

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

Friday, October 17, 2025 9:00 – 10:30 AM

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

**1. Introductions:**

Chair Paul Rasmussen called the meeting to order and asked for introductions.

**Members present:** Steve Stancel, Wakefield; Paul Rasmussen, Durham; Joe Boudreau, Rochester; Mike Bobinsky, Somersworth; Matt Towne, Barrington; Peter Nelson, Newmarket; Mark Richardson, Somersworth; Michael Lehrman, Durham; Rick Healey, Rochester; John Mullen, Middleton; Kate Buzard, Middleton; Tom Falk, Madbury; Katrin Kasper, Lee; Don Manter, Northwood; Sarah Wrightsman, Newmarket;

**Zoom:** Jack Wade, NHDES; Lindsey Williams, Dover; Mac Bevier, NHDES; Steve Brown, Dover; Bill Watson, NHDOT; Steve Diamond, Barrington;

**Staff in person:** Colin Lentz, Jen Czysz.

SRPC Staff on Zoom: Rachel Dewey, Lisa Murphy,

**2. Commissioner Roundtable**

P. Rasmussen shared that PFAS has been found in wells on Durham point Rd in Durham near the Newmarket border. Notices may not be automatically sent to Newmarket residents along Durham Point Rd because of extensive open space between the wells in Durham and the adjacent ones in Newmarket.

J. Czysz reported that SRPC is collaborating with the Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) to assess drinking water supplies and implement protective measures. The project is funded by DES, with the timeline still to be determined.

Commissioners talked about recent planning events that lacked younger people and their important perspective. Folks recommended reaching out to Stay Work Play NH about getting young people to planning events.

Katrin Kasper mentioned that SolSmart is offering free solar feasibility studies for municipalities to assess their land and municipal buildings for potential solar installations. She said it would be helpful for municipalities to develop a list of potential sites. Contact Sarah Yeager (syeager@icma.org).

S. Diamond shared that Barrington's Town Center event was successful and could be a good example for other communities.

J. Czysz shared that the 2024 Annual Report is available in print and on the website. It is a great resource and demonstrates the work of the commission.



### **3. Action Items**

#### **a. Approve the September 19, 2025 Commission meeting minutes**

.....motioned to approve the minutes of September 19 as written seconded by John Mullen. All members voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.

#### **b. Approve Amended SRPC By-Laws**

J. Czysz stated that as discussed and presented at the prior two meetings, SRPC has updated its Bylaws to formalize the Strafford Economic Development District Board of Directors and Strategy Committee. The updated draft was emailed to all commissioners plus our additional MPO Policy Committee and EDD Board of Directors representatives on September 26, 2025 for review. In addition to formalizing our EDD program, additional clarity improvements and reorganization of existing language throughout have been incorporated into the amendments. Feedback gathered from you over the past months has been integral to the development of this proposed language. At this time, if there are no further amendments needed, a formal vote to adopt these updated Bylaws is needed.

S. Wrightsman moved to approve the amended bylaws. The motion was seconded by S. Stancel.

Discussion:

- Article 12: There was a question regarding the adoption of RSA language—does it warrant a more permanent or explicit statement in the bylaws?
- Article 10 (Strategy Committee): Discussion centered on the process of re-voting members and who is responsible for recruiting votes. The committee is essentially being created from the ground up, although many individuals are already actively engaged. There is a need for representatives from a diverse range of businesses. Collaboration is ongoing with counterparts at the Strafford Economic Development Corporation to identify appropriate business representatives. Commissioners may also submit recommendations. The goal is to present a complete slate of members for approval.
- Article 5: A reference to coastal resilience was discussed. While only part of the region falls within the formal coastal zone, the language was drawn from statute. Technically, the organization's role is limited to resilience efforts.

All members voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.

### **4. MPO Discussion and Action**

#### **a. 10-year plan and GACIT Updates**

C. Lentz shared that SRPC will be presenting at the four 10-year plan hearings facilitated by the Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT). The early draft of the plan was \$400million over-programmed. NHDOT has proposed cutting some individual projects to ensure pavement maintenance and bridge repair can continue and the plan is constrained. Without additional revenue generation through legislation, the



individual project cuts will be implemented as proposed. As part of NHDOT's proposal, new candidate projects submitted in March 2025 by RPCs will not be included in the draft 10-year plan.

Three ways additional revenue could be raised for transportation projects and programs:

- State gas tax increase
- State turnpike toll rate increase
- Local option fee for vehicle registrations (local funds only)

SRPC staff can only make direct comments about funding and legislation to GACIT members and legislators at the express instruction of Commissioners.

Commissioners discussed advocacy around additional revenue generation. In addition, the group advised to adapt the presentation to emphasize the safety and project needs in the region.

With a motion and a second, the group voted unanimously to include the following points in the presentation at each of the four GACIT hearings:

- Advocate for additional state revenue generation for the transportation system
- New Hampshire needs immediate additional revenue to make the draft 10-year plan whole and advance the projects that are proposed to be delayed or cut.
- New Hampshire also needs a sustainable and equitable transportation revenue generation approach that keeps pace with the cost of maintaining and improving the transportation system (e.g. indexing rates to inflation).
  - [E.g. – raising the gas tax is great for a short-term band aid, but isn't sustainable as cars continue to become more efficient, EV's become more popular, and we move from fossil fuels to electric/renewables]
- Commissioners specifically advocated for legislatively making public transit providers eligible for funds generated through gas tax and turnpike tolls.

Four hearings are scheduled in the Strafford region – all on October 23rd:

- Durham Town Office – 10:00 am
- Dover City Council Chambers – 1:00 pm
- Rochester City Hall – Auditorium – 4:00 pm
- Farmington BOS Meeting room - 7:30 pm

### **b. On-Call Engineering Solicitation Results**

C. Lentz shared that SRPC will be hiring a firm to provide on-call engineering support for transportation project development. The contract will be for \$100,000 to be assigned via task order through June 30, 2027. Engineering services support development of transportation projects in the Metropolitan transportation Plan. How can that \$100,000 best support local project development?

Discussion focused on on-call engineering efforts on implementation of projects in the regional Safety Action Plan developed under Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A). Projects in the plan need to be prioritized.



It may be possible to compile similar projects (e.g. 4-way stop conversions) into a single SS4A implementation grant to be developed by the engineering firm. The 10-year plan candidate projects submitted in March 2025 will be retained and updated as needed for submission for future 10-year plans.

**5. Other Business**

**There was no other business**

**6. Citizens Forum**

There were no citizens comments.

**7. 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

