

Brightfields 2019 - New England

On July 23rd, SWRPC staff attended the *Brightfields 2019 - New England* event, hosted by Brownfields Listings, in Manchester, NH. There were over one hundred participants from across New England including landowners, municipal staff, federal and state officials, and regional planning commissions. The event featured a morning of educational sessions and an afternoon of networking and discussion about opportunities for solar array development on brownfields and other properties. J. B. Mack of SWRPC staff was joined by Karey Miner from the Town of Winchester, Mike McCluskey and Melinda Bubier of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, Steven Rickerich of Ransom Consulting, Inc., and Jesse Stowell of Entergy Renewable Energy to provide the anchor presentation for the morning educational sessions regarding combined efforts to transform the former A.C. Lawrence Tannery as the first brightfield property in the State of New Hampshire. The presentation, *Brownfield to Brightfield Case Study: Winchester, NH* can be found on SWRPC's brownfields page at www.swrpc.org/brownfields. For more information, please contact J. B. Mack of SWRPC staff.

National Transportation Conference

Todd Horner of SWRPC staff recently attended the 2019 National Regional Transportation Conference, organized by the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO). The conference included a variety of training sessions, presentations, panel discussions, and networking opportunities related to rural and small metropolitan transportation issues. The conference addressed a range of topics, including: how new digital technologies can help improve rural transit; how transportation innovations can help support regional economic development; different models available for financing transportation projects; and spatial analysis tools and techniques for assessing transportation system resilience against natural hazards. NADO provides advocacy, education, research, and training for the nation's regional development organizations, which include regional planning commissions. For more information about the conference, including presentation slides, visit <https://www.nado.org/events/rpo2019> or contact Todd Horner of SWRPC staff.

Master Plan Updates

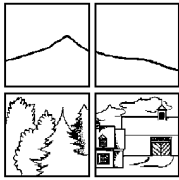
SWRPC has recently begun working with Langdon, Swanzey and Walpole to provide technical assistance with updates to their master plans. New Hampshire statutes recommend updating of local master plans every 5 to 10 years. Some towns choose to update the whole plan as a single project, while others choose to split it up into 2 or 3 sections and budget cycles. SWRPC is available to meet with local planning boards to provide guidance for the best approach that meets the needs of the town. For additional information or to discuss further, please contact Lisa Murphy of SWRPC staff.

Monadnock Region Coordinating Council Update

At its meeting of July 16th, the Monadnock Region Coordinating Council (MRCC) elected new officers to serve on its Executive Committee. The MRCC, with support from SWRPC, works to create an affordable, coordinated transportation system that provides all community members, regardless of age or ability, access to services and opportunities critical to improving the health and social cohesion of the Monadnock Region. Ellen Avery, Executive Director of Community Volunteer Transportation Company, will serve as Chair; Andrew Harmon, Keene resident, as Vice-Chair; and Cameron Tease, Executive Director of the Keene Senior Center, as Secretary. Suzanne Bansley will continue to serve as Treasurer representing Cheshire County. Kathy Baird, Program Director at Monadnock RSVP Volunteer Center, concluded her tenure as Chair while Michael Acerno, Transportation Manager at Home Healthcare, Hospice & Community Services, completed his service as Vice-Chair. For more information about the MRCC, please contact Todd Horner of SWRPC staff or visit <http://monadnockrcc.weebly.com>.

Hinsdale-Brattleboro Bridge Project Update

SWRPC recently submitted a letter of support for the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) and Vermont Agency of Transportation joint application requesting federal funding support for the Hinsdale-Brattleboro Bridge Replacement Project under the 2019 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant Program. BUILD transportation grants replace the former Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program. Both State's have had a great deal of success with other projects and the application has scored well in previous rounds according to NHDOT officials. The project has an estimated total cost of nearly \$60 million, of which \$20 million is being requested from the BUILD program. Approximately \$8 million of the BUILD funding would go towards the rehabilitation of the existing Charles Dana and Anna Hunt Marsh bridges that currently connect Hinsdale, NH and Brattleboro, VT. The remainder would contribute to the funding of a new single span bridge. NHDOT officials have reported that the Hinsdale-Brattleboro Bridge project is in no way reliant on these funds; however, it would allow the project to be built with grant funds instead of a federal loan program. Go to <https://www.nh.gov/dot/projects/hinsdalebrattleboro12210/index.htm> to view an online version of the BUILD application. For more information, please contact J. B. Mack of SWRPC staff.



2019 Radically Rural Summit

Radically Rural is an annual two-day summit scheduled for September 19th and 20th that will bring together 800 people who are passionate about creating vibrant, robust rural communities and are eager to learn, connect and lead the charge. Radically Rural will feature 19 sessions across program tracks to include; entrepreneurship, renewable energy, journalism, arts & culture, working lands, and Main Street. Wendy Guillies, President and CEO of the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, and Art Markman, Executive Director of the IC² Institute, will keynote the opening and closing, respectively. The two-day conference aims to equip residents of rural areas with strategies for transforming their small cities and towns into vibrant hubs of economic and cultural activity. For more information or to register for the summit, please visit <https://radicallyrural.org/>.

Southwest Region Planning Commission

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