

SWRPC

Commission Highlights

January 2017

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2017 Winter Commission Meeting

The Southwest Region Planning Commission Winter Commission Meeting is scheduled for February 28, 2017. The meeting will feature the film *From Hurricane to Climate Change* and a panel discussion. The announcement for the event can be found at this link www.swrpc.org/files/Inv0217.pdf. To register, please contact Becky Baldwin of Commission staff.

Ten Year Transportation Plan Update

The Planning Commission is requesting feedback from local officials to reaffirm their support for already programmed transportation projects and/or nominate new projects to be considered for inclusion in the State of New Hampshire's Ten-Year Transportation Improvement Program (TYP). Regional priorities for transportation improvements are compiled by each of New Hampshire's nine regional planning commissions for consideration by the NH Department of Transportation (NH DOT), the Executive Council, the Governor, and the Legislature to create a Statewide TYP. The most recent adopted TYP can be reviewed at the following NH DOT webpage: www.nh.gov/dot/org/projectdevelopment/planning/typ/index.htm. During January, SWRPC mailed correspondence to all municipal select boards/city councils, planning boards, highway departments and police chiefs in the region for the purpose of soliciting feedback. The working list of TYP projects can be reviewed at www.swrpc.org/files/SWRPC_Projects_FY19-28TYP.pdf. Comments or project nominations from municipalities are due by **Friday March 10, 2017**. For more information, please contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff.

MAST - Supporting Local Transportation Options

On January 18th, the Monadnock Alliance for Sustainable Transportation (MAST) held its 2017 Annual Meeting which included an update on efforts to promote sustainable transportation options. As a result, MAST is seeking volunteers to help implement projects identified in the MAST 2017 work plan. These projects include organizing a "Bike to Work" event, promoting the League of American Bicyclists' "Bicycle Friendly Community" program, investigating the feasibility of establishing carsharing in the Monadnock Region, and an education campaign about the municipal optional \$5 vehicle registration fee to generate revenue for implementing local transportation improvements. To learn more or to volunteer, please visit www.mastnh.org or contact Mari Brunner of Commission staff.

State Safety Target Coordination & Training Workshop

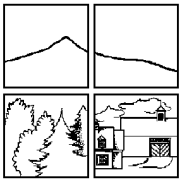
On January 11th SWRPC staff joined rural and urban regional planning agencies as well as other state and federal partners to discuss transportation safety issues. Beginning in 2018, the NH DOT as well as the NH Department of Safety must set a number of safety targets in coordination with the State's Metropolitan Planning Organizations and other stakeholders. The goal of the initiative is to achieve a significant reduction in traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads. For more information about safety performance measures, please contact Henry Underwood of Commission staff.

Commercial Site Selection Tool

A new resource is available providing information on commercial and industrial properties and socioeconomic data. The NH Division of Economic Development has launched ChooseNH.com - a website developed in partnership with the New Hampshire Commercial Investment Board of Realtors. In addition to real estate information, the website is also a source for data such as community profiles, demographics and business analysis. Representatives of municipalities with commercial real estate for sale or lease, as well as commercial property owners and commercial real estate agents will find this site of interest. There is no cost to list a property on ChooseNH.com. For additional information, please contact Raul Gonzalez of Commission staff.

2017-2018 Municipal Technical Assistance Grant Program

Plan New Hampshire has announced the second round of the NH Municipal Technical Assistance Program. Its purpose is to support municipalities who wish to create or amend their zoning ordinances to encourage more housing choices to meet the changing and diverse needs of their citizens. Grants of \$2,500 to \$10,000 are available for developing new or revised regulations to improve choices in types and locations of places to live. Examples of projects that may qualify under this program include, but are not limited to: mixed-use zoning, infill development, Neighborhood Heritage Districts, and regulatory reviews (of zoning ordinance, site plan review and subdivision regulations). The grants will be awarded through a competitive application process, which will include a requirement to raise 25% of the award as a cash match. Applications must be submitted by April 5, 2017. Full information and the 2017 application instructions are available at: <http://bit.ly/2MTAGP2017>. An informational session for interested parties will be held on Thursday, February 16, 2017 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at New Hampshire Housing (east entrance), 32 Constitution Drive, Bedford. Attendance is not mandatory but strongly recommended. For more information or to register, please contact Robin LeBlanc of Plan New Hampshire at 603-452-7526 or r_leblanc@plannh.org. For more information or for assistance in applying, please contact Lisa Murphy of Commission staff.



Emergency Operations Planning

SWRPC staff is available to assist towns in creating and updating Local Emergency Operations Plans (LEOPs). The State of New Hampshire through the New Hampshire Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) offers a grant program which allows towns to gain assistance in creating and/or updating their LEOPs at no monetary cost to the town. SWRPC staff has completed the latest LEOP training recommended by HSEM and is qualified to assist towns with their plans. This training involved the completion of FEMA courses covering the National Incident Management System, the National Response Framework, the Incident Command System (ICS), and ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents. SWRPC staff also participated in HSEM training covering LEOP creation and update processes. For more information, please contact Rebeckah Bullock of Commission staff.

Southwest Region Planning Commission

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