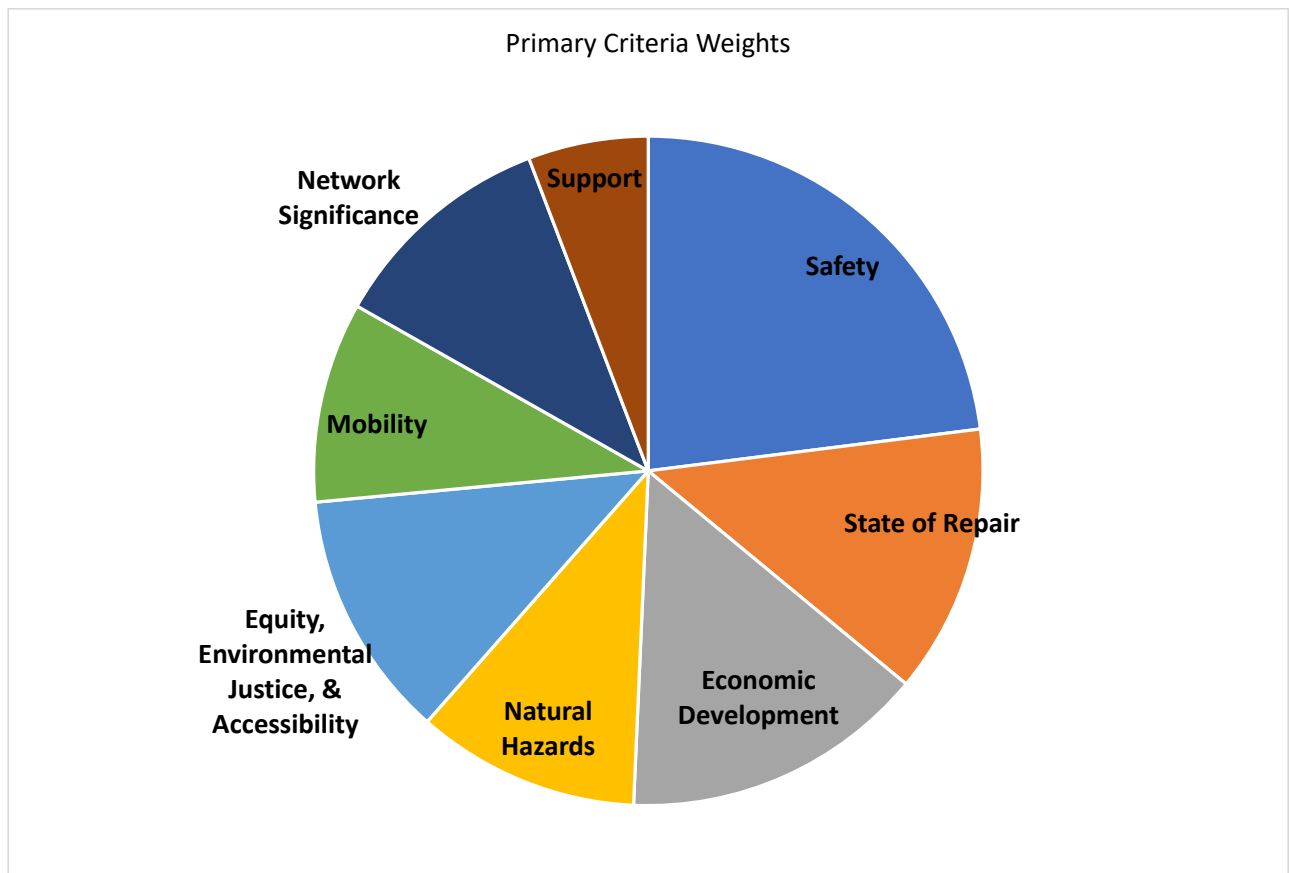
With a motion and a second and all in favor, the meeting adjourned at 10:10 A.M.



Ten Year Plan project scoring criteria weights from February 2024

Primary Criteria	Weight
Safety	23
State of Repair	13
Economic Development	14.7
Natural Hazards	10.8
Equity, Environmental Justice, & Accessibility	12
Mobility	9.69
Network Significance	11
Support	5.81
Total	100

Primary Criteria	Sub-Criteria	Weight
Safety	Need	13.34
Safety	Impact	9.66
State of Repair	Impact	7.15
State of Repair	Need	5.85
Economic Development	Freight	9.55
Economic Development	Local/Regional Activity	5.15
Natural Hazards	Risk	6.59
Natural Hazards	Mitigation	4.21
Equity	Accessibility	6.24
Equity	Equity/EJ	5.76
Mobility	Need	5.62
Mobility	Impact	4.07
Network Significance	Facility Importance	5.28
Network Significance	Traffic/Bike-Ped Usage	5.72
Support	Support	5.81
	Total	100



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