

STRAFFORD

Regional Planning Commission

WHAT IS SRPC?

Strafford Regional Planning Commission

Operating as a political subdivision of the state, regional planning commissions serve in an advisory role to local governments and organizations in accordance with RSA 36:45-58. Mandated functions include the creation and maintenance of a regional master plan, regional housing needs assessment, and reviews of projects of regional impact, in addition to the provision of technical assistance to municipalities in each respective planning region. SRPC serves 18 municipalities in the Strafford region and is governed by Commissioners who are appointed by their respective municipal governments. Municipalities pay dues to support the operation of SRPC, and in turn are entitled to the technical expertise and planning support of the SRPC staff. SRPC is supported by funding from the New Hampshire Department Environmental Services, the New Hampshire Office of Planning and Development, and other federal, state and private grant funding sources.

Stafford Metropolitan Planning Organization

A Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is a federally designated organization that functions as a transportation policy decision-making body in urbanized areas of 50,000+ population. One of four MPOs in the state, Strafford MPO supports regional transportation planning in a number of ways. Strafford MPO maintains the metropolitan transportation plan (MTP), a long-range policy document describing improvements to all modes of the regional transportation system; develops and maintains the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), a document that tracks ongoing projects and federal funding in the region; ensures compliance with air quality requirements; and ensures local planning priorities are represented at the state level. The MPO is a working partner with the NH Department of Transportation in developing the state Ten Year Plan, and it strives to engage the public in transportation planning in a transparent, open process.

Strafford Economic Development District

In 2015, the Strafford Region was designated as an Economic Development District by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (US EDA). An Economic Development District (EDD) is charged with the maintenance and implementation of a regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Strafford EDD's CEDS outlines a regional strategy for economic development and prosperity. Strafford EDD is tasked with completing annual updates to the CEDS, with completing a comprehensive update every five years, and with providing communities with technical assistance to promote economic development in the region and access to resources to grow and sustain a strong economy.

For more information, please visit our website at where you can find a copy of our annual reports highlighting current and recently completed projects (<http://strafford.org/about/who-we-are/>).

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Core Plans

Housing Needs Assessment

SRPC has a responsibility to compile a Housing Needs Assessment for the region per RSA 36:47. The document helps to analyze and identify housing needs of residents in our region and offers qualitative and quantitative data that can be used for promoting better housing policies by re-evaluating the supply and demand, the cost, age-friendliness, and affordability of housing in our region.

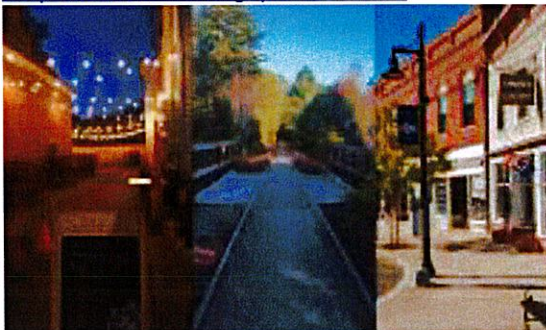
<https://www.straftford.org/projects/rhna>



Annual CEDS Update

SRPC maintains a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for our region that provides an overview of our region's economic conditions and opportunities. The CEDS includes a Priority Project List that consists of implementation projects by SRPC, our municipalities, and strategic public and non-profit-sector partners.

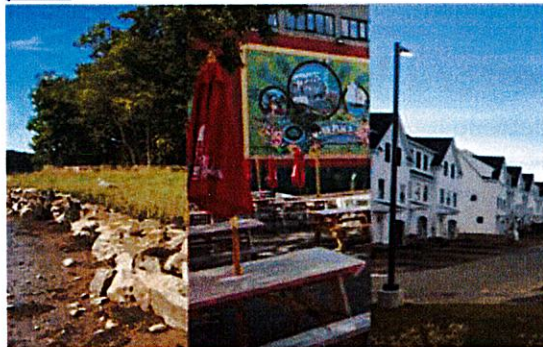
<http://straftford.org/plans/ceds/>



Local Solutions

A Regional Master Plan is a comprehensive guiding document that municipalities within the SRPC region may adopt to aid their own development and advancements based on their current and future needs. It serves as a blueprint for the region's future vision and assists communities with setting longer-term goals that will improve the lives of their citizens.

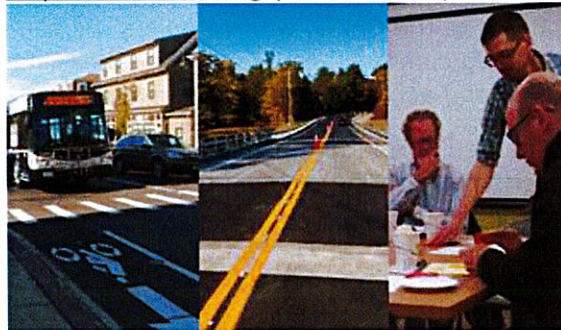
<https://straftford.org/plans/regional-master-plan/>



Long Range Transportation Plan

The Metro Plan sets long-term goals for transportation improvement in the region, establishes targets for performance of the transportation system, and prioritizes transportation improvement projects to be completed within the plan's timeframe. Projects seeking federal funding must be included in an approved Metro Plan.

<https://straftford.org/plans/metro-plan/>



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Regional Housing Needs Assessment

Approved by the SRPC Commissioners at their March 17, 2023 Commission Meeting, the current Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) was prepared in coordination with the eight other NH regional planning commissions with a grant of ARPA funds administered by the NH Office of Planning and Development.

Prior to the pandemic, the Strafford Region was struggling to fully recover the rate of housing seen before the Great Recession. Demand for all types of housing has surfaced, from rural hideaways to walkable, vehicle-free arrangements in the area's downtowns. This is expected to continue, with notably decreased listing times for homes for sale, increased demand for rental units, and record-high prices in both cases.

Key findings of the 2023 RHNA include:

- The 2020 population is expected to reach 175,000 by 2040.
- The Strafford region is one of the youngest in the state, but the population is aging.
- Household sizes are shrinking: 25% have children compared to 31% a decade ago.
- 2011-2020 housing production was half that of the prior decade.
- Median home prices have doubled from \$180,000 to \$367,500 over the last decade.
- The median rent has increased 67% over that same time from \$980 to \$1,630.
- Homes are selling in record fast time and there is a rental vacancy rate of only 1%.
- Most area professions cannot afford to purchase or rent on a single income.
- The region needs an additional 9,520 new housing units by 2040 to stabilize the market and provide for projected population and employment growth.
- 49% of all land in the SRPC region is developable and zoned residential, however on 1.7% of land also has access to water and sewer infrastructure.

Documents



<https://strafford.org/plans/regional-housing-needs-assessment/>

Staff



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Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

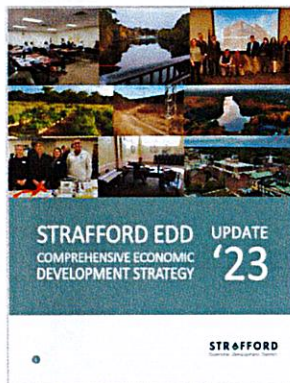
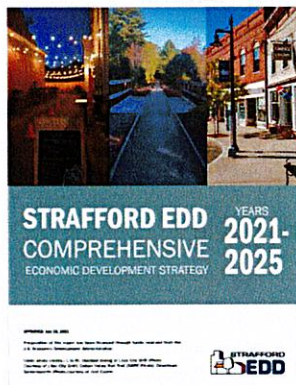
Strafford RPC's commissioners, acting as the EDD Board of Directors, are charged with reviewing and adopting the Comprehensive Economic Strategy (CEDS) that is prepared by staff with input from the SRPC Strategy Committee. The current five-year CEDS was adopted in 2021 and each year, we publish a CEDS progress report which includes current data, demographics, and reviews the status of achieving the strategies included in the plan. We are guided by the following CEDS themes: Economic Growth, Business Operations, Housing, Infrastructure, Mobility and Accessibility, Age-Friendliness, Workforce and Education, Community Vibrancy, and Childcare.

At the September 2023 meeting of the SRPC Commissioners/EDD Board of Directors, they prioritized several strategies in the CEDS to focus our work in 2024, including:

- Cultivate strong relationships with a variety of organizations to promote regional approaches to economic development and to advocate on behalf of our region.
- Support and advocate zoning reforms to ensure communities have access to more housing at affordable prices.
- Increase connectivity between communities with multi-modal infrastructure that includes public transit and safe routes for bicycles and pedestrians.
- Secure grant funds to assist small businesses in the region with workforce recruitment and development.
- Leverage successes from 2023 to expand knowledge, help our municipalities/businesses/childcare centers make connections, change policies, update zoning and access funding and resources.

We look forward to working with municipal officials, staff and committees to implement these strategies to ensure that our region remains nimble and can adjust to the economic, natural and social disruptions that can occur. Together, we are stronger!

Documents



Staff



Angela Cleveland



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<https://straftford.org/plans/ceds/>

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Online Data Resources

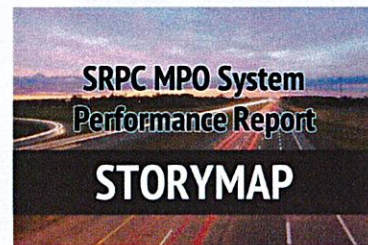
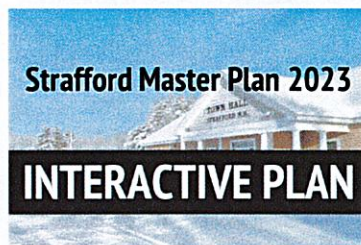
Interactive Mapping and Dashboards

Standard Maps

- Community Features
- Conservation and Recreation
- Land Use
- Transportation
- Groundwater Resources
- Surface Water Resources
- Watersheds
- Zoning

Project Maps

- Tax Parcel Viewer
- Strafford Master Plan 2023
- Regional Data Snapshot
- MPO System Performance Report
- Dover Street Tree Inventory Dashboard
- Arts and Culture Inventory
- Coastal Sea Level Rise Impacts
- Traffic Counts 2023



Building Permits Dashboard

SRPC's interactive dashboard includes annually updated maps and data depicting 2008 to 2020 permits. Users can click on the individual or multiple bars in the graphs, which will filter the data and adjust subsequent charts and the adjacent map to show more specific and detailed municipal information.



Promoting Outdoor Play (POP!)

POP! is a dynamic, forward-facing online resource that connects families with young children to the many recreation resources available in the region. The online platform includes photos, amenities, site details, and other information for over 300 recreational sites!



Visit SRPC's ArcOnline Site Gallery: <https://srpc.maps.arcgis.com>

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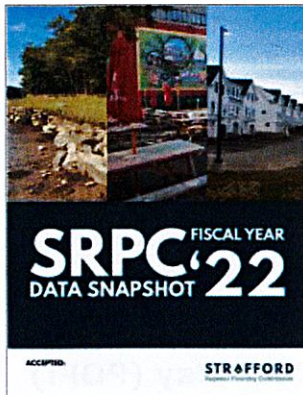
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Data Snapshot

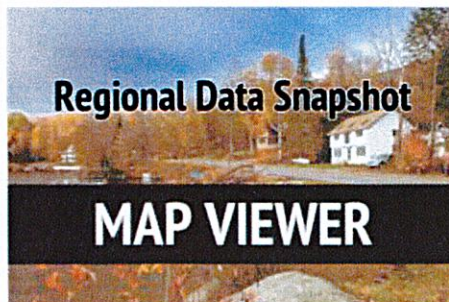
SRPC conducts region-wide analysis of a number of data metrics each year for different projects and plans. The Regional Data Snapshot was a new document in 2021, and updated in April of each year, that contains many of these analyses in one place. The Data Snapshot covers demographics, economic vitality, livability and quality of life, mobility and accessibility, and resiliency. The Data Snapshot will be updated every year and additional metrics will be included as they are developed. In addition to the data metrics that are tracked annually, SRPC is also tracking several COVID-19 specific metrics to track the region's recovery from the pandemic in the Regional COVID-19 Data Snapshot.

<http://straftford.org/measure/data-snapshot/>

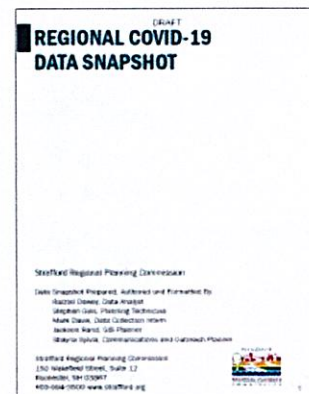
Documents



Data Snapshot 2021-2023 editions



Regional Data Snapshot Interactive Map Viewer



Regional COVID Data Snapshot – May 2021

Staff



Rachel Dewey



Stephen Geis



Mark Davie



Jackson Rand

Future Editions

Future editions of the Data Snapshot will include the following changes:

- Build out online interactive data viewing options.
- An appendix including data tables will be available starting with the 2024 Data Snapshot.



Municipal Dues Overview

New Hampshire's nine (9) Regional Planning Commissions (RPC) are advisory organizations formed by their member communities. State law established Regional Planning Commissions in 1969 with most being created in the 1970's for the purpose of providing technical planning assistance to communities. in the form of:

- Preparing master plans and a variety of local planning studies;
- Fostering regional cooperation among communities; and
- Developing comprehensive regional plans.

While communities may choose to be a member, and participation is voluntary, more than 90% of municipalities are members of RPC.

SRPC has a long and positive history of working closely with municipalities, state agencies and partners on a wide selection of projects. This includes updates to master plans, economic development strategies, stormwater management, transportation, regional impact studies, landscaping, water-efficiency, and groundwater protection regulations.

SRPC's mission is to plan and act in a manner that achieves sustainable development and thereby improves the quality of life for those living in the region. Our organization strives to support communities in their efforts to:

- Update and refine local planning documents and regulations;
- Comply with evolving state and federal regulations;
- Prioritize and fund projects and improvements;
- Identify opportunities for collaboration with neighboring communities;
- Create vibrant and sustainable communities;
- Balance development and natural resource protection; and
- Continue to foster a high quality of life in the region.

SRPC offers professional planning services to communities with expertise in:

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Land use | • Economic development |
| • Housing | • Transportation |
| • Hazard mitigation | • Natural resource protection |
| • Climate adaptation | • Mapping and GIS services |

To perform these services, SRPC is reliant on membership dues. While dues funds comprise only a small share of the overall budget, they are essential to leverage state, federal and private non-profit foundation funds. Most notably amongst these are SRPC's transportation economic development planning programs that would not be possible without local matching funds. The balance of dues funds is reserved to provide on-demand services to municipalities and to help reduce the cost of larger

scale municipal projects. A small portion of dues are set aside as operating reserves when possible.

A sample of such services currently available include, but are not limited to:

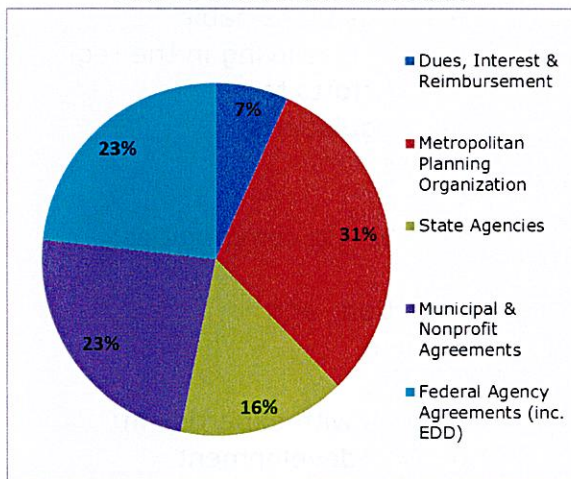
- Equipment lending for archive record digitization;
- Planning level transportation engineering services to develop new projects;
- Supplemental traffic counts and intersection analysis;
- Transportation and economic development grant writing for local projects;
- Monitoring and advising on current funding opportunities; and
- GIS and data analysis.

These services are available to non-dues paying communities at a premium rate. Visit <http://strafford.org/about/who-we-are/> to learn more.

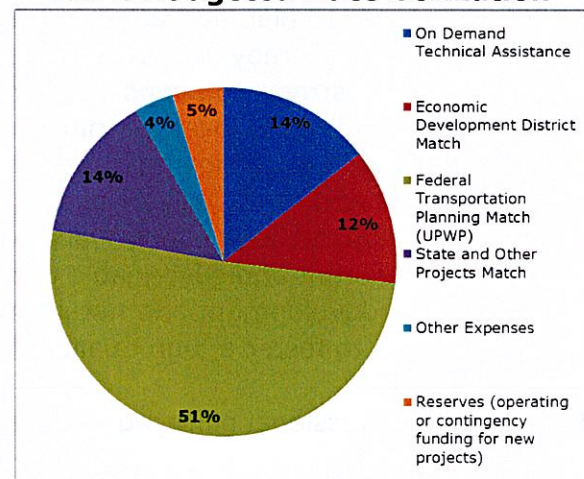
FY2024 Budget and Dues

Total dues are assessed at \$139,764. Brookfield is not currently a dues-paying member, reducing the total dues funding for the year to \$138,822. Municipal dues comprise 7% of SRPC's total revenue and are primarily used to leverage other funding sources.

SRPC Revenue Sources



SRPC Budgeted Dues Utilization



77% of the total municipal dues are used to match other funding sources. These dues expenditures leverage \$942,181 in external funding as follows:

Program	Leveraged Funds	Dues Match
Economic Development District (EDD)	\$70,000	\$17,500
Federal Transportation Planning (UPWP)	\$634,958	\$70,551
Other Grants	\$37,223	\$5,390
Safe Streets for All Grant (pending)*	\$200,000	\$13,750
TOTAL	\$942,181	\$107,191

*Grant funds to support planning for all 4 NH MPOs with match equally contributed by each.