

# 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 top 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