

**Strafford Metropolitan Planning Organization  
 Technical Advisory Committee Meeting  
 Friday October 3, 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> a. Minutes from September 5, 2025 b. Recommendation to Commissioners on 10-year plan projects and revenues for public presentation.	9:15 - 10:00	See memo and draft presentation in packet.
<b>4. Discussion Items</b> a. How can SRPC's on-call engineer efforts be most helpful to communities?	10:00 - 10:25	See memo
<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:** September 26, 2025

**TO:** SRPC Technical Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Colin Lentz, Transportation Planner

**RE:** October 3, 2025 Meeting Discussion Items & Upcoming Meeting Schedule

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## **Action Item: Recommendation to Commissioners on 10-year plan projects and revenues for public presentation**

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. The packet includes a description of 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.

Request: that TAC members discuss the various revenue options and make a recommendation to the Policy Committee on specific comments about projects and revenue generation options for the GACIT presentation to be made by Colin Lentz.

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**

Additional details and documents can be found at the NHDOT 10-year plan website:

<https://www.dot.nh.gov/projects-plans-and-programs/ten-year-plan>

## **How can SRPC's on-call engineer efforts be most helpful to communities?**

SRPC will shortly be selecting 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? Staff proposal for discussion: focus on-call engineering on implementation of projects in the regional Safety Action Plan developed under Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A). Projects in the



plan would 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.

**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.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Tentative Agenda Items</b>
Fri. November 7, 2025 9-10:30 AM	SRPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pedestrian Level of Traffic Stress results</li><li>• Parking study results from Newmarket and Somersworth</li></ul>

**Strafford Metropolitan Planning Organization  
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Notes  
Friday September 5, 2025 from 9:00am - 10:30am  
Location: Conference Rm 1A, SRPC Office (Remote access via Zoom)**

**1. Introductions**

At 9:05 A.M. Chair Michelle Mears called the meeting to order and asked for introductions.

**Committee members present:** Bart McDonough, Newmarket; John Mullen, Middleton; Michele Mears, Somersworth; Katrin Kasper, Lee; Mike Williams, COAST; April Talon, Durham; Gretchen Young, Rochester

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

**Committee members joining on Zoom:** Bruce Woodruff, Milton; Steve Pesci, UNH; MAC Beaver, DES; Bill Watson, NHDOT; Richard Krauss, Milton; Donna Benton, Dover;

Staff members attending on Zoom: Jen Czysz

**2. Community Updates**

M. Williams reported that COAST is reducing service starting Oct 4. It's a fairly significant reduction, which is primarily caused by insufficient federal funding, which is due to the increases that are given to the transit formula is not keeping up with inflation, but also impacts of the census, which reduced our share of the national pie.

So, while the national pie has grown larger, our share of it has shrunk.

There are changes to most routes in terms of how late in the evening we will run, as well as two routes being discontinued entirely. In addition, COAST is receiving less from the state but that is not as big of an impact.

**3. Action Items**

**a. Minutes from May 9 and June 6, 2025**

*Following a motion and a second to approve, a roll call vote was taken. All members voted in favor to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously. R. Krause and M. Bevier abstained.*

**b. Officer Nominations**

C. Lentz stated that according to the TAC bylaws, we need to establish committee officers following the turn of the state fiscal year (Chair and Vice Chair). Michelle Mears and Michael Williams have said they are willing to continue in their current roles as Chair and Vice Chair (respectively).



*Following a motion and a second, a roll call vote was taken. All members voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.*

**c. Review and recommend 2025-2028 TIP Amendment 2**

C. Lentz stated that SRPC needs to process 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

C. Lentz stated that the amendment involves coordination with the Department of Transportation (DOT) and three other MPOs. This is the end of the metaphorical assembly line when projects have been developed and have real funding attached to them and are either in preliminary engineering, right of way or construction phases.

The General Sullivan Bridge project is undergoing a funding shift. Rebuilding the bridge on its original structure has been deemed financially infeasible. The Department of Transportation (DOT) is exploring options to make the current temporary bike and pedestrian access permanent, ideally without reducing vehicle lanes on the newly constructed bridge.

In Rochester, the bridge on Route 125 over the Isinglass River is experiencing a delay in right-of-way work, which is being pushed out by a couple of years.

There are also programmatic changes affecting the region. Pavement resurfacing on Tier 3-4 highways will continue, but the funding is allocated to maintenance districts and not tied to specific locations. Adjustments have been made to Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5310 funding, which supports transit services for seniors and individuals with disabilities through programs like Coast and Community Rides.

Several projects are being removed from the current four-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) window, though they are not canceled—just delayed. The proposed Park & Ride at US 4/125 has been dropped due to limited value, as an existing informal lot near Market Basket already serves the purpose effectively. The Route 108 Bridge over the Lamprey River in Newmarket has had its funding moved to the 2031–2033 timeframe, and pedestrian improvements on High and West High Streets in Somersworth are similarly delayed to 2031 and beyond.



The grant program continues to support major infrastructure projects. Recent recipients include Manchester, Concord, and DOT for the General Sullivan Bridge. The public comment period for these amendments will begin on Monday and run through October 18, leading up to the commission meeting. Stakeholders are encouraged to submit any comments or questions during this time.

*M. Williams motioned to recommend 2025-2028 TIP Amendment 2 to the Policy Committee. Following a second, a roll call vote was taken. All members voted in favor. The motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor. M. Bevier and B. Watson abstained.*

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

##### **a. Draft 10-year plan – impacts and opportunities for advocacy**

C. Lentz stated that the headline is the early draft of the 10 year plan is 400 million over programmed for many reasons, including inflation and cost escalations of constructing projects. The NHDOT has presented the draft 10-year plan to the Governor’s Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT). Because of lack of sufficient revenues and continuing increases to construction costs, the plan will need to be reduced to ensure it is fiscally constrained.

In Summary:

- Draft 10-year plan is \$400 million over programmed
- NHDOT has proposed a series of project delays and cuts
- NHDOT has recommended that no new projects be added to the draft plan, including RPC projects submitted in November, 2024
- Transportation Alternatives projects submitted in Spring 2025 have been scored by NHDOT. Projects in Farmington and Durham have been recommended for funding.

Discussion ensued on Senate Bill 367 which included a gas tax increase to pay for paving and bridges.

Bill Watson explained that there was a 4-cent increase in the gas tax for the completion of Interstate 93 (I-93). That allowed the state to issue a bond for the project with a 20-year repayment plan.

For the first 10 years, the state only paid interest and used the \$20 million/year to invest in roads and bridges across the state. Starting this year, the state begins paying both interest and principal for the remaining 10 years. Now, that money must go toward paying off the bond. After 10 more years, the gas tax increase is supposed to end, unless the legislature decides to extend it. We've set expectations from the public, seeing roadway and bridge projects being done, they want them to continue.

The group discussed the need to continue exploring revenue options, such as toll rate increases, while acknowledging the impact of inflation. The reasoning behind delaying or cutting certain projects was emphasized, with a clear priority placed on maintaining existing infrastructure over starting new construction.



Colin encouraged members to attend the GACIT meetings and advocate for the projects in their communities.

**5. Other Business**

**There was no other business**

**6. Adjourn**

*Following a motion, a second, and a unanimous vote in favor, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 A.M.*

**Respectfully submitted,  
Megan Taylor-Fetter**





# DRAFT STATEWIDE TEN-YEAR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2027-2036



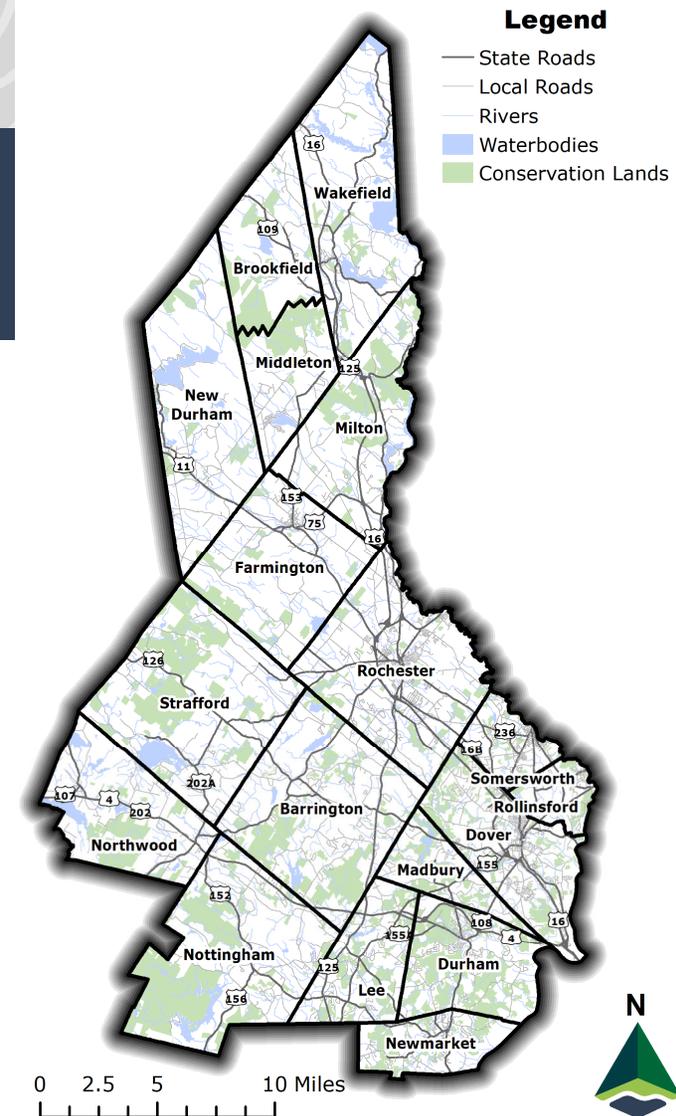
**Colin Lentz**

Principal  
Transportation  
Planner



## Strafford Regional Planning Commission

- **Governed by board of commissioners from 18 municipalities**
- **Forum for regional planning**
- **Focus on transportation**



## **Regional Planning Commission Start the 10-year Plan Process**

- **Solicit projects under RSA 228:99 and RSA 240:3**
- **Member municipalities submit candidate projects**
- **Professional engineers review candidate projects**
- **Representatives from 18 municipalities rank projects**
- **Candidate projects submitted to NHDOT in March 2025**

## Projects requested by SRPC municipalities

**SRPC priority projects submitted in March that have been cut from the draft plan  
\$5,856,498 for the region lost because revenues have not kept pace with needs and costs**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Draft TYP Funding</u>
<b>Madbury</b>	NH9 and French Cross Intersection Safety Improvements	\$1,622,023
<b>Madbury</b>	NH155/Madbury Rd/Town Hall Rd intersection safety improvements	\$3,860,396
<b>Middleton</b>	NH153 & Wakefield Rd intersection safety improvements	\$374,079

## \$25,988,821 in new projects that will benefit the region

### Projects Added

<u>Project #</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Draft TYP Funding</u>
44349	Durham	Upgrade 4-way intersection at NH155/Main St/Mast Rd	\$1,313,270
42523	Durham	US4/Madbury Rd Safety Improvements	\$4,790,807
44344	Durham	Replace Mill Rd bridge over Oyster River	\$3,981,137
44391	Farmington	Replace Spring St Bridge over Cocheco River	\$3,375,375
45132	Milton	Rehab Spaulding Turnpike bridge	\$5,365,873
45130	Rochester	Rehab/preserve Spaulding Turnpike bridges	\$7,162,359

\*\*These projects are all funded through dedicated sources:  
Highway Safety Improvement Program, State Aid Bridge, and Turnpikes

# \$3,165,308 in new TAP projects!

## TAP Projects Added

<u>Project #</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Draft TYP Funding</u>
45261	Durham	Madbury Rd complete streets and multiuse path	\$2,029,520
45258	Farmington	Install 2 flashing pedestrian crossings and 2,100 feet of sidewalk	\$1,135,788

# \$62,904,671 in construction funding that is uncertain due to lack of revenue

## Projects Delayed

(Only Engineering and ROW retained in draft plan)

<u>Project #</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Funding Retained</u>
29604	Dover-Somersworth-Rochester	NH108 Complete Sts improv (U- 3 alt Ext 10 study) from Indian Brk Rd. to Innovation Dr.	\$14,407,465
41595	Northwood-Nottingham	Safety improvements at the intersection of US 4 and NH 152	\$650,128

## \$8,043,855 in potential safety improvements cut because revenues have not kept pace with needs and costs

### Projects Removed

<u>Project #</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Cut TYP Funding</u>
43547	Barrington	Pedestrian safety improvements along NH 9 including sidewalks and ADA crossings at NH 9/NH 125	\$1,303,369
44261	Lee	Intersect realignment & elimination of connector between George Bennet Rd & Lee Hook Rd. ~600lf	\$1,200,148
41596	Madbury	Planning study to identify potential Intersection safety improvements to the NH 155/Madbury Road/Town Hall Rd	\$696,155
42628	Northwood	Intersection Improvements at US4/NH 107/School Street	\$1,095,145
40646	Somersworth	Intersection safety improvements; NH Route 9, Blackwater Road, Indigo Hill Road	\$3,749,038

## Direct ask from TAC and Policy here...

- Core message: There isn't enough funding for all the projects that are needed AND system maintenance. NHDOT is proposing to focus on system maintenance
  - Do we just live with individual project cuts?
  - Public transit is still left without a sustainable state revenue source
- Toll Rates?
- Gas Tax?
- Local Option Fee
- Direct revenue stream for public transit?