

EDD/MPO Commission and Policy Committee Meeting
Friday, May 16, 2025 9:00-10:30 AM

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Katrin Kasper called the meeting to order and asked for introductions.

Commissioners and Policy members present: Barbara Holstein, Rochester; Matt Towne, Barrington; Paul Rasmussen, Durham; Mike Lehrman, Durham; Joe Boudreau, Rochester; Peter Nelson, Newmarket; Katrin Kasper, Lee; Rick Healy, Rochester; Kate Buzard, Middleton; John Mullen, Middleton; Mark Richardson, Somersworth; Lee Howlett, Milton; Tom Faulk, Madbury; Don Manter, Northwood; Mike Bobinsky, Somersworth

Commissioners and policy members attending on Zoom: Mary Woodard, Lee; Bill Watson, NHDOT; Beverly Cray, UNH; Jack Wade, NHDES; Lindsey Williams, Dover

Staff present: Michael Polizzotti, Colin Lentz, Lisa Murphy, Jen Czysz, Stephen Geis

2. Commissioner Roundtable

M. Towne reported for Barrington and stated the town received a million dollar grant to renovate the REC center.

3. Action Items

a. Review and approval of the March 21, 2025 and April 18, 2025 meeting minutes.

M. Richardson made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by P. Rasmussen. The motion passed with all members voting in favor via roll call. B. Watson, M. Woodward, J. Wade, and J. Mullen abstained.

b. Approve FY2026-2027 Transportation Unified Planning Work Program

J. Czysz stated that the Unified Planning Work Program is a two-year contract developed with the NH Dept. of Transportation. It comprises all of SRPC's transportation work and represents a major portion of SRPC's overall budget. This work stems from SRPC's federal designation as a Metropolitan Planning Organization. SRPC's primary responsibilities include public outreach, holding regular public meetings to discuss regional planning, and maintenance of plans like the long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program. J. Czysz gave an overview of the UPW funding levels and planning factors.

The group briefly touched on environmental concerns. SRPC confirmed that work in this area is ongoing. A presentation on fixed-route transit stops is planned for the summer.



Following a motion and a second to approve FY2026-2027 Transportation Unified Planning Work Program, the motion passed with all members voting in favor via roll call. J. Wade abstained.

4. Plan Presentations and Discussion

a. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Annual Update

M. Polizzotti provided an overview of the components of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Annual Update. He stated that May 9th, marks the start of the 30-day public comment period for the latest Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Annual Update. The CEDS contains an analysis of the region's economy and identifies goals, strategies, and priority projects for implementation. This is the final update for the current strategy, which was published in 2021 and encompasses the years of 2021 to 2025. This annual update includes overviews of nine thematic areas identified as priorities for economic development in the region, and discussions of SRPC actions to promote economic development in the region.

The group discussed the importance of promoting trade education at the high school level. It was suggested that representatives from local trade schools be invited to present their programs. On childcare, the idea of incorporating childcare into the public school system was raised, with a focus on exploring both the potential benefits and challenges of such an approach.

Concerns were expressed that the current goals and data-driven actions are too general. There is a need for more specific, actionable steps. SRPC noted that its actions are designed to remain within its scope of authority and capacity. Implementation is often constrained by limited financial resources and the lack of direct authorization from member municipalities.

b. SRPC Transportation Safety Action Plan

C. Lentz provided a comprehensive review of the Regional Safety Action Plan. He stated that it is through the Safe Streets for All Federal Program. The four MPOs hired an engineer, VHB, to write 4 action plans, one for each region. This plan proposes a comprehensive set of strategies and actions for reducing the number of crashes that kill and injure people. It will also enable all municipalities in the region to apply for funding to accomplish those actions. SRPC's commissioners will be holding a public hearing for the draft at their meeting at 9:00am on June 20th.

Conversation among the group ensued with discussion on preventative measures including safety education. A suggestion was made to update the Commission annually on progress.

5. Discussion Items

a. Appointment of a Regional Plan Subcommittee

M. Polizzotti stated as we ramp up work on the Regional Plan, a subcommittee of commissioners would be beneficial to the process. The subcommittee is envisioned to be a source of input, a sounding board, and a conduit to our communities. Per our bylaws the chair



can form subcommittees. We are looking for interested individuals. At the meeting we can discuss what the roles, responsibilities and time commitment might be.

6. Other Business

J. Czysz reported that the nine Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) are continuing efforts to reinstate the targeted block grant in the state budget. A template email will be provided for members to send to the Senate Finance Committee in support of this initiative.

An RFP for auditing services is being issued. Volunteers are needed to review submitted proposals and participate in the interview process. Contact Megan if you are interested.

The June 20 annual business meeting agenda is packed and will be extended a half hour from 9-11:00 AM.

Members are encouraged to submit comments on the two documents discussed during the meeting. Public hearings on these documents will be held at the June 20 meeting.

Alternates are needed for the Executive Committee. A slate of officers will be presented for a vote at the Next month have a packed agenda, end of fiscal year,

We will also have a TIP amendment on the agenda.

K. Kasper reported that Jack Wade messaged in to report there are 2 grants through NHDOT, for vehicle replacements.

7. Citizens Forum

There were none.

8. Adjourn

Following a motion and a second to adjourn and all members in favor, the meeting adjourned at 10:50AM.

