



# SWRPC

## Commission Highlights

August 2014

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### **Regional Transportation Coalitions Hold Joint Meeting**

The Monadnock Region Coordinating Council for Community Transportation (MRCC) and the Monadnock Region Transportation Management Association (MRTMA) held a joint meeting on August 20, 2014. This marked the first time the two groups, which have been working to improve transportation options in the Region for the past several years, have met together. SWRPC staff members, J.B. Mack and Tara Germond, who provide support and technical assistance to each coalition, gave a brief overview of each group's history, mission, goals, accomplishments and challenges. The focus of the meeting was a conversation with coalition stakeholders about opportunities for the two groups to coordinate and collaborate on transportation issues in the Region. The two groups plan to meet again in the fall of this year. For more information about the MRCC visit [www.monadnockrcc.weebly.com](http://www.monadnockrcc.weebly.com) or contact Tara Germond. For more information about the MRTMA visit [www.monadnocktma.org](http://www.monadnocktma.org) or contact J.B. Mack.

### **Cleanup at Former Gas Station in Richmond**

A cleanup of contaminated soil took place during August at the former Four Corners Store in Richmond. Using funding from EPA's Brownfields program, SWRPC was able to leverage assistance from the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) which used its funds from a MtBE clean-up program. SWRPC's Brownfields Assessment Program began the process by removing an underground storage tank and fuel lines to determine if leaking was occurring. It turned out that the lines installed at the location were incompatible with gasoline service and were deteriorating. Arrangements were then made for DES to fund the removal of over 600 tons of MtBE contaminated soil. MtBE is a chemical compound that was previously used as a gasoline additive to replace lead as a way to oxygenate the gasoline so the fuel burns more completely. According to the EPA, MtBE is a potential carcinogen if consumed in high doses. Although the chemical compound has not been used in large quantities since the 2005 passage of the Energy Policy Act, it does not degrade quickly if already present in soil and groundwater. SWRPC's Brownfields Assessment consultant is in the process of assessing vapor contamination in the on-site buildings and anticipate laboratory results in September. DES will now monitor impacted groundwater wells to determine if the removal of the source contamination improves or eliminates MtBE risks. For more information, please contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff.

### **Public Informational Meeting - VT Yankee Closure**

A public informational meeting regarding the Vermont Yankee closure will take place at 6:30 p.m. on September 25, 2014. The meeting will be held at the Hinsdale Middle/High School located at 49 School Street in Hinsdale.

### **Culvert Inventory in Surry**

Fall is a great time to inspect culverts and perform routine maintenance since water levels are usually low. SWRPC is providing assistance to the Town of Surry in an effort to map and assess culverts on locally-maintained roads. The operation of these structures is essential to preserving the condition and safety of the overlying roadway. The inventory, part of SWRPC's Road/Stream Crossing Project, will help the Town more effectively maintain and plan for culvert replacements by utilizing an assessment protocol created and supported by State agencies and other partners. Assessments of each structure not only include their location and important physical characteristics, they also include photos and measurements to help assess their ability to support passage of aquatic organisms and erosive potential. Field work is expected to be completed in October. For more information, please contact Henry Underwood of Commission staff.

## Community Development Block Grant Funding

For towns and organizations thinking about applying for the January 2015 round of Economic Development or Housing and Public Facilities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding, now is a good time to start the application process. Housing and Public Facilities CDBG funding is available for municipally-sponsored projects in January and July of each year. Eligible projects can receive grants of up to \$500,000 for infrastructure or housing projects with a direct benefit to low and moderate income individuals and families. CDBG funding is also available for municipally-sponsored economic development projects year-round on a first come, first served basis starting in January. Up to \$500,000 is available for economic development projects that help create job opportunities for low to moderate income individuals and families. For more information, please contact Rebeckah Bullock of Commission staff or visit the NH Community Development Finance Authority's website at [www.nhcdfa.org](http://www.nhcdfa.org).



## Upcoming Historic District Training

The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources and the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions in conjunction with the City of Keene are sponsoring a training session for historic district commissions in New Hampshire. The training will help commissions implement best preservation practices and learn about new and creative opportunities. Topics will include: legal issues, standards and guidelines, procedures, public support, hands-on design exercises, local planning issues, and designating historical resources. Space is limited so please RSVP as soon as possible for this free opportunity by e-mailing [preservation@dcr.nh.gov](mailto:preservation@dcr.nh.gov). New Hampshire Historic District Commission members will be given priority during the registration process and space is limited to one commission member per community. Training will be held on Friday, September 19, 2014 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Heberton Hall, 76 Winter Street, Keene, NH.

## Southwest Region Planning Commission

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