



SWRPC

Commission Highlights

May 2016

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2016 Annual Meeting - June 14th

There is still time to register for the Southwest Region Planning Commission's Annual Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 14, 2016 at Keene State College. For more information, please contact Becky Baldwin of Commission staff or visit www.swrpc.org/files/2016annualmeeting.pdf.

SWRPC Public Involvement Plan Released for Review

The draft SWRPC Public Involvement Plan has been released for public comment. The main goal of this Plan is to proactively seek public participation in order to assure that the outcome of regional planning activities accurately reflect the challenges and opportunities of the communities of Southwest New Hampshire. The processes outlined in this Plan form the basis for providing adequate access to SWRPC's planning process. A copy of the draft Plan can be found at: www.swrpc.org/files/2016DraftPIP.pdf. The public review and comment period will extend through July 11, 2016. For more information, or to provide comment, please contact Raul Gonzalez of Commission staff.

Bike to Work Day and Complete Streets Tour

On May 20, 2016, the Monadnock Alliance for Sustainable Transportation (MAST) hosted a Bike to Work Day event in partnership with Bike-Walk Alliance New Hampshire (BWANH) and Transport NH. The event included a free breakfast, a Complete Streets information session at the Hannah Grimes Center, a proclamation by Keene Mayor Kendall Lane, bicycle and walking/transit tours of the City of Keene, and a drawing for gifts donated by local establishments. The following helped to make the event a success: Advanced Cyclist, Brewbakers Café, City of Keene, City Express, CommuteSmart NH, Healthy Monadnock 2020, Keene Family YMCA, Elm City Bagels, Monadnock Buy Local, Peterborough Basket Company, Prime Roast, and The Works Cafe. For more information about MAST and Complete Streets, visit www.mastnh.org/ or contact Mari Brunner and Henry Underwood of Commission staff. To learn more about transportation alternatives in the Monadnock Region, please visit www.commutesmartnh.org.

Funding Available for Pedestrian and Bicycle Projects

New Hampshire communities interested in improving pedestrian and bicycling infrastructure can submit letters of intent for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) between June 1 and July 1, 2016. This is the first step in a competitive process for more than \$5 million in federal funds that will be used to reimburse up to 80 percent of the costs for such projects. TAP combines a number of individual federal programs into a single, more flexible program. These include Transportation Enhancement, Safe Routes to School, and Scenic Byways programs. New Hampshire's annual allocation for TAP is approximately \$3.2M (\$2.6M Federal). Two years of funding will be awarded in this round. TAP awards will range from a minimum of \$400,000 (\$320,000 Federal) to a maximum of \$1,000,000 (\$800,000 Federal), although communities can use local or other funding sources for more expensive projects. For more information, visit www.nh.gov/dot/org/projectdevelopment/planning/tap/index.htm. For technical assistance with a grant proposal, please contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff.

Complete Streets Policy Workshop - June 24th

The Planning Commission is working with the National Complete Streets Coalition to hold a Complete Streets Policy Development workshop on Friday, June 24, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at 61 South Street in Troy. The workshop will engage community leaders and public officials in a discussion about how to craft an effective Complete Streets policy that meets the unique needs of each community. The instructors include Emiko Atherton, Director of the National Complete Streets Coalition, and Rick Chellman, principal engineer at Portsmouth-based TND Engineering. This workshop is free to attend, however, advanced registration is required. To learn more or to register, please visit www.swrpc.org/CompleteStreets or contact Mari Brunner of Commission staff.

Tri-State Region Stakeholders Event

On May 19th, SWRPC, along with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, Windham Regional Commission, and the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation, held a Stakeholders Event in Brattleboro, Vermont to discuss the economic development challenges to the Tri-State Region of Southwest New Hampshire, Southeast Vermont, and North Central Massachusetts. The purpose of the event was to present an analysis of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) for Southwest New Hampshire, Southeast Vermont, and the Greater Franklin County, Massachusetts regions. The four development and planning organizations presented on the similarities and differences between each planning region's CEDS goals, as well as on their shared strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. About 40 people representing business and institutional leaders, economic development organizations, chambers of commerce, academic institutions, and municipal officials from all three states gathered to share findings and ideas. For more information, please contact Raul Gonzalez of Commission staff.



Brownfields Nominations Sought for Petroleum Contaminated Properties

The Planning Commission is seeking nominations for public or private property with potential petroleum contamination through its brownfield assessment program. Program funds are available for a limited time. Brownfields are typically former industrial or commercial sites whose future use is affected by real or perceived environmental contamination. In the Southwest Region Brownfields Assessment Program's thirteen year history, we have helped finance costs of excavating, emptying, removing, and cleaning twelve underground and above ground storage tanks totaling a 104,700 gallon capacity of petroleum fuels. The program is designed to help address community environmental problems, even if located on private property, as well as encouraging redevelopment on properties that are seen as undevelopable due to environmental contamination. Please contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff if there is a potential site in your community that might benefit from the Program.

Southwest Region Planning Commission

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