

SWRPC

Commission Highlights

June 2021

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Complete Streets Grant Opportunity

For the fifth consecutive year, the Monadnock Alliance for Sustainable Transportation (MAST) is pleased to announce a Complete Streets Implementation Grant Program round, through support from the *You Have Our Trust* fund. Complete streets are those that are safe and accessible for users of all ages and abilities, regardless of how they choose to travel. The application submission deadline for the 2021 round is **September 24, 2021**. Communities in Southwest NH that have adopted complete streets policies can apply for up to \$125,000 in infrastructure grants and up to \$40,000 in non-infrastructure activities such as planning, preliminary engineering, or temporary demonstration events. In addition, MAST is opening-up eligibility to municipalities that have not yet adopted complete streets policies to apply for technical assistance in developing complete streets policies, thus making them eligible for future infrastructure funds should future grant rounds continue. For more information, please go to <https://www.mastnh.org/2021-complete-streets-grant/> or contact [Henry Underwood](#) of SWRPC staff.

Community Development Block Grant Update

During the month of June, SWRPC staff was active in assisting member communities in the administration of Community Development Block Grant projects. As a result of a successful application by the City of Keene for additional funding, the Community Kitchen was able to award a contract to DEW Construction. Work will include updates to office space, mechanical systems and installation of a rooftop solar array. Staff also assisted Cheshire County with completing a successful program year of microenterprise technical assistance through the Hannah Grimes Center for Entrepreneurship, Regional Economic Development Center and the NH Small Business Development Center in support of 167 small businesses throughout southern New Hampshire. For more information, please contact [James Weatherly](#) of SWRPC staff.

Monadnock Housing Roundtable

On June 21st, the Monadnock Housing Roundtable met to continue discussion about the future direction of the group. Discussion focused on identifying and prioritizing housing-related issues and options for structuring itself as a group. Since it first convened last year, the Roundtable has served as a forum for housing stakeholders to connect with one another, open up a space for peer-learning, and to explore different options for addressing the Monadnock Region's housing challenges. During the meeting, the group discussed a potential vision statement to help clarify the Roundtable's aspirations and to enhance communication for conducting outreach activities. Participants also considered various scenarios of organizational structure to support long-term sustainability and capacity. For more information, please visit <https://www.monadnockhousingroundtable.com/> or contact [Todd Horner](#) of SWRPC staff.

Visual Preference Survey for NH Route 10

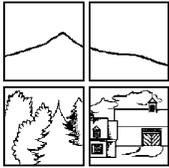
As part of a NH 10 Corridor study for the Town of Swanzey, SWRPC staff recently completed a visual preference survey in West Swanzey portion of NH Route 10. A visual preference survey is a tool for obtaining public feedback on physical design alternatives. The Town of Swanzey is currently exploring opportunities to improve safety, accessibility and livability as well as ways to attract economic development along the corridor. The survey showed alternatives along NH Route 10 including sidewalks, bike lanes and protected crosswalks as well as zoning changes relating to decreased setbacks, rear and side parking and building density allowances. The visual preference survey is an excellent resource for the Town to get input from residents regarding potential changes to the corridor and will inform the recommendations of the Study. For more information, please contact [J. B. Mack](#) of SWRPC staff.

Public Involvement Plan Adopted

On June 16th, the SWRPC Board of Directors adopted the recently updated Public Involvement Plan (PIP). Updated on a five year basis, the Plan addresses effective public involvement in the regional planning process and is designed to establish policy relative to public participation in planning activities led by SWRPC. The PIP is available on the SWRPC website: <http://swrpc.org/>. For more information, please contact [Lisa Murphy](#) of SWRPC staff.

Cheshire Rail Trail South Planning Project Update

On June 2nd, SWRPC hosted the third and final Cheshire Rail Trail South Planning Project work group meeting. Topics included an existing conditions assessment update, public outreach activities, a presentation on plan elements (including an implementation plan), and a discussion about strategies for promoting, prioritizing and coordinating on shared goals. For an up-to-date account of project activities visit www.swrpc.org/cheshire-rail-trail-south. For more information, please contact [Henry Underwood](#) of SWRPC staff.



Transportation Data Collection and Asset Management

During May and June, SWRPC staff prepared for transportation-related data collection and technical assistance services including hiring, training and promotion. Services offered this year include road surface management system technical assistance (www.swrpc.org/rsms), stream crossing and culvert assessments and a variety of traffic studies to obtain information on the volume and type of vehicles on roads and intersections, counts of people walking and biking, vehicle occupancy/ridesharing and more. Services are part of SWRPC's ongoing transportation planning activities and are offered to member municipalities on a first come, first served basis. For more information, please contact [J. B. Mack](#) or [Henry Underwood](#) of SWRPC staff.

Southwest Region Planning Commission

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