

MEETING OF THE SRPC MPO POLICY COMMITTEE AND EDD BOARD

Friday, April 17, 2026 9:00 – 10:30 AM

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

1) Introductions

At 8:10AM, Chair Paul Rasmussen called the meeting to order and asked for introductions.

Commissioners present: Paul Rasmussen, Durham; Mark Richardson, Somersworth; Joe Boudreau, Rochester; Steve Stancel, Wakefield; Matt Towne, Barrington; Kate Buzard, Middleton; Michael Williams, COAST; Mike Bobinsky, Somersworth; Sarah Wrightsman, Newmarket; Curtis Register, Durham; Krista Gingue, Dover; Lee Howlett, Milton; John Muillen, Middleton; Rick Healy, Rochester; Don Manter, Northwood; Katrin Kasper, Lee

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

Commissioners attending on Zoom: Lyndsey Williams, Dover, Glen Griswold, Steve Pesci, UNH; Steve Brown, Dover; William Rose, NHDOT; Jack Wade, NHDES

NYC Guest presenters: Tianle Fang, Sherry Wei, Meg Egan, Jody Chen, Annisa

Staff attending remotely: Natalie Gemma, Blair Haney, Lisa Murphy

2) Commissioner Roundtable

M. Richardson reported that Velcro is moving their manufacturing from Manchester to Somersworth.

a. Approve TIP Amendment 4

J. Boudreau moved to open the public hearing. C. Register seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting unanimously in favor. The motion passed.

C. Lentz stated that SRPC manages projects in the four-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Significant changes to project costs or scope require additional public transparency and review. Such amendments to the TIP occur approximately quarterly. Transportation Planner Colin Lentz presented on the current amendment, which contains only one project in the region: safety improvements at US4 and Madbury Rd in Durham.

C. Register moved to close the public hearing seconded by R. Healy. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting unanimously in favor. The motion passed.



b. Minutes from March 20, 2026

M. William moved to approve the TIP Amendment and the March 20, 2026 Meeting Minutes, second by K. Kasper. A roll call vote was taken. All members voted unanimously in favor. Motion passed.

3) Discussion Items

a. NYU Child Care Presentation

N. Gemma opened the presentation and stated that SRPC has again partnered with the New York University Wagner School to host a capstone project to continue research on childcare availability and affordability and develop new resources to aid in implementation.

The student team joined virtually to present an overview and highlights from their project, an analysis of supply and demand for childcare in our region.

The presentation focused on the following:

- Develop a model zoning ordinance for home-based childcare in partnership with the NH Office of Planning and Development
- Engage stakeholders to evaluate and compile recommendations on how to broaden the reach of NH CDFA's resources for family childcare providers.
- Develop sustainable business financing plans for childcare providers in collaboration with the Strafford Economic Development Corporation.

N. Gemma explained that state law requires home-based care to be allowed in residential zones, with many Stafford region municipalities still needing zoning updates to comply. She noted available model ordinances and best practices to further reduce barriers. J. Czysz added that SRPC has grant funding to help municipalities with updates and outreach. Participants thanked the student team and partners, emphasized aligning policy with financing and technical support, and discussed the economic impacts of limited care capacity. Staffing shortages were highlighted as a major challenge, with suggestions to examine enrollment and workforce trends—particularly in Child Studies and Development programs—to inform long-term, statewide solutions.

b. Data Snapshot – *Due to timing, this agenda item was addressed ahead of the Childcare Presentation.*

R. Dewey announced that today is the release of the 2026 Annual Regional Data Snapshot. She provided a SRPC conducts region-wide analysis of a number of data metrics each year for different projects and plans. The Regional Data Snapshot is a document that contains many of these analyses in one place. The Data Snapshot covers demographics, economic vitality, livability and quality of life, mobility and accessibility, and resiliency. In approximately 180 pages, the Regional Data Snapshot provides over 160 metrics for the SRPC region. In previous years, new Data Snapshots included additional metrics not found in years prior. This year, changes include refreshing some

charts and metrics from the first edition to adapt to changes in the source data, as well as the removal of select metrics where the source data is no longer maintained.

The group engaged in a brief discussion on data sources for housing availability and costs.

Upcoming Grant Opportunities

J. Czysz stated that The Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership (PREP) have released a Request for Proposals for their 2026-2026 Piscataqua Region Environmental Assessment (PREPA) Grant Program. These grants provide \$5,000 - \$25,000 to support projects in the following key areas:

- Wetland & Shoreland Protections: Safeguarding water bodies and areas along shores, rivers, and vernal pools as well as other wetlands.
- Floodplain Management: Reducing flood risk by strengthening local floodplain and planning for future flood hazards.
- Land Conservation: Protecting important natural areas and open space through planning, conservation tools, and local land use policies.
- Stormwater Management: Managing stormwater runoff through stronger standards, low impact development, and local stormwater planning.
- Septic System Management: Protecting water quality by improving septic system standards, tracking systems, and promoting proper maintenance.
- Climate Resilience: Preparing communities for climate impacts through vulnerability assessments, planning, and actions that reduce future risk.
- Drinking water protections: Supporting plan adoption and local actions to protect drinking water sources.

DES announced Coastal Resilience grants, with only five eligible municipalities in the region: Durham, Dover, Newmarket, Madbury, and Rollinsford. These grants support projects similar in scope to PREPA but with a slightly larger budget. While Coastal Resilience grants do not require a match, providing a match— including in-kind contributions—is strongly recommended to remain competitive. PREPA grants require no match.

J. Czysz stated that we want to ensure that municipalities are aware of these funding opportunities and know that partnership support, including grant writing, is available. If you are looking to partner with SRPC on the project, we are able to do the grant writing for you.

The group discussed the decline of eelgrass along the coast.

The group engaged in conversation on zoning laws and monitoring septic systems near bodies of water and if there is a model septic system ordinance.

4) Other Business

M. Williams shared that COAST just issued a press release proposing a fare increase which is first since 2008. It is in a public comment period.

D. Manter shared that there is a proposed development on a 187-acre property on the border of Candia. It would have a regional impact.

K. Kasper reported that the first week of May is energy week. Many activities and events will be happening.

S. Pesci shared that UNH has been coordinating Coast and will adjust the Wildcat Transit cash fares to match Coast when they do make that change.

R. Healy reported that the planning board can demand the developer upgrade the road leading up to new developments.

L. Williams shared that the Dover City Nature Challenge in coordination with the Nature Conservancy is happening later this month and there will be many events and activities. Don't Trash Dover on April 25th is hosting the Power of an Hour where each ward picks up as much trash as possible as a healthy competition to see who can gather the most trash.

J. Czysz reminded the group that the SRPC Annual meeting will take place on June 25, it will be a dinner this year at the OAKS celebrating 55 years of regional planning.

4) Citizens Forum

There were no citizens' comments

5) Adjourn

M. Bobinsky moved to adjourn. With a Second by D. Manter. All members voted in favor. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:30AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan Taylor-Fetter