

## EDD/MPO Commission and Policy Committee Meeting

Friday, February 21, 2025 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.strafford.org](http://www.strafford.org). If anybody is unable to access the meeting, please email [mtaylorfetter@strafford.org](mailto:mtaylorfetter@strafford.org) or call 603-994-3500 (x115).

Agenda Item	Time	Notes
<b>1) Welcome and Introductions</b>	9:00-9:10	N/A
<b>2) Commissioner Roundtable</b>	9:10-9:20	
<b>3) Action Item</b> Transportation Alternatives Project Scoring Criteria (Colin Lentz)	9:20-9:30	See Memo
<b>3) Presentation and Discussion:</b> Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Update. (Natalie Gemma and Michael Polizzotti)	9:30-10:20	See Memo
<b>4) Other Business</b>	10:20-10:25	N/A
<b>5) Citizens Forum</b>	10:25-10:30	N/A
<b>6) Adjourn</b>	10:30	

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@strafford.org](mailto: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 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

## Regional Planning Commission

**DATE:** February 14, 2025

**TO:** SRPC Commissioners

**FROM:** Jen Czysz, Executive Director  
Colin Lentz, Principal Transportation Planner  
Michael Polizzotti, Sr. Economic Development Planner

**RE: February 21, 2025 Meeting Discussion Items & Upcoming Meeting Schedule**

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### Transportation Alternatives Program – project scoring criteria

Three municipalities have applied for funding through the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), which specifically supports non-motorized transportation improvement projects. NHDOT conducts the final statewide project scoring, but each RPC conducts their own regional project ranking. Strafford RPC will be using its own set of criteria for ranking the three projects from the region. The criteria were weighted by TAC and Commission members; TAC voted to approve the draft criteria weightings at their Feb 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. The draft criteria are shown on the following page. More project details will be compiled and sent to TAC and Policy members for project scoring. Highlights: Newmarket is proposing to replace a local pedestrian bridge, Durham is proposing pedestrian improvements along Madbury Rd, and Farmington is proposing to upgrade sidewalks along Main St. More details on projects will be compiled for commissioners

### Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Update

SRPC staff have begun the process of updating the 2025 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). At the February 21st Commission meeting, staff will be presenting an overview of major regional economic development trends seen over the last year based on the CEDS 9-theme framework. To reference this framework, last year's CEDS update can be viewed here: <https://straftford.org/docs/comprehensive-economic-development-strategy-2024/>

Commissioners are encouraged to ask questions during or after the presentation. Staff will be soliciting feedback and input from Commissioners on what major economic development trends they have seen in their communities over the last year (2024) that should be incorporated into the CEDS update. Solicitation of feedback will take up a majority of the meeting time.

### Agenda Item

What has happened to date (briefly). Why are we talking about it? What do they need to do to be prepared? Questions to discuss at the meeting?

### Draft Schedule of Upcoming Meetings (subject to change)

**Monthly Meetings:** 3<sup>rd</sup> 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
Thursday Feb 27, 2025	Barrington TH	RPC/EDD	Barrington Solar Energy Programs
Fri. March. 21, 2025 9-10:30 AM	SRPC	MPO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• TIP and Metro Plan Public Hearing</li><li>• 10-yr Plan projects final vote</li><li>• TAP projects final vote</li></ul>

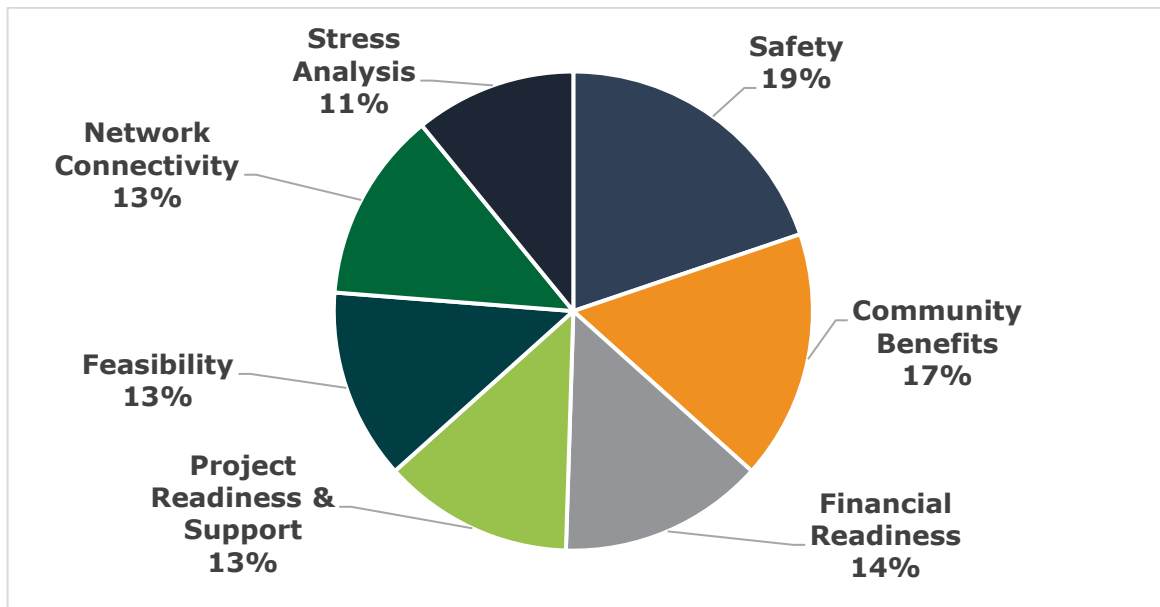
## STRAFFORD REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

150 Wakefield Street, Suite 12, Rochester, NH 03867

Barrington | Brookfield | Dover | Durham | Farmington | Lee | Madbury | Middleton | Milton | New Durham  
Newmarket | Northwood | Nottingham | Rochester | Rollinsford | Somersworth | Strafford | Wakefield



## Draft Weighting of Scoring Criteria for Transportation Alternatives Projects



**Project readiness and support:** Is the project part of a local and/or regional plan and effort, and has it been endorsed by local and regional bodies and advocacy groups?

**Financial readiness:** Is there a written commitment to bring this project forward for approval of funds at town meeting, through capital reserve funds, or through inclusion in the capital improvement plan? Are there funds already raised/appropriated and dedicated to this project?

**Feasibility:** Are there any critical obstacles such as terrain, environmental impacts, or right-of-way conflicts that appear unconsidered?

**Stress analysis:** Consider the stress level of the site as it exists without the proposed project, and how the proposed project will improve that. The existing sidewalk or roadway is assigned a score ranging from 'A' if it is safe for all children to 'E' if it is not at all suitable for any cyclist or pedestrian.

**Improve Safety Conditions:** What is being proposed to improve safety over the current conditions (e.g. pedestrian facilities for a dangerous road crossing). What specific safety improvements will be made and do you think they will increase pedestrian safety?

**Network Connectivity:** What emphasis is there on connecting origins and destinations? Does the project fill a vital gap in an existing transportation network or phased plan? Does it provide a standalone new facility that did not exist previously?

**Overall Community Benefits:** Consider the overall local benefits the proposed project represents. For example, how many types of people will benefit from the proposed project? Does the project increase accessibility for vulnerable users (e.g. people experiencing disabilities or students)? Do you think the project will contribute to local economic development?

## **MPO Policy Committee Meeting**

Friday, January 17, 2025 9:00-10:30 AM

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

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Katrin Kasper called the meeting to order and asked for introductions: M. Williams, COAST; John Mullen, Middleton; Matt Towne, Barrington; Chris Kinsville, Brookfield; Kate Buzard, Middleton; Marshall Goldberg, Brookfield; Karen Gollab, Milton, Tom Falk, Madbury, Michael Williams, COAST

**Staff in person:** Jen Czysz, Michael Polizzotti, Rachel Dewey, Colin Lentz

**Zoom:** Steve Brown, Dover; Mary Woodward, Lee; Jack Wade, DES; Peter Nelson, Newmarket; Sarah Wrightsman, Newmarket; Steve Pesci, UNH; Lyndsey Williams, Dover; Lucy St. John, NHDES; Steve Diamond, Barrington

**Staff attending on Zoom:** Natalie Gemma,

### **2. Commissioner Roundtable**

L. Williams stated that the Dover Council voted to extend the waste management contract for 7 years after extensive conversation on the future of recycling. The contract includes 2 years in the current structure while transitioning to the toter system.

### **3. Action Items**

#### **a. Minutes of 11/15/2024 (MPO) & 12/20/2024 (RPC)**

11/15/2024 Policy minutes: K. Kasper moved to accept the 11/15/2024 MPO minutes second by M. Lehrman. The motion passed following a roll call of the Policy Committee with all members voting in favor: K. Kasper, M. Williams, J. Mullen, M. Towne, C. Kinsville, K. Buzard, M. Goldberg, K. Gollab, Milton, S. Brown, M. Woodward, S. Pesci, L. Williams, S. Diamond, P. Nelson. L. St. John and J. Wade abstain.

12/20/2024 RPC minutes: K. Kasper moved to accept the 12/20/2024 Commission minutes second by M. Towne. The motion passed following a roll call of the Commission with all members voting in favor: K. Kasper, M. Williams, J. Mullen, M. Towne, C. Kinsville, K. Buzard, M. Goldberg, Milton, S. Brown, M. Woodward, L. Williams, S. Diamond, P. Nelson. K. Gollab abstain.

#### **b. Approval of Mid-Year Budget Amendment**

J. Czysz reviewed the Mid-Year Budget and stated the amended budget updates revenues from new contracts and grants that were awarded after the adoption of the FY2025 budget and adjust contracts that have continued from the prior fiscal year to reflect the actual amount of funds available this year. There are no changes from what was presented last month. On the expense side, adjustments have been made to reflect the staffing levels in support of the additional contracts. A lot of grant funding is in a constant state of flux. When we are putting the budget together in March, we don't know what the outcome will be; different things arise. The mid-year amendment helps to reflect where we will end at fiscal year; estimating and projecting when putting the budget together.



J. Mullen moved to accept the Draft Mid-Year Budget, M. Towne second. The motion passed following a roll call of the Commissioners: In favor: K. Kasper, J. Mullen, M. Towne, C. Kinsville, K. Buzard, M. Goldberg, Milton, S. Brown, M. Woodward, L. Williams, S. Diamond, P. Nelson. K. Gollab.

#### **4. Announcements**

##### **Comprehensive Plan Update Kick-Off**

Mike Polizzotti stated SRPC is excited to announce the Comprehensive Plan Kick-off; this is a big all-hands-on deck all staff effort that will be several years in the making. The last comprehensive plan, Local Solutions, was in 2015. The plan is a visionary framework for the region and the communities within and is a collaborative process driven by local input and some light RPC collaboration.

M. Polizzotti outlined the engagement plan and key dates:

- Region Wide Survey-open to end of March
- Core Outreach Activities January to June
- CEDS adoption-June 2026
- MTP Adoption-September 26
- Landuse/Environ Chapters and Executive Summary /Bridge-December 26
- RHNA Project-December 2026

What have we learned in last 10 years? An example of projects that was a result of the plan was Middleton water resource planning.

Staff will work to get the word out: a survey has been distributed; notices have been posted in the Newsletter; outreach to communities; groups, posters and flyers and targeted emails. M. Davie stated we will be reaching out to the Commissioners who have expressed interest in being interviewed.

The committee discussed other ways to spread the word including local events, elections, present to the Coastal Adaption Workgroup, local businesses.

#### **5. Presentation and Vote**

##### **Set 2025 Safety Performance Targets**

C. Lentz stated that once a year, SRPC is federally required to set targets for highway safety performance measures for all public roads in the region. Targets must be set for the following performance measures:

- Number of fatalities
- Rate of fatalities
- Number of serious injuries
- Rate of serious injuries
- Number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries

SRPC's targets are based on a "vision zero" goal – the only acceptable number of fatalities and serious injuries is zero. The targets are calculated toward achieving specific long-term targets:

- A 75% reduction in fatalities by 2035
- A 50% reduction in serious injuries by 2035
- A 100% reduction in non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries by 2035

SRPC is also working with VHB to develop a Regional Safety Action Plan. The plan will make all municipalities eligible for funding to implement highway safety improvement projects through



the Safe Streets and Roads for All program. VHB is working on a full draft and we will have an opportunity to review the entire plan in the near future.

The committee discussed advocating for tougher targets, ways to lower speed; separate infrastructure to encourage people to stay in lanes and other alternatives.

M. Williams moved to accept the 2025 Safety Targets, K. Kasper second. The motion passed following a roll call of the Policy Committee and a unanimous vote in favor: K. Kasper, M. Williams, J. Mullen, M. Towne, C. Kinsville, K. Buzard, M. Goldberg, K. Gollab, S. Brown, M. Woodward, S. Pesci, L. Williams, S. Diamond, P. Nelson. L. St. John and J. Wade.

## **6. Other Business**

K. Kasper asked for volunteers to join the Executive Committee as alternates.

J. Czysz stated that the Regional Impact Committee needs members. M. Towne stated he was interested. The Executive Committee will hold a formal vote at their next meeting.

J. Czysz asked the Commissioners if they could take their PLUR books to their municipalities.

## **7. Citizens Forum**

There were no citizens comments

## **8. Adjourn**

