

SWRPC

Commission Highlights

October 2012

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Fall Meeting set for November 13, 2012

There is still time to register to attend the Fall Commission Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 13, 2012 at 6:00 p.m., at the Historical Society of Cheshire County, 246 Main Street, Keene, NH. Christopher Clement, Commissioner of the NH Department of Transportation, will be the featured speaker and will address challenges facing the State's transportation infrastructure. There is no cost to attend - please register by November 12th by calling (603) 357-0557 or email admin@swrpc.org.

Marlborough Village Action Plan

On Sunday, October 28th, Commission staff and a team of Keene State College geography students worked with community members to inventory current conditions within the Village Center. Participants examined the availability, location and condition of a variety of community resources including transportation, housing, businesses, environmental features, and community gathering areas. The results of this inventory will be used to create a map of where important community facilities and resources are located and where improvements could be made in the Village Center area. A second phase of this project will be a community-visioning workshop to be held in the spring of 2013. For more information on this project, please contact Tara Germond of Commission staff.

Route 119 Hinsdale-Brattleboro Bridge

Since the early 1990s, the Planning Commission has made replacing the two functionally obsolete Route 119 bridges connecting Hinsdale, NH to Brattleboro, VT and Interstate 91 a top priority. In an effort to advance the project, the Commission is working with the Windham Regional Commission in VT, as well as Hinsdale, Brattleboro, NH DOT and the Vermont Agency of Transportation to advance the project's readiness. While funding is not currently programmed, there are aspects of the project that can be addressed including community awareness and support, communication and coordination between different levels of government and the business community, and the completion of an environmental assessment. Through this effort, the environmental assessment has been completed and is under review by the Federal Highway Administration. The intergovernmental stakeholder group gathered recently to conduct a site visit and identify anticipated challenges for advancing the bridge project. For more information about this effort, please contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff.

Promoting Equity and Improving Health through Planning

On October 12th, SWRPC staff attended a workshop entitled *Promoting Equity, Transforming Communities, and Improving Health* hosted by Healthy Eating Active Living New Hampshire, Granite State Future, New Hampshire Health and Equity Partnership, and the Healthy New Hampshire Foundation. The presenter was Amanda M. Navarro, Associate Director of PolicyLink. The session covered equity issues in New Hampshire, including an interactive session on applying equity considerations to place-based issues in New Hampshire. For more information about the workshop, please contact Rebeckah Bullock of Commission staff.

Broadband Sector Focus Group Meetings

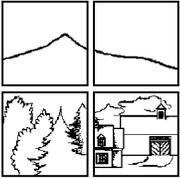
In an effort to better understand the needs for high speed internet in the Monadnock Region, SWRPC is conducting a series of focus group meetings with representatives from the following sectors: health/medical, business, public safety, local government, communications, and education. Staff will use information collected from these meetings in developing a regional broadband plan. The first meeting was held on November 1st with the communications sector. Future focus group meetings will be held throughout the month of November and into early December. For more information, or if you would like to be part of one of these groups, please contact Steve Waleryszak or Tara Germond of Commission staff.

Highlights Available on SWRPC Website

The Commission Highlights is now available as a PDF file on the SWRPC website. You will find the link for the newsletter under the *What's New at SWRPC?* section on the left side of the site as well as on the main newsletter page. Please feel free to copy the PDF file and email it to community members.

Hazard Mitigation Planning

During October, Commission staff began working with the Towns of New Ipswich and Frankestown to update their hazard mitigation plans. Meetings are open to the public and stakeholders are encouraged to participate. Plans have recently been completed for the towns of Stoddard, Nelson, Rindge, and Marlow. For more information, please contact Lisa Murphy of Commission staff.



Town of Marlborough Awarded CDBG Funding

A Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application submitted on behalf of the Town of Marlborough was approved by the NH CDBG Advisory Committee during their meeting of October 18th. The grant award will support Southwestern Community Services' effort to convert the vacant Marlborough School building at 23 School Street into 24 senior housing units for persons or households at or below 60% of the area Median Family Income. For more information, please contact Rebeckah Bullock of Commission staff.

Southwest Region Planning Commission

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