



SWRPC

Commission Highlights

September 2015

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2015 Fall Commission Meeting

The Planning Commission's 2015 Fall Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, **October 20th** at The Inn at East Hill Farm in Troy, NH. The featured topic will be Population and Public Health: A New Frontier in Regional Planning. For more information, please visit www.swrpc.org/files/fallmeeting.pdf. Please register by October 13th by contacting Becky Baldwin or Wendy Woodland of Commission staff.

NH Wildlife Action Plan

The SWRPC Natural Resources Advisory Committee will host an interactive session on the recently updated NH Wildlife Action Plan at 3:30 p.m. on October 14, 2015 at the Planning Commission's office located at 37 Ashuelot Street in Keene. Emily Preston, Wildlife Biologist for the NH Fish and Game Department will present the Plan which contains the most up-to-date research on NH's wildlife features, including summaries of actions that can be taken to help mitigate pressures that have negative impacts on NH's wildlife and habitats. The session is open to the public and, although there is no fee to attend, registration is requested. To register, please contact Lisa Murphy of Commission staff at 357-0557 or lmurphy@swrpc.org no later than October 12, 2015.

Keene Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan Hearing

On September 18th, the Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) hosted a public hearing in Keene. The meeting consisted of a NH DOT presentation about the contents and approach of the draft FY 2017-2026 Ten Year Plan (TYP), a presentation from the Planning Commission about regional project priorities, and testimony from communities, transportation advocacy groups and the public about the contents of the Plan. The draft TYP is available for viewing at <http://www.nh.gov/dot/org/projectdevelopment/planning/typ/index.htm>. For more information about the draft TYP or the Keene GACIT hearing, please contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff.

Complete Street Demonstration in Keene

On September 19th, the Planning Commission and the City of Keene conducted a Complete Streets demonstration event on Marlboro Street in Keene with help from community partners and a team of volunteers. The goal of this event, called "Rethink Marlboro Street," was to provide an opportunity for the public to experience different aspects of Complete Streets such as protected bike lanes, crosswalks, a pedestrian refuge island, parklets, outdoor seating areas, and more, as well as to build public awareness of and support for safer streets that promote active transportation. Public comments were gathered at this event as well as an opportunity to show support for the City's efforts to adopt a Complete Streets policy. This event was supported by the Partnerships to Improve Community Health initiative in conjunction with Cheshire Medical Center and Healthy Monadnock 2020. For more information about this event, please contact Mari Brunner of Commission staff or visit www.monadnocktma.org/demodays.

Greater Monadnock Community Health Improvement Plan

In September, the Planning Commission completed the Region's first ever Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for the Greater Monadnock Public Health Network. The purpose of the CHIP is to provide a written framework to focus the activities in the Monadnock Region to improve the health of the community. The process began in September 2014 when the Council for a Healthier Community (CHC) reviewed the State Health Improvement Plan. Starting in February 2015, the Commission worked in partnership with CHC and Healthy Monadnock to create a similar document focused on the Region, with assistance from subject matter experts and regional data about specific health indicators. For more information, please contact Henry Underwood of Commission Staff.

Report on Freight Transportation in Southwest New Hampshire

Planning Commission staff recently completed a transportation planning report entitled *A Profile of Freight Transportation in Southwest New Hampshire*. This report, financed in part through support from the Federal Highway Administration, summarizes research conducted by the Planning Commission to better understand the regional transportation system's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats for supporting freight transportation and the regional economy. The report contains newly collected truck volume data as well as survey and interview data gathered from area freight transport companies and businesses that use freight services. The information will be used to inform future regional freight transportation planning and provide useful data to the NH DOT for its State Freight Plan. Town officials may review the document and use the information to help inform the transportation chapter of local master plans, existing road and bridge policies, etc. To view the report, please visit <http://www.swrpc.org/trans>. For more information, please contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff.



Regional Complete Streets Workshop

On September 25th, the Planning Commission and Healthy Eating Active Living NH hosted a regional Complete Streets workshop in Keene. The workshop included presentations by practitioners in the field and a guided walking tour showcasing Complete Streets design elements that have been implemented in Keene. Topics discussed included: *How to Engage with the NHDOT on State Roads in your Community*; *How to Identify Near-Term Opportunities for Making Small, Positive Changes*; and *How to Apply Complete Streets to Communities of Different Sizes*. For more information about this workshop, or to request a copy of speaker presentations, please contact Mari Brunner of Commission staff.

Southwest Region Planning Commission

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