

## **Strafford Metropolitan Planning Organization**

### **Technical Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Friday May 2, 2025 from 9:00am - 10:30am**

**Location: Conference Rm 1A, SRPC Office (Remote access via Zoom)**

In accordance with RSA 91:A, the Commission requires a minimum of an in-person quorum. To organize this, the Commission staff will confirm the necessary in-person attendance. It is the preference of the Commission that others participate via Zoom, however, guests may attend the meeting at the SRPC Office. All participants, both in-person and virtual, can communicate contemporaneously. View the remote access information below.

**MEETING LINK:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83483049101?pwd=RW9oK2xQRzJDbkdoYTVzVzZGNDNhZz09>

**MEETING ID:** 834 8304 9101

**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	Pre-Meeting Task/Notes
<b>1. Introductions</b>	9:00-9:05	
<b>2. Community Updates</b>	9:05 - 9:15	Round table discussion
<b>3. Action Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>a.</b> Minutes from Feb. 8 and March 7, 2025</li> <li><b>b.</b> Review draft Regional Safety Action Plan and Recommend to Policy Committee</li> <li><b>c.</b> Review Draft 26-27 Unified Planning Work Program and recommend to Policy Committee</li> </ul>	9:15 - 10:00	See memo and materials in packet. Draft SS4A plan on the SRPC website. <a href="#">LINK</a> Draft UPWP on website. <a href="#">LINK</a>
<b>4. Discussion Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>a.</b> 2025 Data Snapshot is here!</li> <li><b>b.</b> 2025 Data Collection Season Preview</li> </ul>	10:00 – 10:30	Data Snapshot on the website. <a href="#">LINK</a>
<b>5. Other Business</b>	5 mins	
<b>6. Adjourn</b>		

Reasonable accommodation for people with disabilities is 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 Meeting Etiquette

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Be present at the scheduled start of the meeting.

Be respectful of and open to 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:** April 25, 2025

**TO:** SRPC Technical Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Colin Lentz, Principal Transportation Planner

**RE:** May 2, 2025 Meeting Discussion Items & Upcoming Meeting Schedule

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### **Draft Regional Safety Action Plan (requires a vote)**

VHB has completed a draft of SRPC's Regional Safety Action Plan. The plan is a comprehensive analysis of transportation crash data and set of safety improvement strategies. It is directly tied to SRPC's highway safety performance targets that were set in January 2025 and achieving the goal of zero fatalities and serious injuries on public roads.

Once the plan is approved it will enable all municipalities to apply for implementation funds through the Safe Streets and Roads for All program. Please review the draft plan on the SRPC website: <https://strafford.org/projects/safe-streets-for-all/>

### **2025 Regional Data Snapshot**

It's here! Check out the 2025 regional data snapshot update on SRPC's website:

<https://strafford.org/docs/regional-data-snapshot-2025/>

Staff will be at the meeting to give an overview of the snapshot update.

### **2025 Data Collection Season**

It's nice outside again, so that means SRPC staff will be starting to collect data on the roads and trails around the region. SRPC has a wide range of tools and techniques for collecting transportation data, and we can often do custom counts for your community. SRPC also has multiple sources of vehicle traffic data to be analyzed for municipal purposes.

### **Draft 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program**

SRPC's transportation program operates through a two-year contract developed with NHDOT, known as the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). It includes all transportation-related work to be completed by SRPC between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2027. Funding in the UPWP is 80% federal, 10% state turnpike toll credits, and 10% local match (municipal dues). UPWP development has been delayed by competing statewide deadlines and must be approved quickly to submit to governor and council and receive federal approval for work to begin on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

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

**Monthly Meetings:** 1<sup>st</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	Tentative Agenda Items
Fri. June 6, 2025 9-10:30 AM	SRPC	TBD



# STRAFFORD



## Metropolitan Planning Organization

### 1. Introductions

Vice Chair Michael Williams called the meeting to order at 9:03 and asked for introductions.

**In person:** John Mullen, Middleton; Matt Towne, Barrington; Gretchen Young, Rochester; Seth Creighton, Rochester

**SRPC staff in person:** Rachel Dewey, Colin Lentz,

**Guest:** Richard Reine

**Zoom:** Michael Williams, COAST; Vanessa Williams, Barrington; Lucy St. John, NHDOT; Matt Bevier, NHDES, Donna Benton, Dover; April Talon, Durham; Bruce Woodruff, Milton; Bart McDonough; Kyle Pimental, SRPC, presenting on the behalf of Farmington; Richard Krauss, Milton; Katrin Kasper, Lee; Mark Davie, SRPC; Leighe Levine,

### 2. Community Updates

M. Towne stated the next commissioner fieldtrip will take place in Barrington with discussion from the Energy Committee and Clean Energy NH. There is a warrant article proposing a minimum lot size. There has been discussion on the future impact of zoning, tax base, property lines.

G. Young stated Rochester has started the ADA transition plan. This is a way to address non accessible issues and is required for federal funding.

### 3. Action Items

#### a. Minutes from January 3, 2025



M. Towne motioned to accept the January 3, 3035 minutes as written, seconded by J. Mullen. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting unanimously in favor. Motion passed.

**b. Assigning weights to criteria for ranking Transportation Alternatives projects.**

M. Davie presented on the Transportation Alternatives Program. Three communities have applied for funding through the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP): Newmarket, Farmington, and Durham. TAP is for improvements to non-motorized transportation facilities. SRPC will play a role in scoring those projects. While New Hampshire DOT ultimately determines the final score that a potential project receives, "regional priority" as determined by the RPCs is considered for 20% of the final score, which is an increase from past scoring criteria. Regional priority can be based on criteria that are determined directly by the RPCs. Earlier this week, TAC and Policy members were sent a questionnaire to provide input on how these criteria can be weighted.

The group briefly discussed the criteria and how the TAC and full Commission suggested weighting them.

Following no discussion or revisions, J. Mullen moved to approve the TAP scoring criteria, seconded by A. Talon. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting unanimously in favor. L. St John abstained

**4. Project Presentations: Candidate Transportation Alternatives projects**

The three municipalities presented on their projects:

**Durham Complete Streets Project**

Durham Engineer April Talon provided an overview of the Durham Madbury Road Complete Streets Project: Complete the Vision.

The phases of the project are:

Phase 2: Main Street to Garrison Ave.

Phase 3: Garrison Ave. to Edgewood Road

Phase 4: Edgewood Road to Route 4

A. Talon outlined the project and discussed the outreach process and the needs of the residents and how those needs are being incorporated into the project. The TAP application asks for \$5,760.00.

### **Newmarket Lamprey River Pedestrian Bridge Replacement**

Newmarket Planner Bart McDonough presented on the Newmarket project. He spoke about the history, current challenges, usage, the application and cost of the project. Newmarket is undergoing comprehensive rezoning of the village center and the rest of town and if successful anticipates increase pedestrian traffic. Newmarket is also overhauling the Town's Master Plan, has adopted policies to enhance local and regional pedestrian connections and has ongoing and planned infrastructure improvements.

### **Farmington Downtown Pedestrian Safety and Accessibility Project**

SRP Assistant Director and Circuit Rider for the Town of Farmington, Kyle Pimental, presented an overview of the project. The town has been actively trying to address the downtown revitalization which was addressed in the most recent master Plan update. There are ongoing sidewalk projects on Elm and Main Street with the assistance of BETA to provide a preliminary engineering report and cost estimates. The downtown area consists of 3 schools, the Municipal Building, COAST Bus stops, Post Office, Library and the Commercial core. These are the areas where sidewalks exist. The goal is to upgrade the existing sidewalks and to expand the sidewalk system. Pedestrian safety is vital to the downtown revitalization. The potential for success includes support from the Selectboard & Highway Department.

## **5. Discussion Items**

### **Preview: Full update to the Transportation Improvement Program coming in March**

C. Lentz stated that SRPC will soon be releasing a draft update to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that will cover years 2025-2028. The TIP comprises all transportation projects in the region that will be using federal and turnpike funding. Approval of the TIP is vital for the continued funding of current and upcoming projects, so careful review by SRPC committee members is important. SRPC anticipates posting a draft of the TIP for a 30-day public comment period on February 20th

## **6. Other Business**

M. Davie provided a brief overview on the Regional Master Plan Update- "Forward Thinking". Forward Thinking is SRPC's updated comprehensive or master plan, which will include the new Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The first half of 2025 is our outreach phase, and members can expect to be sent home with some postcards and flyers with information about the new

survey, along with some hard copies of the survey. We would greatly appreciate having these distributed to your town and city halls, libraries, senior or recreation centers, or anywhere else that makes sense.

## **7. Adjourn**

Following a motion, a second to adjourn, and a unanimous vote in favor, the meeting adjourned at 10:36AM

**Strafford Metropolitan Planning Organization**

**Technical Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Friday March 7, 2025 from 9:00am - 10:30am**

**Location: Conference Rm 1A, SRPC Office (Remote access via Zoom)**

**Agenda Item**

**1. Introductions**

Chair Michelle Mears called the meeting to order and asked for introductions.

**Committee members present:** Michelle Mears, Somersworth; Lyndsay Butler, Newmarket; Wayne Lehman, Lee; Seth Creighton, Rochester

**Staff Present:** Colin Lentz, Rachel Dewey, Jen Czysz

**Committee members joining on Zoom:** Lucy St. John, NHDOT; William Watson, NHDOT; Donna Benton, Dover; Donna Benton, Dover; Leigh Levine, FHA; Mack----NHDES

Chair M. Mears determined that there was not the required number of members present to make a quorum . The meeting proceeded as informational only.

**2. Community Updates**

There were no community updates

**3. Action Items**

- a.** Minutes from February 7, 2025  
Tabled due to lack of a quorum

- b.** Draft 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program and 2025-2050 Metro Plan

C. Lentz stated that this is for a full update to the four-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that will comprise years 2025-2028. The TIP is part of the regional Metropolitan Transportation Plan which will comprise years 2025-2028, so the TIP and Metro Plan need to be updated at the same time. The TIP is out for public comment until the March 21 Policy Committee meeting.

Projects added to the TIP are:

- Dover Pedestrian and accessibility improvements along Chestnut St.
- Madbury-Planning study to identify potential safety improvements to the NH 155/Madbury /Town Hall roads
- COAST-reinvigorate CommuteSMART Seacoast
- Newmarket-address NH 108 bridge over Lamprey River
- CMAQ projects

TIP Projects completed or removed:

Dover-Rochester -construct all electronic tolling at Dover and Rochester toll plazas  
Durham-Bennet Road Bridge (construction moved to 2028 plan)





Metro Plan Changes – improving developing projects in our long range plan-have engineering support projects ready for a funding source. We have a pool of projects ready to go, same for 2024. Projects currently being considered for engineering review.

The draft tip from DOT was missing a couple of projects that were in TYP-these are added as public comment and the funding is included.

- Durham rail project
- Newmarket bridge replacement
- Northwood School Street intersection improvements
- Rochester Charles St intersection improvements.

Highway and safety targets were updated. We are working toward a 75% reduction in fatalities by 2035. As an MPO we can't do much about transit asset targets; the data is fluid. COAST/Public Safety Targets (COAST only) reported to be consistent with COAST. COAST is trying to get funding to update their facility.

Fiscal constraint core concepts: We can't have more projects than there are funds available at a statewide level. Funding after 2028 are estimated. The TIP inflation rate is 3.7% per year. Programmed projects in the TIP have the funds needed to complete them. We only have funding for the projects in our region for the TIP, no more, no less.

Estimate of Available funds for the SRPC region 2025-2028  
COAST Transit Funds. Apportionments come directly to COAST from FTA  
Estimate revenues for operations & Maintenance

The committee discussed funding and why it went down for 2027. It is an estimate based on past amounts. SRPC gets 9.91% of the total overall budget which is based on population and lay miles.

The ultimate goal is to get these projects out of the metro plan and get them funded. The plan moving forward is to have an engineering firm available on call. We will be renewing the contract in July.

### **c. Review scores for Transportation Alternatives projects**

TAC members and Commissioners have been scoring the three projects that are candidates for the Transportation Alternatives Program. SRPC staff are averaging scores and will present the results at the meeting. Scores will be used to determine a project ranking order that needs to be submitted to NHDOT by mid-April.

TAP Project Ranking Results. Three projects have been submitted for consideration.

At last month's meeting TAC signed off on the criteria.

#3-Newmarket pedestrian bridge

#2: Farmington pedestrian sidewalk upgrades.

#1: TAP Project Durham Complete Street Upgrade-40.6 out of 50 points

The committee was in consensus-to recommend to the policy committee to move forward with the three top ranking projects.

### **d. Final ranking of candidate 10-yr plan projects**

C. Lentz NHDOT has been reviewing scopes and cost estimates for the four candidate 10-yr plan projects SRPC submitted in November, 2024. SRPC committees will need to consider any changes identified in NHDOT review. The total estimated cost of all four projects as submitted in November



totaled \$4.2 million; below the regional allocation of \$5.8 million. TAC may need to consider project cost changes arising from NHDOT review. SRPC will need to make a decision on candidate projects for a final submission to NHDOT by March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Four projects were reviewed by the engineers and submitted to NHDOT for review. In November. Total estimated 2036 cost for all projects was \$5,302,00.00 After NHDOT review, cost estimates were increased to \$9,397,650.00. Farmington has opted to remove their project from consideration which brings the regional impact to \$5,856,498.

C. Lentz asked Bill Watson is \$9701 an acceptable margin of error and can SRPC submit the two Madbury projects and include the Middleton project in the TYP inclusion. Bill answered yes, it is a drop in the bucket and there is no problem there. With Farmington removed, the other projects would be 100% federally funded.

The Committee was at a consensus to move forward.

#### **4. Discussion Items**

M. Mears thanked the communities that submitted projects.

J. Czysz stated that the April Commission meeting the graduate students from NYU who have been working with Economic Development on addressing childcare shortages will be presenting at Rochester Childcare Center.

#### **5. Other Business**

a. Promote Regional Master Plan Survey

M. Davie stated that there is a survey out for Forward Thinking. J. Czysz stated SRPC is hosting a workshop session for each of SPRC's program areas on April 11.

#### **6. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30

