



Strafford Regional Planning Commission

2 Ridge Street, Suite 4
Dover, New Hampshire 03820-2505

Tel: (603) 742-2523 Fax: (603) 742-7986
e-mail: srpc@strafford.org

"Planning and action for sustainable development and an improved quality of life".

PRESS RELEASE

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For information contact:
Gerald Mylroie, AICP, Senior Land Use Planner
Cynthia Copeland, AICP, Executive Director
603 / 742-2523

REGIONAL MASTER PLAN OPEN SPACE CONSERVATION AND TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT POLICIES PROPOSED

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED - SEPTEMBER 28, 2004, 7PM

PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING SCHEDULED – AUGUST 24, 2004, 7PM

**Land Use: Open Space Conservation/Cluster Development
Policies and a Model Ordinance**

Transportation: Access Management Policies

Strafford Regional Planning Commission (SRPC) will hold a Public Hearing on proposed Land Use Open Space Conservation/Cluster Development Policies and a Model Ordinance and Transportation Access Management Policies. The Public Hearing will take place on Tuesday, September 28, 2004, at 7 PM in the Belknap Room of the Frisbie Community Education and Conference Center, which is located at the Frisbie Hospital Campus off Route 108 (11 Whitehall Road) in Rochester, New Hampshire 03867.

The Land Use Open Space Conservation / Cluster Development and Transportation policies are included in two Regional Master Plan sections. Both include policy goals, principles, and standards

(that is, statements about what citizens want to achieve or commitments to take action) and implementation strategies (that is, how to achieve it). The policies and implementation strategies are for the region and for individual municipalities to consider and adopt.

Land Use Policies

The Land Use policies and model ordinance call for local municipalities to require open space conservation /cluster development subdivisions. This action would protect the environment and enable planned growth and development. An open space conservation / cluster development subdivision is a way to subdivide land while conserving at least 50% of buildable land, in addition to other wetland and steep sloped land. This open space conservation is accomplished by permitting the same amount of residential development in a clustered pattern. In addition, it promotes livable, walkable neighborhoods and communities. Studies have found this type of subdivision design to be superior for protecting the environment as well as reducing housing and related infrastructure costs. Developers have found a strong demand for this type of development that conserves open space lands. The City of Dover already has made this type of subdivision development mandatory.

Transportation - Access Management Policies

The Transportation Access Management policies call for adopting and using a variety of strategies to limit and improve access to and from state highways and major roadways for land development. These strategies maintain traffic flow, reduce traffic congestion, and increase safety, capacity, and mobility. This helps to protect millions of dollars already invested by

taxpayers in our state highway and major roadway system, and it reduces future costs and taxes.

The policies and use of the access management strategies is particularly applicable to regional transportation corridors such as Routes 4, 125, 11, 108, 202, and 16.

A well-managed access management program can reduce the need for highway capacity expansion and potential accidents. The Federal Highway Administration and states with active access management programs have found that access management strategies:

- Provide substantial reduction in accident costs (AASHTO indicates that 50% to 70% of all accidents are access related).
- Reduce traffic congestion by maintaining the efficient movement of people and goods.
- Preserve the millions of dollars of public investment in transportation infrastructure.
- Reduce the need to build more roadways.
- Protect the value of private investment.
- Improve the economic benefits to businesses and communities.
- Enhance the environment by reducing air pollution from vehicle exhausts.

Access management benefits the economic vitality of a business corridor by maintaining safe and efficient traffic flow and by allowing a business to be exposed to more potential customers. Other beneficiaries of a well-managed access management program are pedestrians, bicyclists, and users of public transportation. Many access management strategies such as raised medians and curb extensions are designed to calm traffic and improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists.

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The Regional Master Plan Land Use and Transportation Policies are posted on the SRPC website at www.trafford.org and are available at the SRPC office, via mail, or by calling and requesting a copy.

Persons wishing to comment on the proposals should think of the Regional Master Plan as a municipal codebook that includes policies (i.e., commitments to take action) and implementation strategies (i.e., how it will be accomplished) that will be periodically updated and used to guide decision making and budgeting.

Comments are requested in writing and should be received by SRPC no later than noon, Friday, September 24, 2004.

To provide the public with background information on the proposals, a Public Information Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 24, 2004 at 7 PM. The meeting will be held at the Frisbee Community Education & Conference Center. (See above for address.) Refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to Penny Finnegan at 603/742-2523 or by e-mail at srpc@trafford.org

Strafford Regional Planning Commission (SRPC)

Strafford Regional Planning Commission's (SRPC) mission is to plan and take action to achieve sustainable development and improve the quality of life in the region. To do this SRPC serves as an advisor to local governments and organizations on planning, development and conservation issues.

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SRPC has been active in regional planning for over 30 years as one of the nine Regional Planning Commissions established by the New Hampshire legislature through RSA 36:46. SRPC is composed of eighteen communities including all thirteen municipalities in Strafford County, three communities in Rockingham County and two communities in Carroll County.

SRPC works to improve the region by coordinating local planning, balancing economic progress with environmental protection and community well-being, promoting orderly growth and efficient land use and transportation systems, and addressing issues of regional concern. SRPC's professional planning staff assists in land use, transportation, environmental and economic development planning; support services; project management; and geographic information system mapping and analysis.

Municipalities, persons or organizations may contact SRPC by calling 603/742-2523 or by e-mail at srpc@strafford.org

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