

Meeting of the SRPC Commissioners, MPO and EDD

Friday, March 20, 2026 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.

Commissioners present: Paul Rasmussen, Durham; Mark Richardson, Somersworth; Joe Boudreau, Rochester; Mike Lehrman, Durham; Steve Stancel, Wakefield; Matt Towne, Barrington; Don Manter, Northwood; Kate Buzard, Middleton; Kevin Sullivan, Rochester; Michael Williams, COAST; John Nute, Milton; Tom Falk, Madbury; Mike Bobinsky, Somersworth; Sarah Wrightsman, Newmarket;

Staff: Kyle Pimental, Mark Davie, Colin Lentz, Rachel Dewey, Mike Polizzotti, Jen Czys

Commissioners attending on Zoom: Lyndsey Williams, Dover, Steve Brown, Dover; Kean McDermott, Dover; Steve Diamond, Barrington; Krysta Gingue, Dover; Glen Griswold

2. Commissioner Roundtable

S. Diamond discussed switching to an e-bike in response to rising gas prices, highlighting both the benefits and challenges of biking as alternative transportation.

Kevin Sullivan provided updates on school closures, noting the planned closure of Maple Street School and the intention to issue RFPs for redevelopment of William Allen School and another school closed last year. Community input on reuse has been mixed. The courthouse will soon be vacated, with general opposition to converting it into multiple apartments. School closures were attributed to budget constraints, reduced state aid, declining enrollment, poor building conditions, and average class sizes of about 22 students.

Housing proposals across the region continue to receive varied public feedback. J. Czys noted that SRPC's Brownfields Program can assist municipalities with environmental assessments and redevelopment of potentially contaminated properties. K. Pimental shared updates on Farmington's Collins & Aikman Superfund site, which is recommended for cleanup in July, with early discussions underway about future development.

Additional announcements included SRPC's Annual Meeting on June 25 at the Oaks in Somersworth, celebrating 55 years of regional planning, and a request for volunteers to test Microsoft Teams for hybrid meetings.



Municipal updates included Somersworth's progress on multiple housing developments totaling 171 apartments, efforts to engage neighbors, and potential trail connections to Millennium Park. Dover is advancing toward its housing goals with several large proposals and is exploring solutions to milfoil issues in Willand Pond, while also participating in discussions on the outdoor economy with UNH Cooperative Extension. K. McDermott raised questions about the vision for Dover's Transportation Chapter of the Master Plan, and J. Czysz confirmed that SRPC was selected to work on that chapter.

3) Action Items

a. Minutes from February 20, 2026

M. Williams moved to approve the February 20, 2026 Meeting Minutes, second by J. Nute. Following discussion to amend the attendance list to include M. Bobinsky, a roll call vote was taken. All members voted in favor. Motion passed. K. Sullivan and T. Falk abstain.

4) Regional Plan Workshop

a. Regional Plan Structure and Timelines and b. CEDS Themes, Goals, and Action Items

M. Polizzotti outlined the components and phased adoption of the Regional Plan components. The upcoming update will integrate three main elements: the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and Metropolitan Transportation Plan (currently being updated), a new land use and environmental chapter, and a final executive summary "bridge" document that ties all components together into a single, cohesive regional vision for the Strafford region over the next 10 years.

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is scheduled for adoption in June. It is guided by four overarching lenses: regional partnerships and collaboration, resiliency, quality of life and community identity, and age friendliness. Key themes include housing as a driver of economic development, support for businesses and innovation, workforce development and education, and promoting healthy, vibrant communities.

The next phase of the CEDS focuses on developing action items to support these goals. Existing action items from the prior CEDS were reviewed and carried forward where relevant, supplemented by new actions aligned with updated themes and goals for the next five-year period. An introductory section will also include action items that apply across all themes.

c. Group Activity – Themes and Goals

The members present then engaged in group activities. Commissioners provided feedback on and prioritized the proposed draft CEDS action items. Commissioners divided into two groups, where provided feedback on either the drafted MTP (transportation) themes and goals, or the land use and environment preliminary draft themes and goals.

5) Other Business

There was no other business.

6) Citizens Forum

There were no citizens' comments

7) Adjourn

M. Williams moved to adjourn. Second by M. Lehrman. All members voted in favor. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:40AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan Taylor-Fetter