

# SWRPC

## Commission Highlights

April 2014

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### **NH Broadband Conference**

Don't miss your opportunity to register at the early-bird rate for the NH Broadband Conference, which is scheduled for Friday, May 16, 2014 at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord, NH. Although early registration closes on Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, registration will remain open until the day of the conference. The purpose of the conference is to bring together a variety of stakeholders to discuss what is happening to expand broadband access, adoption, and use throughout New Hampshire. The conference is intended for municipal officials, legislators, community leaders, internet service providers, representatives from business, health/medical, education and public safety sectors; and NH residents. For more information, please visit <http://www.iwantbroadbandnh.org/broadband-conference-2014> or contact Tara Germond of Commission staff.

### **“Rack It Up” Program Underway**

With the help of a grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, the Monadnock Region Transportation Management Association (MRTMA) launched a new community-based bicycle rack program during April in Keene. The “Rack It Up” Program is seeking business, nonprofit, school, and public agency partners interested in siting bicycle racks in Keene. The MRTMA pays for 50% of the cost of the bicycle rack and will use bulk purchasing to bring down the cost of the racks. The purpose of the project is to respond to various community planning issues that have become priorities in Keene including dealing with downtown parking, improving the physical health of its residents, minimizing particulate matter in our air, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, among many other benefits. Several institutions including a bank, church, housing agency, and grocery store have already responded to the Program. The program has the potential of being a model for other Southwest Region communities interested in promoting bicycling as a form of transportation. The MRTMA is a diverse coalition of public and private sector stakeholders interested in expanding transportation choices in the Monadnock Region, for which SWRPC provides staff support. For more information about this program, please visit [www.monadnockTMA.org](http://www.monadnockTMA.org) or contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff.

### **Town of Winchester Awarded CDBG Funding**

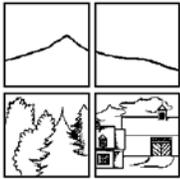
A Community Development Block Grant application submitted on behalf of the Town of Winchester was approved by the NH Community Development Finance Authority on April 17<sup>th</sup>. The Town will receive \$500,000 to help finance the rehabilitation of 30 apartments at Wedgewood Duplexes, which will benefit low to moderate income households. Following rehabilitation, it will be known as Woodcrest Affordable Housing. The property is currently owned by the Monadnock Affordable Housing Commission (a subsidiary of Keene Housing Authority). The subrecipient of the CDBG is Woodcrest Housing Associates Limited Partnership, which is being created for the purpose of acquiring, rehabilitating, and operating this development and will be affiliated with Southwestern Community Services. The Town of Winchester is sponsoring the grant and SWRPC will be acting as grant writer and grant administrator. For more information, please contact Rebeckah Bullock of Commission staff.

### **Chesterfield Conservation Commission Recreation Map**

Planning Commission staff have been working with the Chesterfield Conservation Commission, the Monadnock Conservancy, and the Quabbin-to-Cardigan Partnership to develop a recreation map to be placed at the Town Office and at Chesterfield Gorge on NH Route 9. These maps will feature conservation land, recreation trails such as those in Pisgah State Park and the proposed Wantastiquet-Monadnock trail which currently runs from the Connecticut River in Hinsdale to the Horatio Colony Nature Preserve in Keene. Other features include parking locations, trail names, picnic table locations, the Ware's Grove Beach, as well as boat launching areas in the town of Chesterfield. If your community is interested in developing recreation maps such as this or any other maps, please contact Steve Waleryszak of Commission staff.

## 2014 SWRPC Traffic Counting Season

Planning Commission staff began the 2014 traffic counting season during April. We will be collecting traffic volume, vehicle classification, directional travel, and speed information for over 140 locations throughout the Monadnock Region and share this data with the NH Department of Transportation. This process involves placing rubber tubing across the roads for a week at a time. Additionally, over the spring and summer months, staff will be collecting data on bicycle and pedestrian usage in downtown centers and on recreational trails. For more information regarding traffic data collection, please contact Steve Waleryszak of Commission staff.



## Visualizing Density in the Granite State

The NH Housing Finance Authority and Plan NH are seeking good examples of density, or compact design, from communities throughout the state. While the focus is on homes and living spaces, multi-use and other compact development examples are encouraged for consideration. Compact design can vary in different towns and settings. It is not limited to city or larger-town settings and can be successful, if planned right, in most areas. Outstanding examples will be showcased at an awards event on June 26<sup>th</sup>, from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., at Red River Theaters in Concord. Submissions are due no later than Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. For more information, please visit: <http://plannh.org/news-events/seeking-examples-of-density-in-nh>.

## Southwest Region Planning Commission

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