

SWRPC

Commission Highlights

April 2017

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2019-2028 Ten Year Plan Project Recommendations

During its April 11th meeting, the SWRPC Board of Directors accepted the Transportation Advisory Committee's (TAC) recommendations to the NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT) for the FY 2019-2028 Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan (TYP). The TAC ranked seven newly nominated transportation projects in Antrim, Chesterfield, Keene, Marlow, Sullivan and Walpole. The top-ranked project involves reconstructing NH Route 101, approximately a mile west of Branch Road to the Marlborough town line. The purpose of the project is to improve safety on this section of the NH Route 101 highway, which would address concerns at the intersection with Swanzey Factory Road, as well as address the lack of shoulders along the highway. In addition to project rankings, SWRPC also submitted comments about transportation funding, NHDOT's resurfacing policy and the TYP update process. For more information, please contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff.

NH Drinking Water Source Protection Conference

The NH Drinking Water Source Protection Conference is scheduled for Thursday, May 18, 2017 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord. Four tracts will be offered including: Surface and Groundwater, Land Conservation, Source Protection Practices, and Emerging Contaminants. To register, please visit (<https://agwt.org/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=239>).

Drought Awareness Forum

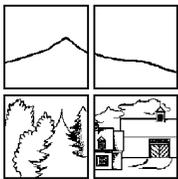
The SWRPC Natural Resources Advisory Committee, along with Antioch University New England, is sponsoring a forum to raise awareness of the current drought status and to help communities and individuals prepare for the future. While the plentiful snowfall this winter and recent rainfall have helped to reduce the deficit, there are still concerns with water supply. The event will feature a panel including members of the NH Department of Environmental Services Drought Management Team to discuss the current conditions and cover topics such as preparing water systems for drought conditions, symptoms of a well going dry, water conservation and landscaping methods, and climate change/sustainability concerns. The event will be held on Tuesday, May 23rd, at 6:00 p.m., at Antioch University, 40 Avon Street in Keene. Although there is no fee to attend, advance registration is required. For further information or to register, please contact Lisa Murphy of Commission staff at 357-0557 or lmurphy@swrpc.org.

Hinsdale-Brattleboro Bridge Project Advisory Committee Update

On April 24th, the Hinsdale-Brattleboro Bridge Project Advisory Committee (PAC) met for the third time. PAC, consists of a diverse body of public and private sector stakeholders from NH and VT and provides guidance to the NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT) and VT Agency of Transportation as the two agencies plan to construct a new bridge over the Connecticut River between Hinsdale, NH and Brattleboro, VT. The \$49 million bridge project is currently scheduled for construction beginning in 2019. In its meetings since February, the PAC has approved a public involvement plan and provided feedback on various bridge elements including sidewalks, railings, outlooks and piers associated with the proposed bridge. NHDOT has a webpage associated with the project at <https://www.nh.gov/dot/projects/hinsdalebrattleboro12210/index.htm> which includes PAC meeting agendas and minutes. The PAC's next meeting is expected to occur in June. All meetings are open to the public. For more information, please contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff.

Request for Grant Proposals for Clean Diesel Assistance Program

On April 18th, EPA released the 2017 Request for Proposals for the Diesel Emissions Reductions Act (DERA) Clean Diesel Assistance Program. The DERA grant program seeks to reduce diesel emissions through a variety of activities including engine modifications and vehicle and engine replacements. Projects can be reimbursed for 25 percent to 100 percent of total costs. Eligible projects include but are not limited to the replacement of diesel vehicles/engines in on-road trucks, buses, construction equipment, non-road vehicles and generators. The maximum amount of federal funds that can be requested per proposal is \$950,000. Proposals are due by Tuesday, June 20, 2017. NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) is available to assist with the development of applications. Eligible entities include municipalities and may be of interest to municipal highway departments and fire departments. More information on the DERA program is available on the EPA website at: <https://www.epa.gov/cleandiesel>. Additionally, DES will have some limited DERA funding available through the State Clean Diesel Program. Funding is available for businesses, individuals and local or state agencies with vehicles and equipment operating primarily in NH. For further information on the DERA program, please contact Timothy White at timothy.white@des.nh.gov.



Small Town and Rural Multimodal Networks Workshop

The NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT) Bicycle-Pedestrian Transportation Advisory Committee (BPTAC) invites municipal staff and officials to attend a workshop about the FHWA-endorsed guide for *Small Town and Rural Multimodal Networks* on Wednesday, June 7, 2017 from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. at NHDOT, Room 114 located at 7 Hazen Drive in Concord, NH. Based on FHWA and AASHTO guidance, this guide focuses on design solutions to make travel safer and more active in suburban areas, small towns, and rural communities, with visualizations and flexible design guidance for contemporary walking and bicycling facilities. Although there is no charge to attend this workshop, space is limited. To learn more or to register, please contact Erik Paddleford at erik.paddleford@dot.nh.gov.

Southwest Region Planning Commission

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