

What do my town's planner and planning board do?

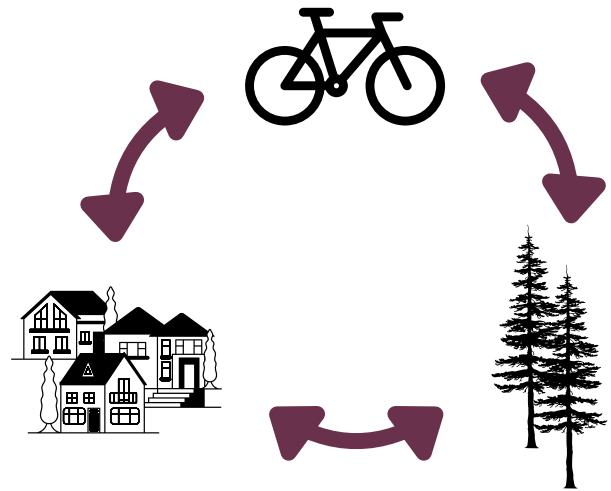
Your city or town has its own powers to do things like zone land, make site-specific decisions through the planning board, and make a master plan that acknowledges your community's unique history and layout.

The planner or planning board can then look at decisions through the lens of resources, utilities, neighborhoods, taxes, and more.

What do regional planning commissions do?

Natural and economic features, like lakes, mountains, and where people commute to and from, don't often match up with our city and town boundaries. But someone still needs to note how these things impact multiple communities.

This is where regional planning commissions come in. Regional planning commissions can share best practices and current events in multiple places and advocate for funding while our municipalities retain their local authority.



What's the big deal?

Your planning board adopts a master plan for your community. The Regional Planning Commission also issues a master plan. This new 2026 comprehensive plan for the Strafford Region will...

- Identify conservation priority areas across multiple communities and potential recreation links.
- Advocate for filling transportation gaps and greener commuting.
- Enhance the small business environment by addressing regional influences like workforce and tourism.

But first, we need to know...

...What's happening in our communities?

1. How would you describe your community's identity?

2. What do you view as your community's 'role' in our region?

3. What are your community's priorities for...

- housing
- land use
- transportation
- economic development?

4. Do these priorities align with those of your neighboring cities and towns?

5. What progress has your community made toward any of these goals? What is enabling or hindering progress?

6. What are you most excited for in your community's near and long-term future?

