

Meeting of the SRPC Commissioners, MPO Policy Committee, & EDD Board

Friday, September 19, 2025 9:00 – 10:30 AM

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

1. Introductions:

Members in Person: Steve Stancel, Wakefield; Paul Rasmussen, Durham; Joe Boudreau, Rochester; Mike Bobinsky, Somersworth; Matt Towne, Barrington; Peter Nelson, Newmarket; Rick Healey, Rochester; John Mullen, Middleton; Kate Buzard, Middleton; Leigh Howlett, Milton; Tom Falk, Madbury; John Nute, Milton; Katrin Kasper, Lee; Don Manter, Northwood.

Zoom: Krysta Gingue, Dover; Jack Wade, NHDES; Steve Pesci, UNH; Barbara Holstein, Rochester; Lindsey Williams, Dover; Mac Bevier, NHDES; Steve Brown, Dover; Bill Watson, NHDOT; Steve Diamond, Barrington; Glen Griswold, Nottingham.

Staff in person: Mark Davie, Mike Polizzotti, Colin Lentz, Jen Czysz.

Staff on Zoom: Lisa Murphy, Megan Taylor-Fetter.

2. Commissioner Roundtable

Steve Diamond shared that the city of Helinski went a year without fatalities through automatic enforced speed enforcement, extensive bike lanes, and a strong public transit investment. There have been multiple fatalities on Route 125 in Barrington, where poorly aligned intersections—ideally at 90 degrees but often less than 60—pose safety risks. Colin will look at accident records and conduct a safety audit.

John Nute shared that the Town of Milton has been working with SRPC on a grant to study septic systems on lakefront properties. The grant initiated a survey to lakefront property owners to assess the state of septic systems. There is a \$5000 grant process to help offset the cost of a new septic system for property owners.

D. Manter shared that Northwood just passed a health ordinance requiring septic systems within 250 feet of shorelines to undergo regular inspections and pumping. The economic health of New Hampshire relies heavily on our water bodies for recreation and tourism.

3. EDD Discussion

Board of Directors and Strategy Committee Composition

M. Polizzotti stated that this discussion is continued from the last Commission meeting and aims to formalize the Strafford Economic Development District (EDD) Board of Directors and integrate it into SRPC's by-laws.

M. Polizzotti continued: we are about to embark on the five-year update to our comprehensive economic development strategy that sets the vision, themes, and goals for



economic development priorities for the region for the next five years. As a part of this, we think that it's a great time to formalize our strategy committee and board of directors.

The Strafford EDD includes communities in Strafford and Carroll Counties. SRPC communities in Rockingham County—such as Newmarket, Nottingham, and Northwood—fall under a different EDD.

This doesn't mean economic development efforts stop at county lines. SRPC continues to support and collaborate with these communities.

Within the draft bylaws, we do need to decide when it comes to who votes and who doesn't vote, should we leave out those three Rockingham County communities from voting, or should they be included when it comes to voting?

The group discussed whether these towns should have voting rights in the EDD. While they're outside the official boundary, they are actively involved and have a stake in regional efforts. The group agreed that all commissioners, including those from Rockingham County, should be allowed to vote under the draft bylaws.

L. Williams emphasized the importance of including voices from businesses tied to the nature-based economy to keep environmental health in the conversation. S. Brown suggested adding representation from faith and Indigenous communities.

4. RPC & MPO Action Items

a. Approve the August 15, 2025 Commission meeting minutes

J. Nute moved to approve the minutes of the Commission meeting held on August 15, 2025. The motion was seconded by K. Kasper and passed following a unanimous roll call vote by the commissioners.

b. Approve the July 18, 2025 Commission/Policy Committee meeting minutes

M. Richardson moved to approve minutes of the Commission/Policy meeting. Following a second by D. Manter, and a unanimous vote in favor by a roll call of the commissioners and policy members, the motion passed.

c. Approve the FY2027 Annual Dues

J. Czysz explained that the Executive Committee reviewed the annual dues and voted to recommend the schedule before the Commissioners today. During COVID (FY 2022–2024), SRPC froze the per capita rate to support municipalities facing uncertainty. Meanwhile, SRPC increased its federal programs that require local matching funds, increasing the amount of dues needed for grant matches from about \$70,000 to nearly \$105,000 annually. This was made worse by the loss of \$11,111 in annual state funding previously used as match. To address the shortfall, the Committee considered several options and selected a rate based on 2024 population estimates, increasing the per capita rate by 2.7% (CPI) plus a 2% catch-up adjustment.



J. Czysz will include a letter explaining the dues structure when the dues notices are sent out.

J. Mullen moved to approve the FY2027 Annual Dues as presented. The motion was seconded by D. Manter and passed following a unanimous roll call vote by the commission.

5. MPO Public Hearing and Action Item Amendment to the 2025-2028 TIP

Chair P. Rassmussen opened the public hearing at 9:55 AM.

C. Lentz stated that SRPC needs to approve an amendment to the current Transportation Improvement Program. It includes the following projects:

- Lee 42876
- Newington-Dover 11238T
- Newmarket 43435
- FTA5310 Programmatic
- Tier 3-4 Pavement resurfacing programmatic
- Rochester 44408
- Somersworth 42627

We are now in the implementation phase where projects have a clear scope, a cost estimate, a funding source, and phases broken out by preliminary engineering, right of way and construction.

P. Rassmussen moved to accept the Amendment to the 2025-2028 TIP. The motion was seconded by J. Boudreau and passed following a unanimous roll call vote by the commission and policy committee.

The public hearing closed at 10:06AM

6. Discussion Draft 10-year plan – impacts and opportunities for advocacy

C. Lentz stated that NHDOT has presented its draft 10-year transportation plan to the Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT). Due to rising construction costs and limited revenue, the plan must be scaled back to stay within budget. Key points include:

- The draft plan exceeds the budget by \$400 million.
- NHDOT is proposing project delays and cuts.
- No new projects, including those submitted by RPCs in November 2024, will be added.
- Transportation Alternatives projects from Spring 2025 have been scored; Farmington and Durham projects are recommended for funding.



The group discussed why New Hampshire ranks last in federal highway aid, with B. Watson explaining it's due to the state's small size, good air quality, and fewer federally eligible roads and bridges. Without increased revenue, it's impossible to keep up with development and inflation.

Ideas to raise funds included increasing tolls or the gas tax. S. Diamond noted that without action, growing traffic will lead to more congestion. Colin encouraged members to attend GACIT hearings and advocate for their priorities.

7. Other Business

J. Czysz shared that the September Commissioner Field Trip is being held at UNH. We will be meeting with the UNH planning club and having conversations on housing in the region. Several commissioners will share highlights on what their community is doing to adjust to housing needs.

8. Citizens Forum

P. Nelson stated that he ran an AI inquiry to look at the communities in the SRPC region and which one's had a septic ordinance. AI wrote a septic ordinance based on the examples it gathered. He stated that this could be a valuable tool. J. Czysz warned that such uses of AI can pull outdated information. When working on regulations, it is critical to have oversight on information currency to avoid legal pitfalls.

9. Adjourn

Following a motion, second, and unanimous roll call vote, the commission and policy committee meeting adjourned at 10:51AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan Taylor-Fetter
Office Coordinator

