

SWRPC

Commission Highlights

April 2019

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2019 Annual Meeting

The Southwest Region Planning Commission's Annual Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 11, 2019 beginning at 5:00 p.m. in Norma Walker Hall at the Alumni Center at Keene State College. Our guest speaker is Melinda Treadwell, President, Keene State College. Announcements for the event have been distributed. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us. For more information, please contact Becky Baldwin of SWRPC staff.

Planning Vibrant Communities for All Ages: Community Conversations

SWRPC is hosting five focus group meetings throughout Southwest New Hampshire as part of an Age-Focused Planning project. Join us to discuss local issues concerning housing and transportation needs, economic opportunity and social engagement issues within your community. Information provided will be used to inform a regional report and individual assessments for each community in the region. We need to hear from people of all age groups to better assist towns in becoming livable for everyone. All meetings are from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Dates and locations are as follows:

- **Thursday, May 16** - Winchester Town Hall, 1 Richmond Road, Winchester
- **Wednesday, May 22** - Antrim Town Hall, 66 Main Street, Antrim
- **Thursday, May 30** - Whitcomb Hall, 17 Main Street, Swanzey
- **Monday, June 3** - Jaffrey Town Office, 10 Goodnow Street, Jaffrey
- **Wednesday, June 5** - Walpole Town Hall, 34 Elm Street, Walpole

For additional information about the project or the upcoming meetings, please contact Lisa Murphy of SWRPC staff.

Monadnock Broadband Group Discusses the "Chesterfield Model"

On April 22, 2019, SWRPC staff facilitated a meeting of the Monadnock Broadband Group, an informal coalition of municipal officials, practitioners and other stakeholders with interest in broadband issues in Southwest NH. The agenda featured a presentation by Brad Roscoe, who explained the Town of Chesterfield's experience and lessons learned relative to municipal bonding for pending broadband internet improvements. For more information about the Monadnock Broadband Group including presentations and handouts, please visit <http://www.swrpc.org/broadbandgroup> or contact Henry Underwood of SWRPC staff.

2021-2030 Ten Year Plan

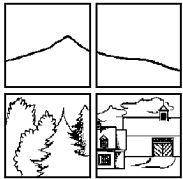
On April 1st, the SWRPC Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) completed developing recommendations for priority projects for the draft 2021-2030 Ten Year Transportation Plan (TYP) update, a process which occurs every two years. The process involved soliciting municipalities in the region for projects, reviewing and scoring applications, and then ranking projects with the benefit of feedback about costs and likely impacts provided by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT). Assuming level federal funding for the 2021-2030 time period, NHDOT has budgeted \$4.3 million for priority projects in the Southwest Region. Based on its assessment, the TAC recommended that the funds go towards an underfunded project already in the TYP, which involves improving mobility and access on the stretch of NH Route 10 (Winchester Street) in Keene from the NH 12/101 roundabout south to the Swanzey town line. In addition TAC has recommended that any remaining funds be assigned to another underfunded project in the TYP which involves improving sight distance and safety issues at the intersection of Swanzey Factory Road and NH Route 101, as well as improving mobility and access on NH 101 from the Otter Brook bridge to Branch Road in Keene. The SWRPC Board of Directors endorsed TAC's recommendation to be communicated with NHDOT. For more information, please contact J. B. Mack of SWRPC staff.

U. S. Census Participant Statistical Area Program

During April, SWRPC published an online map depicting current and proposed Census geographies in Southwest NH (<https://arcg.is/L9G5i>). The proposed areas are related to the upcoming 2020 Census and the Participant Statistical Area Program (PSAP), initiated as part of each decennial census. Throughout the U.S., regional planning agencies and counties are given the opportunity to review proposed and suggest additional changes to these delineations. Feedback will be provided to the Census Bureau in the coming weeks. For more information, visit the U. S. Census Bureau PSAP website at <https://bit.ly/2SICCr7> or contact Henry Underwood of SWRPC staff.

Water Infrastructure Mapping

SWRPC recently completed technical assistance to Antrim and Bennington in developing asset management plans related to drinking water infrastructure. Both towns were awarded funding by the NH Department of Environmental Services' Drinking Water & Groundwater Protection Bureau as part of an Asset Management Planning Grant. SWRPC assisted with identification of ongoing software and hardware needs, development of Geographic Information System templates for collecting data, creation of interactive maps, and training resources suitable for supporting routine edits and tasks. For more information, please contact Henry Underwood of SWRPC staff.



Community Development Block Grant Program

For towns and organizations thinking about applying for the July 2019 round of Housing and Public Facilities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding, now is the time to start the application process. Program funding is available to municipally-sponsored projects in January and July of each year. Eligible projects can receive grants of up to \$500,000 for infrastructure or housing projects with a direct benefit to low and moderate income individuals and families. CDBG funding is also available for municipally-sponsored economic development projects year-round on a first-come, first-served basis starting in January. Feasibility studies are also available for up to \$12,000. For more information, please visit www.nhcdfa.org or contact Rebeckah Bullock of SWRPC staff.

Southwest Region Planning Commission

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