



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

Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2023
9:00-10:30 a.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Vice Chair Peter Nelson called the meeting to order and asked for introductions:

Members attending in person: Peter Nelson, Newmarket; Don Hamann, Rochester; Bill Fisher, Farmington; Joe Boudreau, Rochester; Barbara Holstein, Rochester; Tom Crosby, Madbury; John Mullen, Middleton; Michael Bobinsky, Somersworth, Matthew Towne, Barrington; Michael Williams, COAST; Beverly, UNH; Kate Buzard, Middleton

Staff attending in person: Jen Czysz, Colin Lentz

Members attending on Zoom: Bill Watson, DOT; Wayne Burton, Durham; Steve Diamond, Barrington, Leslie Schwartz, Durham; Mary Woodward, Lee; Jessica Wilcox, DES

Staff attending on Zoom: Megan Taylor-Fetter

2. Commissioner Roundtable

J. Boudreau stated that the meeting C. Lentz hosted in Rochester was very insightful. The new roundabout is now open and in general has been a success.

M. Bobinsky reported that in Somersworth the 85 Elm Street project has finally been approved after a second historic review and agreement was made with the developer on the façade. The project will proceed over the next year.

M. Bobinsky stated that the three cities met with COAST on the route 108 complete streets project preliminary design. A public hearing will be scheduled for next spring or summer.

B. Fisher stated there will be a Route 11 Corridor Study meeting on November 29 in Farmington at Old Town Hall-5-8 PM

S. Diamond shared an experience he had riding his motorcycle which prompted him to ask what could be done about large vehicles driving recklessly over the speed limit and other dangerous driving situations.

**3. Public Hearing – Transportation Improvement Program Amendment 3
At 9:22 AM D, Hamann motioned to open the public hearing seconded by T. Crosby. All members voted in favor by roll call vote.**

C. Lentz stated this public hearing is for the proposed Amendment #3 to the adopted 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP is a prioritized list of federal and state funded regional transportation projects programmed for the next four years. The amendment is necessary to account for project changes and to maintain consistency with the 2023-2026 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). SRPC is conducting this process in accordance with the Strafford MPO's public involvement procedures and federal and state regulations.

Amendment #3 impacts projects listed in the 2023-2026 TIP which is part of the 2023-2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) for the region. Full amendments to the TIP require a 10-day public comment period, a public hearing, and approval by the Strafford MPO Policy Committee. The 10-day public comment period began on Tuesday, November 7, 2023 and will ended at the close of business on Thursday, November 16, 2023.

At 9:36 AM D. Hamann motioned to close the public hearing seconded by T. Crosby. All members voted in favor by roll call vote.

4. Action Items

a. Approval of the October 20, 2023 Minutes

D. Hamann motioned to approve the October 20, 2023 minutes seconded by T. Crosby There was no discussion. The motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote in favor with L. Schwartz abstaining.

b. Approve Amendment 3 to the Transportation Improvement Program

D. Hamann motioned to approve Amendment 3 to the Transportation Improvement Program seconded by T. Crosby. The motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote in favor.

5. Discussion Items

a. Updates to the MPO Bylaws

C. Lentz stated that the changes presented in the draft update to the MPO bylaws are meant to improve consistency with SRPC bylaws and reduce confusion about the dual role of SRPC commissioners as members of the MPO Policy Committee. With the recent change to the commission meeting schedule (rotating the third Friday of the month meeting between Regional Planning, Economic Development, and Transportation), it may be appropriate and efficient to merge MPO-specific elements into the overall SRPC bylaws. This would reflect SRPC being the

overarching organization, with adjoining regional planning, economic development, and transportation programs.

The group discussed the proposed changes and agreed it makes sense and asked for an alternative draft to be presented at a future meeting.

b. Safe Streets for All – Commitment to Vision Zero Goals

C. Lentz stated that Strafford, Nashua, Southern, and Rockingham Planning Commissions have received a grant through the Safe Streets and Roads for All program (SS4A). The RPCs will be hiring a consultant to write *Safety Action Plans* for each region. Those will make each municipality eligible to apply for implementation funds in future funding rounds. Each plan will include a list of safety projects to be constructed using implementation funds. Central to each safety action plan will be a political commitment to a “Vision Zero” goal. The guidance from Federal Highway Administration describes this as: An official public commitment by a high-ranking official and/or governing body to an eventual goal of zero roadway fatalities and serious injuries. The commitment must include a goal and timeline for eliminating roadway fatalities and serious injuries achieved through one, or both, of the following:

- (1) the target date for achieving zero roadway fatalities and serious injuries, OR
- (2) an ambitious percentage reduction of roadway fatalities and serious injuries by a specific date with an eventual goal of eliminating roadway fatalities and serious injuries.

The group engaged in discussion and touched on topics including road design, causation, data quality, police reports and how agencies are mandated. They asked how are we held responsible when we have no control. Vehicle technology is helping and will continue to evolve.

6. Other Business

J. Czysz stated that the next Commission meeting is December 7, 3:45 PM. The regular 3rd meeting of the month will be a field trip to UNH. Details to follow.

B. Fisher thanked C. Lentz for sending a data report on route 11 collisions.

7. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

8. Adjournment

D. Hamann motioned to adjourn seconded by T. Crosby. All members voted unanimously in favor. Meeting adjourned.