

Meeting of the Strafford RPC Commissioners & MPO Policy Committee

Friday, August 21, 2026 9:00 – 10:30 AM

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

In accordance with RSA 91:A, the Commission requires an in-person quorum. So long as an in-person quorum, Commissioners may participate virtually. Guests may attend the meeting virtually or at the SRPC Office. All participants, both in-person and virtual, can communicate contemporaneously.

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Join: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/26158346669748?p=4xytesfYGfhcig30qO>

Meeting ID: 261 583 466 697 48

Passcode: fH7Va7Ph

These instructions have also been provided at www.traffordrpcnh.gov. If anybody is unable to access the meeting, please email mtaylorfetter@traffordrpcnh.gov or call 603-994-3500 (x115).

Agenda Item	Time	Pre-Meeting Notes
1) Introductions	9:00-9:05	
2) Commissioner Roundtable	9:05-9:15	Updates from your community
3) Approve the July 17, 2026 Minutes	9:15-9:20	Enclosed
4) Metropolitan Transportation Plan Final Draft Presentation Colin Lentz, Principal Transportation Planner	9:20-10:00	Refer to enclosed memo
5) Discussion Items a) Regional Impact Committee Matt Towne, Barrington Commissioner b) Joint Loss Management Committee Megan Taylor-Fetter, Office Coordinator	10:00-10:20	Refer to enclosed memo
6) Other Business	10:20-10:25	
7) Citizens Forum	10:25-10:30	
8) Adjourn	10:30	

Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are 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@traffordrpcnh.gov.

STRAFFORD REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

150 Wakefield Street, Suite 12, Rochester, New Hampshire 03867

Barrington | Brookfield | Dover | Durham | Farmington | Lee | Madbury | Middleton | Milton | New Durham
Newmarket | Northwood | Nottingham | Rochester | Rollinsford | Somersworth | Strafford | Wakefield



RULES OF PROCEDURE

*Strafford Regional Planning Commission
Strafford Metropolitan Planning Organization, and
Strafford Economic Development District*

Meeting Etiquette

Be present at the scheduled start of the meeting.

Be respectful of 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: August 14, 2026

TO: SRPC Commissioners

FROM: Colin Lentz, Principal Transportation Planner
Jen Czysz, Executive Director
Megan Taylor-Fetter, Office Coordinator

RE: August 21, 2026 Agenda Items & Upcoming Meeting Schedule

2026-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

A draft update to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (Metro Plan) has been released for public comment. Staff will present highlights from the draft plan after which we hope to have a robust conversation on the draft and hear your input and comments.

The draft plan can be viewed on the SRPC website here:

https://docs.straftordrpcnh.gov/documents/plans/mpo/mtp_2026.pdf

As part of the update, SRPC is rolling out an interactive transportation project database and viewer: <https://straftordrpc.eointeractive.com/home/>

The public comment period for the draft Metro Plan began on August 14, 2026 and will conclude on September 14. An adoption hearing is scheduled for the September 18 Commission meeting.

Regional Impact Committee Discussion

Matt Towne would like to discuss the 488-acre SELT conservation easement in Barrington and highlight the positive environmental impact it has had for the community and surrounding region.

Refer to the [SRPC Bylaws](#) for current policies and procedures for the review of developments of regional impact and the Regional Impact Committee.

Joint Loss Management Committee Discussion

The SRPC Joint Loss Management Committee (JLMC), required under NH RSA 281-A:64 III for employers with 15+ employees, promotes workplace safety through equal employer and employee representation. The committee meets quarterly, reviews accident data, conducts safety inspections, supports training, develops safety programs and procedures, maintains meeting records, and annually reviews the Wellness and Safety Policy. The current members consist of four staff and one commissioner. We would welcome any commissioners that would like to join.



Draft Schedule of Upcoming Meetings

(subject to change)

Monthly Meetings: 3rd 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	Program	Tentative Agenda Items
Fri. Sept 18, 2026 9-10:30 AM	SRPC	MPO/RPC	• Metro Plan hearing and adoption • Transportation Improvement Program Amendment • Presentation of the Sunrise Lake Watershed Management Plan Implementation Project
Thu. Sept 24, 2026, 3:30-6 PM	Adams Point, Durham	SRPC	• Gundalow Great Bay Boat Tour
Fri. October 16, 2026 9-10:30 AM	SRPC	RPC/EDD	• Presentation of the Somersworth HOP project and SRPC Housing Efforts

MEETING OF THE SRPC EDD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Friday, July 17, 2026 9:00 – 10:30 AM

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

1. Introductions

At 9:00 AM, Chair Paul Rasmussen called the meeting to order and asked for introductions.

Commissioners present: Paul Rasmussen, Durham; Michael Lehrman, Durham; Mark Richardson, Somersworth; Matt Towne, Barrington; Joe Boudreau, Rochester; Kate Buzard, Middleton; Mike Bobinsky, Somersworth; Rick Healy, Rochester; Steve Brown, Dover; Lindsey Williams, Dover; Katrin Kasper, Lee; Steve Stancel, Wakefield; John Nute, Milton; Curtis Register, Durham; Don Manter, Northwood; Sarah Wrightsman, Newmarket; John Mullen, Middleton; Tom Falk, Madbury

Guests present: Stephen Roy, NHDES

Staff: Colin Lentz, Mark Davie, Jen Czysz

Commissioners attending on Teams: Kean McDermott, Dover; John Roth, Brookfield; Katherine Clarcq, SEDC

Guests attending on Teams: Eric Johnson, ISO-NE; Rubin Flores Marzan, ISO-NE; Brendan Flaherty, ISO-NE; Matt Monahan, CNHRPC; Johnna McKenna, NHDES; Mike Miller; Phil Auger, Strafford Planning Board

Staff attending remotely: Lisa Murphy, Lisa Wise, Megan Taylor-Fetter

2. Commissioner Roundtable

Chair P. Rasmussen asked that the commissioner roundtable be tabled to the end of the meeting if time permits.

3. Approval of Minutes of June 19, 2026

John Nute motioned to approve the minutes of June 19, 2026. Steve Stancel seconded the motion. The motion passed with all votes in favor. D. Manter, R. Healy, C. Register abstained.

4. Data Centers Presentation and Discussion

Guest presenters from NH DES and ISO New England (ISO-NE) discussed current policies, regulations, and water and energy considerations, followed by a question-and-answer session. Eric Johnson, Executive Director of External Affairs at ISO-NE, presented on



"Planning for Large Loads in New England." He explained that ISO-NE's role is to operate the power grid, manage wholesale electricity markets, and plan for future electricity needs. ISO-NE does not provide retail electricity service, own transmission infrastructure, make siting decisions, or determine the types of energy resources developed in the region.

Johnson noted that ISO-NE is closely watching the potential growth of large electricity users, known as "step loads," such as data centers. Although these large loads are not currently a major driver of electricity demand in New England, ISO-NE is preparing for possible future growth by working with transmission owners, engaging with state policymakers and regulators, and researching ways to better understand the size, timing, and potential impacts of these developments. He also noted that factors such as policy decisions, infrastructure availability, and permitting processes will play an important role in determining how and where large-load projects are developed.

Discussion focused on New England's electricity supply and future demand growth. ISO New England noted that the region imports about 5% to 10% of its electricity from Quebec, and a new transmission line has increased import capacity. However, most new generation added in recent decades has been natural gas-fired.

In response to questions about future demand, E. Johnson said that electrification, particularly the growth of electric vehicles and heat pumps, is expected to be the largest driver of electricity demand, with demand projected to increase about 10% over the next decade and potentially double by 2050. While EV adoption has been slower than initially projected, significant long-term growth is still expected.

When asked whether data centers could increase water consumption and affect regional power needs, ISO-NE explained that it evaluates the electricity demand and grid impacts of large loads but does not assess water use or cooling requirements. Those issues are addressed through state permitting and regulatory agencies, including NHDES, the New Hampshire Department of Energy, and the Public Utilities Commission.

Stephen Roy of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) described the permitting and environmental review processes that would apply to proposed data centers. He explained that large developments must comply with alteration of terrain permits, which require stormwater management and groundwater infiltration measures to offset impacts from impervious surfaces. Projects may also be subject to wetlands and shoreland protection requirements, which aim to minimize impacts on wetlands, water bodies, habitat, and water quality. In some cases, developers can provide compensatory mitigation through state programs. Roy noted that environmental permitting for data centers is highly site-specific, with groundwater, wetlands, stormwater, and shoreline impacts all key considerations during project review.

The discussion focused on groundwater management, data center impacts, and potential policy responses. It was noted that while groundwater resources are mapped statewide,

water availability is highly site-specific, requiring large water users to conduct hydrogeologic studies and testing as part of the permitting process. Permits include protections such as drought-related withdrawal limits.

5. Citizens Forum

There were no citizens comments.

6. Other Business

There was no other business.

7. Adjournment

Following a motion and a second to adjourn, all members voted in favor, the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:30am.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan Taylor-Fetter