



Jaffrey Project Accepted by Governor's Commission

On July 16th, a Governor's Commission met and made a finding of necessity to move forward with a project commonly referred to as the Jaffrey Dogleg. Located in the heart of the town center the project has long been a regional priority of the SWRPC and its Transportation Advisory Committee. The project involves reconfiguring traffic circulation in downtown Jaffrey by constructing a roundabout at the intersection of US Route 202, NH Route 124, Stratton Road and Blake Street, moving US Route 202 traffic south on Blake Street and across a new bridge over the Contoocook River, and connecting to a second roundabout at the intersection of US Route 202 and River Street. The project would eliminate the current traffic signals, improve pedestrian circulation and provide new gateways into Jaffrey's downtown. The project is scheduled for construction in 2021 and 2022 at a cost of approximately \$15 million. For more information, please contact [J. B. Mack](#) of SWRPC staff.

Census 2020 Status Update

The 2020 Census Self-Response Rate Map (2020census.gov/en/response-rates) currently ranks New Hampshire 25th in the nation. The deadline for online, phone and mailed self-responses has been extended from July 31st to October 31st. Local communities will directly benefit from a complete and accurate Census and the U.S. Census Bureau has provided a Media Toolkit (adobe.ly/2VML5NJ) as a means of providing assistance. The toolkit includes instructions, messages, videos, graphics, and other resources to facilitate participation. Starting August 6th, census takers will begin interviewing households that have yet to respond. For more information about the 2020 Census visit the NH Office of Strategic Initiatives 2020 Census webpage at www.nh.gov/osi/data-center/2020-census or contact Henry Underwood of SWRPC staff at hunderwood@swrpc.org.

Governor Signs 2021-2030 Ten Year Plan into Law

On July 24th, Governor Sununu signed the 2021-2030 Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan (TYP) into law. The level-funded, fiscally constrained TYP lists more than \$4 billion worth of projects planned for implementation over the ten-year period, with the majority of funding coming from federal sources. Investments are slated to address bridges (23.5%), pavement resurfacing and restoration (20.4%), and what are termed by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation as individual projects (20.6%). The TYP can be found online at <https://www.nh.gov/dot/org/projectdevelopment/planning/typ/index.htm>. For more information, please contact [J. B. Mack](#) of SWRPC staff.

Community Development Block Grant Applications

During July, SWRPC staff assisted Cheshire County in submitting two applications under the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The proposals seek funding to make direct grants in amounts up to \$2,500 to small businesses with five or less full-time employees to assist business operations struggling as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. The intent is to provide a total of 150 micro-grants to low- and moderate-income small businesses through these applications. Cheshire County is sponsoring the grant with SWRPC acting as grant administrator. For more information, please contact [James Weatherly](#) of SWRPC staff.

2020 Regional Forest Economy Partnership

The Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) is accepting applications for the 2020 Regional Forest Economy Partnership (RFEP) grant round. The purpose of RFEP is to assist rural communities in transitioning from a dependence on the forest-based economy to new opportunities for economic diversity and innovation. The program targets proposals that focus on one of three areas: (1) new technology and innovations that seek to find new uses for forest products and evolve traditional forest economy business models; (2) workforce re-training and development to build skills needed for forest products businesses; and (3) new or expanding industries (e.g. outdoor recreation) that can provide employment and economic growth in formerly forest industry-dependent communities. The 2020 grant round also includes a fourth category that targets proposals for collaborative, multi-state projects addressing structural weaknesses highlighted by the coronavirus pandemic. Proposals from entities in Cheshire and Sullivan counties are eligible under the program. For more information, visit <http://www.nbrc.gov/content/RFEP> or contact [Todd Horner](#) of SWRPC staff.



Master Plan Updates

During the month of July, SWRPC staff assisted the towns of Langdon, Swanzey and Walpole in completing updates to chapters of their municipal Master Plans. Over the coming year, similar efforts are expected in several of the Region's communities. In New Hampshire, best practice suggests that a community's Master Plan should be updated every 5-10 years. If you are interested in learning more, please contact [Lisa Murphy](#) of SWRPC staff to discuss options and services.

Southwest Region Planning Commission

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