

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

Friday, November 21, 2025 9:00 – 10:30 AM

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

Agenda Item

1. Introductions:

At 9:08 Chair Paul Rasmussen called the meeting to order and asked for introductions:

Committee members attending in person: Paul Rasmussen, Durham, Peter Nelson, Newmarket; John Mullen, Middleton; Kate Buzard, Middleton; Joe Boudreau, Rochester; Steve Stencil, Wakefield; Sarah Wrightsman, Newmarket; Marshall Goldberg, Brookfield; Mike Lerhman, Durham; Matt Towne, Barrington; Steve Brown, Dover; Lee Howlett, Milton; Tom Falk, Madbury; Krista Gringue, Dover; Dennis McCann, SEDC

Staff attending in person: Jen Czysz; Colin Lentz, Michael Polizzotti,

Committee member attending on Zoom: Lindsay Williams, Dover; Steve Diamond, Barrington; Barbara Holstein, Rochester; Glen Griswold; Bill Watson, NHDOT; Katherine, Clark, SEDC

and soon to be appointed Kian McDermott, Dover

Staff attending Zoom: Lisa Murphy, Natalie Gemma, Megan Taylor-Fetter

2. Commissioner Roundtable

P. Rasmussen shared that the UNH NOAH project is proceeding, it went through the planning board and is moving forward. It is a new building where they will move the Olsen Center to work with NOAH on oceanic mapping.

M. Richardson reported that the Somersworth planning board held a hearing for a conceptual plan of a 172 unit workforce housing on High Street. It will be a multi-use building with combined residential and commercial. A traffic study is needed to determine if an additional traffic light will be necessary.

S. Diamond shared his former UNH professor, Joshua Meyrowitz was recently honored for his book No Sense of Place. S. Diamond stated that he would love to see more effort in planning towards honoring our sense of place in economic development in NH. For example encourage building with stone, even if it's just veneer over concrete, because it has more of a sense of place here in the Granite State.

S. Wrightsman congratulated Krista Gringue for receiving the Watch Winner award.



3. Discussion Items

a. January Legislative Forum

Colin Lentz shared plans for the January 16 Legislative Forum, which will be held at the Rochester Public Works conference room (209 Chestnut Hill Rd). The goal is to create an interactive discussion between Commissioners and Legislators—sharing community priorities and hearing about insights on the upcoming legislative session.

We will gather input from Commissioners ahead of the meeting, either online or at the December Commissioners meeting. J. Czysz noted that we welcome ideas on format and topics.

This is a great opportunity to connect with your local boards—selectmen, councils, planning boards, and municipal staff—to bring forward feedback, questions, and policy positions that matter to your community.

b. CEDS Workshop

Mike Polizzotti and Natalie Gemma hosted a presentation with the commissioners on the 2025 CEDS update. The group split into two groups, one online and one for the in-person attendees.

The presentation included the CEDS Developments Process:

- November: review 2021-2025 CEDS themes and brainstorm for the 2026-2030 CEDS
- December: Gather Strategy Committee and Solicit Feed back
- January 2026: Finalize CEDS Outline
- Q1 2026: Data Collection, Outreach, Drafting
- February-April 2026: Project Solicitation.
- May 2026: Public Comment
- June 2026: Adoption

There have been a few changes in the requirements which include:

- Summary background of economic conditions in the region
- Regional Analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities (SAWT or SOAR)
- Action Plan/strategic direction focusing on what can be done
- Economic resilience discussions

The commissioners were provided with a brief summary of the 2021-2025 CEDS Themes:

- Economic Growth - Promote the economic success of our region, including overall employment, business growth, and business expansion.
- Business Operations – Understand how changing workplace dynamics like telework, flexible scheduling, supply chains, and industry clusters will impact our region.



- Housing – Assure that our region has available, affordable, and quality housing to attract and retain a qualified workforce and for attracting new businesses.
- Infrastructure – Plan and advocate for physical improvements such as water, sewer, utilities, and broadband that are resilient and responsive to our region’s needs.
- Mobility and Accessibility – Encourage community development that creates a high-quality experience of being in and moving around our communities for people of all ages and abilities, and for all modes of transportation.
- Age Friendliness – Promote community development that is responsive to residents of all ages and abilities to allow the growing population of older residents to remain in our region as they age while also attracting and supporting younger families with school-aged children.
- Workforce and Education – Understand the strengths of our region’s workforce and encourage opportunities for all residents to access the education, training, or re-training that they need to pursue their careers in a dynamic job market. Promote educational environments that are sources of entrepreneurs, start-up businesses, and new intellectual property.
- Community Vibrancy – Consider the strengths of our region and communities that make them attractive to businesses, residents, and visitors, including downtowns and the built environment; natural resources; tourism attractors; and local recreation and entertainment.
- Childcare – Assure that our region has an adequate supply of affordable and quality childcare to support our workforce and prepare our children for the future.

The groups then participated in activities. The first focused on reflection on past themes to get a better sense from their organizations and communities; what they are seeing; what is coming down the road that we must be ready for.

Another activity focused on what is not included in today's CEDS and what should be included.

What are some emerging trends that we will all be facing soon, whether it's economic trends, whether it's environmental, social, technological, et cetera. What big shifts do you see happening in our economy? How does this influence what should be prioritized in our upcoming 5 years set update? And which feel most relevant for the next five years? Which feel least relevant? What stands out or surprises you? Do these themes still resonate moving forward?

Some of the groups Insights included:

- Balance Growth & Environment: Economic development should go hand in hand with environmental protection—preserve wetlands, open spaces, and clean waterways while enabling growth.



- Affordable Housing & Zoning: Make it easier to build affordable housing, ADUs, and support small businesses through zoning reforms.
- Small Business Barriers: Address challenges like healthcare, childcare, and housing that prevent people from starting businesses.
- Energy Diversification: Explore diverse energy sources and payment models.
- Agriculture Support: Invest in infrastructure and reduce costs for farms and livestock.

4. Other Business

There was no other business

5. Citizens Forum

There was no citizens forum

6. Adjourn

Following a motion, a second, and a unanimous vote in favor, the meeting adjourned at 10:35 A.M.

