

Strafford Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee Meeting



Friday, May 7th, 2021 9:00 – 10:30 AM
Remote Zoom Meeting

The Chair of the SRPC Technical Advisory Committee has found that, due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2021-05, SRPC and committees thereof are authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order.

SRPC is utilizing Zoom for this electronic meeting. All members of the Committee have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in the meeting as follows:

Online Access: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82905345549?pwd=eTQ4dEVrbjVPbm5iL2dqQmxIdXpyQT09>
Telephone-only Access: 1-646-558-8656 and Meeting ID: 829 0534 5549

These instructions have also been provided on the SRPC website at www.strafford.org. If anybody has a problem accessing the meeting, please email clentz@strafford.org or call (603) 948-9483. In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled.

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|---|----------------|
| 1. Introductions | 5 mins |
| 2. Staff Communications | |
| 3. Action Item(s) [Motion required] | |
| 3.1. Review and approve draft minutes from April 2 nd , 2021 | 15 mins |
| 3.2. Draft 2021-2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan for public review [recommend to Policy] | |
| 4. Discussion Items | |
| 4.1. Review prospective bicycle projects in the region | 30 mins |
| 4.2. Local data services development | |
| 5. Municipal Roundtable – Updates from your community
Are there ways SRPC can help you community recover from COVID-19? | 10 mins |
| 6. Other Business | 5 mins |
| 7. Citizen's Forum – Citizens of the Strafford region are invited to speak on the subject matter of the meeting. Statements shall be limited to three minutes. | |
| 8. Adjournment | |
- Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Include a description of the accommodation you will need including as much detail as you can. Also include a way we can contact you if we need more information. Make your request as early as possible; please allow 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@strafford.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.

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 Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Friday, April 2nd 2021

9:00 – 11:00 AM

Strafford Regional Planning Commission
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 9:05am

The chair read the following statement prior to the roll call:

The chair of the Strafford MPO Technical Advisory Committee has found that, due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2021-05, this Committee is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to the meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, this is to confirm that we are:

- *Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means.* We are utilizing the Zoom platform for this electronic meeting. All members of the Committee have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through the Zoom platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through dialing the following phone number 1-646-558-8656 and meeting ID 829 0534 5549, or by clicking on the following website address:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82905345549?pwd=eTQ4dEVrbjVPbm5iL2dqQmxIdXpyQT09>

- *Providing public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting.* We previously gave notice to the public of how to access the meeting using Zoom, and instructions are provided on the SRPC website at www.strafford.org.
- *Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access.* If anybody has a problem, please call 603-948-9483 or email at: clentz@strafford.org.
- *Adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting.* In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, we will adjourn the meeting and have it rescheduled at that time. Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by Roll Call vote. Let's start the meeting by taking a Roll Call attendance. When each member states their presence, also please state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know law.

1. **Attendance:**

Committee Members

Christopher Parker (Dover), Steve Pesci (UNH), Scott Kinmond (New Durham), Marcia Gasses (Barrington), Michael Williams (COAST), Linda Dusenberry (NHDOT), Tim White (NHDES), Michelle Mears (Somersworth), Shanna Saunders (Somersworth), April Talon (Durham), Michael Hoffman (Newmarket), Arthur Capello (Farmington), Leigh Levine (FHWA), Bruce Woodruff (Milton).

Staff

Jen, Czysz, Colin Lentz, Stephen Geis, Jackson Rand, Rachel Dewey, Natalie Moles, Stefanie Casella, Nancy O'Connor, Alaina Rogers

2. **Staff Communications**

C. Lentz noted that SRPC had officially begun working with the consulting firm VHB. He reminded municipalities to contact him with potential projects so that VHB can help develop planning-level scopes and cost estimates.

J. Czysz said SRPC had convened a resilience sub-committee which will be holding roundtable discussions on the third Thursday of each month at 9:30am. The first roundtable is scheduled for April 15th to discuss local hazard mitigation strategies.

3. **Action Items**

3.1 Minutes from March 5th 2021

M. Williams made a motion to approve the minutes as written.

Seconded by B. Woodruff.

Vote: A. Talon and L. Dusenberry abstaining, otherwise unanimous in favor (via roll-call vote)

3.2 Scoring and Ranking of Transportation Alternatives projects in the Strafford region

C. Lentz presented the scored ranking for the three projects proposed in the region [full scoring results attached to the minutes]:

1. Dover – Pedestrian bridge and trail to complete Community Trail extension.
2. Rochester – Filling a sidewalk gap on Portland St.
3. Durham – Bicycle and pedestrian improvements on Madbury Rd (paired with utilities).

C. Lentz explained that this is not the final decision; NHDOT will use this ranking to assign points in their scoring process. He noted that several scorers had remarked that all three projects were excellent and it was difficult to score them.

S. Pesci asked follow up questions of the project applicants.

S. Saunders made a motion to approve the TAP scores as presented.

Seconded by C. Parker.

Vote: L. Dusenberry abstaining, otherwise unanimous in favor (via roll-call vote)

4. **Municipal Roundtable – Updates on local COVID-19 adaptation** Are there ways that SRPC can help your community recover from COVID-19?

S. Saunders said she hears from developers that it's going to be a very busy summer and people have a positive outlook. C. Parker and S. Pesci concurred and said the pandemic has shown that outdoor dining is not only possible, but beneficial. They noted that the temporary outdoor dining areas constructed a year ago were being put back in many places as the weather warms.

M. Williams said the second COVID-19 wave had impacted the return of ridership, but it is steadily growing again.

M. Hoffman said he hoped communities were seriously reconsidering policies that restricted outdoor dining and other pedestrian areas in downtowns. He noted that the pandemic may result in "zoom towns" as more people are able to work from home and are not restricted by commute distance.

S. Pesci said UNH was going to have a ribbon cutting ceremony in May for the Main St TAP project completion. UNH Wildcat transit is holding two public hearings to review changes to their service in the upcoming academic year. S. Pesci said service was being restored following the academic year that was impacted by COVID-19, but it would still be a 20% reduction in service compared to the 2019 academic year. He said UNH was planning to end the Route 5 bus to Newmarket starting in May of 2022. This is primarily due to students moving out of Newmarket to Durham and Dover which has cause Route 5 ridership to decline over five years. S. Pesci recommended that C. Lentz invite Amtrak representatives to a future TAC meeting.

J. Rand provided an overview of the Promoting Outdoor Play (POP!) project that SRPC staff were just finishing up. He presented a draft of an online map and tool that displayed hundreds of recreation sites around the region. It can be used to sort sites by type: playgrounds, trails, boat launches, etc. J. Rand said the tool would be launching the week of April 19th and there would be an outreach event in the future. N. O'Connor said the goal was to get this tool out to families.

R. Dewey reminded members that the regional Data Snapshot was still under development and asked them to provide comments on the draft metrics that C. Lentz had sent out recently.

5. **Other Business**

S. Kinmond reminded members that he had accepted a position with the town of Alton and thanked everyone for the community discussion and engagement. He said Jon Scruton will be taking over as the Town Administrator for New Durham.

B. Woodruff said Milton's Town Administrator, Ernest Creveling, would be moving on to a new job and the town was in the process of finding a replacement. He said to contact him in the interim.

6. **Citizen's Forum** – Citizens of the Strafford region are invited to speak on the subject matter of the meeting. Statements should be limited to three minutes.

No citizens were present to provide input.

7. Adjournment

C. Parker made a motion to adjourn

Seconded by B. Woodruff

Vote: unanimous in favor

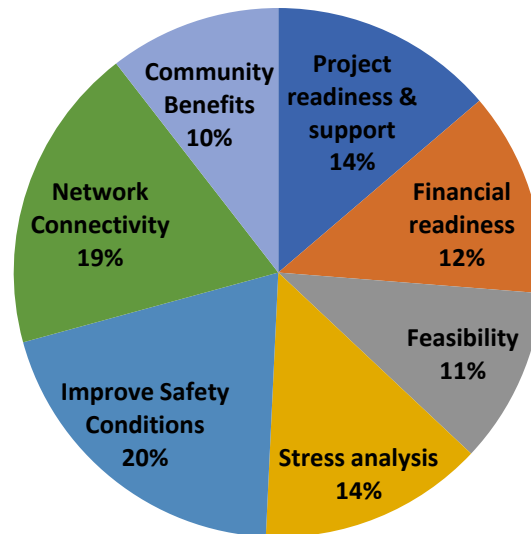
The meeting was adjourned at 10:40am

The following project ranking was approved by the Strafford MPO Technical Advisory Committee on April 2nd 2021, and approved by the Policy Committee on April 16th 2021.

Average Rating (out of 5)

	Potential for Success			Safety		Connectivity & Community Benefits		Final Average Score
	Project Readiness and Support	Financial Readiness	Feasibility	Stress Analysis	Improve Safety Conditions	Network Connectivity	Community Benefits	
Dover	4.2	5.0	4.2	3.8	4.2	4.2	4.0	4.24
Rochester	4.1	4.4	4.2	4.1	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.21
Durham	4.3	4.3	4.1	3.7	4.2	4.0	3.9	4.09

Criteria Weighting



Prospective SRPC bicycle improvement projects from statewide Bike/Ped Plan development

The projects below were developed by SRPC staff on a tight timeframe to include improvement projects in the statewide Bicycle & Pedestrian Improvement Plan. Local knowledge and the regional bicycle level-of stress analysis were used to identify potential projects. Emphasis was placed on creating new connections or filling existing gaps between local destinations. There is no guaranteed funding associated with the state Bike/Ped plan.

For the Statewide Bike/Ped Plan, RPCs submitted up to 10 “major” projects and up to 10 “minor” projects. In general, major projects are those that require significant construction of new or expanded facilities; minor projects include shoulder widening or restriping in conjunction with scheduled paving programs. Some major projects were included as “spot improvements” if they were at specific intersections/locations.

SRPC has hired VHB as an on-call consultant who can develop planning level scopes and cost estimates for prospective projects, but we need confirmation from municipalities about the feasibility and interest in projects. Please review the below projects with consideration for funding them through future Transportation Alternatives or Ten Year Plan rounds.

Major Projects

Municipality	Route/facility	General scope/description and notes	Google Maps location
Farmington	NH11/Farmington Rec Trail	Current trail ends at Nappa Auto parts. Develop highway crossing from end of gravel trail, across NH11 to NH75 and connect to downtown.	Google Maps Link
Rochester	Columbus Ave multi-use path	Extend path from current southern end at Lowell St to Rochester public works on Old Dover Rd (NH16B).	Google Maps Link
Rochester	US202	New multi-use path along US202 between Eastern Ave and Salmon Falls Rd to improve connection with East Rochester and Rochester downtown	Google Maps Link
Northwood	US4	Separated multi-use path along US4 between Harmony Rd and Jeffery Dr. High volume of high school students walk on the shoulder of this 45mph road	Google Maps Link
Durham	Old Piscataqua Rd	Multi use path to connect users on NH 108 to US 4 by avoiding the US 4 ramps.	Google Maps Link
Dover/Rollinsford	Portland Ave	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Off-street path on Portland Ave between NH108 (Main St) from downtown Dover to Oak St intersection (steep section of Portland Ave) on-road improvements continuing on NH4 from Oak St eastbound towards Rollinsford 	Google Maps Link
Dover/Somersworth	Central Ave/Indian Brook Dr/High St	Scope TBD. Weeks Crossing intersection is unsafe for bikes. An off-street bypass will be needed to link Somersworth and Dover through the dense commercial district along NH9 (Indian brook Dr) and NH108 (Central Ave)	Google Maps Link

Minor Projects

Municipality	Route/facility	Facility and Extent	Description and notes	Google Maps location
Wakefield	NH153 (Wakefield Rd)	Bike shoulder from intersection with NH125 in Union to NH109 (Meadow St in Sanbornville)	Best alternative to NH16. At next repaving - either expand shoulders by adding pavement or by reducing lane width wherever practical.	Google Maps Link
Milton	NH125 (White Mtn Hwy)	Sharrows through town center from Dawson St to Depot Pond Rd	Town increase visibility of other modes and traffic calming in town center.	Google Maps Link
Farmington	NH153 (Main St)	Sharrows through downtown; from Webster St to Paulson St.	Could be part of a proposed TYP project. Farmington is working on revitalizing downtown including pedestrian and bicycle improvements	Google Maps Link
Rochester	NH125 (Milton Rd)	Bike Shoulder from the end of current bike lanes on Wakefield St near downtown to Cross Rd intersection with NH125.	At next repaving - consider expand shoulders by adding pavement or by reducing lane width wherever practical.	Google Maps Link

Rochester	Farmington Rec Trail	Wayfinding and access improvements from Lowell St to northern end of trail.	Trail improvements and wayfinding	
Barrington	NH9 (Littleworth Rd)	Bike Shoulder expansion from NH125 in Barrington, to NH155 in Dover	At next repaving - consider expand shoulders by adding pavement or by reducing lane width wherever practical.	Google Maps Link
Dover	Silver St/NH16	Wayfinding and access improvements from Silver St roundabout to NH155/NH9 intersection	Improve visibility of tunnel access under NH16 at exit 8	Google Maps Link
Dover	Dover Point Rd	Bike Shoulder and wayfinding from Roberta Dr to Tuttle Ln	Signs and shoulder improvements. Add wayfinding to Spur Rd connection via New Bellamy Ln	Google Maps Link
Somersworth	NH236 (West High St)	Bike Shoulder from NH108 to NH9 (High St)	Wider shoulders where possible and better signage throughout	Google Maps Link
Lee	NH152 (Lee Hook Rd)	Bike Shoulders from Grant St to Mast Rd.	At next repaving - consider expand shoulders by adding pavement or by reducing lane width wherever practical.	Google Maps Link

Spot Improvement Projects

Municipality	Facility/Location	Description and notes	Google Maps location
Lee	Lee Hook Rd/George Bennett Rd/ Mast Rd/North River Rd intersection	Complex triangle intersection. Other HSIP improvements are under consideration here, including a non-motorized component to these changes would be beneficial.	Google Maps Link
Newmarket	NH108 (Exeter Rd) and Main St	Downtown intersection safety improvements needed for all modes	Google Maps Link
Lee	NH125 and US4 traffic circle	Multi-Use bypass around the roundabout. The Lee roundabout is a 2 lane roundabout with high volumes. There isn't room in the roundabout for bikes to pass safely. Some multi use route around it would be great for bikes and pedestrians	Google Maps Link
Durham	NH108 and Canney Rd intersection	Riverwoods (retirement community) residents cross here to walk on Canney Rd and need a safe crossing. Dedicated pedestrian crossing needed. Advanced warning beacons likely needed due to hills.	Google Maps Link
Newmarket/ Newfields	Ash Swamp Rd and Old Rt 108 intersection	Rockingham Junction is at the trailhead for the Rockingham Rail Trail. Ash Swamp Rd is a popular recreational route, and Newmarket is potentially developing additional recreational opportunities on the eastern side of NH108. A dedicated bike crossing over the rail road tracks should be investigated.	Google Maps Link