

# SWRPC

## Commission Highlights

June 2020

Vol. 26 - No. 6

### 2020 Annual Meeting

On June 16<sup>th</sup>, SWRPC held its 2020 Annual Meeting via remote access and was attended by approximately 30 people. The meeting featured updates on the work of standing Advisory Committees as well as presentations on projects including Age-Focused Planning in Southwest New Hampshire and the Greater Keene Intermodal Transportation Feasibility Study. The event also included acceptance of an agency work program budget and the election of directors and officers for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020. For more information, please contact [Becky Baldwin](#) of SWRPC staff.

### Project Nominations for Ten Year Plan Update

In the coming weeks, communities in the Southwest Region can expect correspondence from SWRPC requesting project nominations for consideration in the 2023-2032 Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan (TYP) update process. SWRPC will be reaching out to Selectboards, Planning Boards, Highway Departments, and Police Departments for nominations with an anticipated deadline for submitting applications by September 4, 2020. Eligible projects can include highway improvements on federal aid eligible roads, asset management projects, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, infrastructure related travel demand projects, and planning studies. Projects will be scored and ranked based on evaluation criteria that include considerations relating to safety, mobility, network significance, state of repair, natural hazard resiliency, equity, environmental justice and accessibility, economic development, and local support. Communities that are considering nominations are strongly encouraged to contact SWRPC ahead of the application deadline to discuss their projects and begin a dialogue about the suitability of nominations as well as begin sharing information about the project. For more information, please contact [J. B. Mack](#) of SWRPC staff.

### State of New Hampshire Broadband Impact Survey

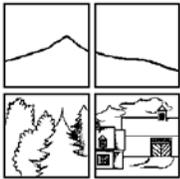
Due to the current pandemic and subsequent advisories for distancing, there is a renewed focus on broadband connectivity across New Hampshire. The State is interested in capturing data related to availability, affordability and reliability of broadband service and is partnering with Mission Broadband, Inc. to conduct a survey which can be found at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/NH\\_SD\\_BB\\_Survey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NH_SD_BB_Survey). The survey is intended for residents, municipalities, businesses, and institutions statewide to identify gaps in service to inform efforts to address needs. Please take a moment to participate in this important survey and help to promote it within your community. For more information please contact [Henry Underwood](#) of SWRPC staff.

### Lead Poisoning Prevention Initiative

SWRPC is working in partnership with the Monadnock Region Public Health Network to conduct a project to address lead safety in the Region. The effort which runs through June 30, 2021, is aimed at implementing strategies to eliminate lead poisoning among children under the age of six. Target strategies include building a network of diverse partners to educate families, community service providers, and public officials on primary prevention of lead exposure in homes and other child-occupied facilities; work with pediatricians to promote lead exposure screening as a routine part of annual checkups; and partner with public housing organizations to promote NH Housing's Lead Hazard Control & Healthy Homes program for low- to moderate-income households. The project is supported by the NH Department of Health and Human Services. For more information, please contact [Terry Johnson](#) of SWRPC staff.

## CDBG Programs

During June, SWRPC staff assisted communities in making substantial progress on two Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects. Cheshire County's Central Square Terrace saw significant activity in the construction phase for the rehabilitation of 90 units of affordable housing for elderly and disabled persons located at 5 Central Square in Keene. Construction is anticipated to finish this summer, and represents one of the first major overhauls of the property since its acquisition by Keene Housing in 1984. The City of Keene's SCS/Shelters project also made major strides towards the acquisition of three shelter facilities by Southwestern Community Services, Inc. (SCS). SCS currently operates all three shelters, and the acquisitions will consolidate the shelter system under single ownership. For more information or to explore how the CDBG program might benefit your community, please contact [James Weatherly](#) of SWRPC staff.



## NHMA's COVID-19 Call for Municipal Officials

Beginning June 25<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 p.m. and every Thursday thereafter, NHMA attorneys will host a weekly call for municipal officials and employees on issues and matters arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of the weekly calls is to learn about continuing and new issues municipalities are facing, as well as to try to answer questions. The call-in information will be provided by NHMA to its members before each call. To stay informed, please consider participating in these calls.

## Southwest Region Planning Commission

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