

SWRPC

Commission Highlights

April 2020

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CDBG Coronavirus Funding Announced

As part of the federal CARES Act passed in late March, New Hampshire is receiving an additional \$5.4 million in federal Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funds. The NH Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA), which administers the state's CDBG program, is looking for feedback regarding the prioritization in the use of these funds. A public hearing is scheduled on **May 5th**, at 10:30 a.m. to provide an opportunity to comment on the use of new CDBG-CV and other federal funds as part of an update to the State's Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan. In addition, CDFA is accepting comments at (603) 226-2170 or comments@nhcdfa.org until the end of the day on May 4th. Information for attending the public hearing can be found at <https://www.nhhfa.org/draft-public-comment-period-virtual-public-hearing/>. Additional details on the current priority investment areas for CDBG-CV funds can be found at <https://nhcdfa.org/cdbg-and-cdbg-cv-care-act-update-april-2020/>. For more information on the CDBG program, please contact James Weatherly of SWRPC staff at jweatherly@swrpc.org.

CEDS Priority Nominations

SWRPC is currently accepting proposals for priority projects and programs to be considered for inclusion in the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Southwest New Hampshire (CEDS). The CEDS is a planning framework that aims to coordinate local economic development interests in a regional context. To be designated as priorities in the CEDS, projects and programs should appreciably contribute to the economy and demonstrate regional significance. Priority designation in the CEDS may improve eligibility for a variety of grant and other funding opportunities. Nominations from municipalities and other organizations are encouraged by **May 15, 2020** and can be submitted online at: <https://bit.ly/2y8ZsDj>. For more information about the CEDS, please visit the program webpage at http://swrpc.org/com_econ/ceds or contact Todd Horner of SWRPC staff at thorner@swrpc.org.

Transportation Center Feasibility Study Update

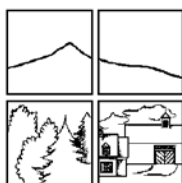
On April 28th, the Working Group for the Greater Keene Intermodal Transportation Center Feasibility Study met to discuss conceptual renderings, cost estimates and draft findings. In the coming weeks, SWRPC and the project consultant will prepare a draft report to be presented to the Working Group. A final report toward the end of June. In addition to findings and recommendations for next steps, the report will include conceptual design of a transportation center incorporating features such as parking, retail and office space, and public spaces. The report will also provide order of magnitude cost estimates and information about potential financing options. For more information about this project, visit <http://www.swrpc.org/ITC> or contact J. B. Mack of SWRPC staff at jbmack@swrpc.org.

2020 Census Outreach Toolkit

The 2020 Census Self-Response Rate Map (2020census.gov/en/response-rates) currently ranks New Hampshire's response rate as 28th in the nation. 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 motivate participation. For more information about the 2020 Census including these and other resources, 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.

MRCC Efforts to Improve Youth Transportation

The Monadnock Region Coordinating Council for Community Transportation (MRCC) recently hosted a Youth Transportation Forum. The goal of the forum was to gather stakeholders to discuss current transportation challenges facing youth and identify strategies to address them. Support for the event was provided by the National Center for Mobility Management (NCMM). Over 40 stakeholders interested in improving youth transportation in the region attended. National youth transportation expert, Judy Shanley, kicked-off the day with a presentation entitled *Supporting Youth Transportation: Multiple Purposes – Multiple Means*. Todd Horner of SWRPC and Renée Sangermano, Director of the Town of Jaffrey Parks & Recreation Department, presented the results of a community forum conducted for youth to voice their concerns and recommendations for improving youth transportation in the Jaffrey area. Attendees participated in various group discussions to identify challenges and opportunities to improve youth transportation, as well as short-, medium- and long-term strategies to address them. The results of these discussions were compiled and presented to the MRCC at its April 21st meeting. The MRCC concluded that the next stage should involve the convening of a youth transportation workgroup to take action on recommended strategies. For more information, please contact Terry Johnson of SWRPC staff at tjohnson@swrpc.org.



MAST 2020 Complete Streets Implementation Grant & Film Screening

The Monadnock Alliance for Sustainable Transportation (MAST) sponsored application for a 2020 complete streets implementation grant round is available at www.mastnh.org/2020-complete-streets-grant. Municipalities with an adopted complete streets policy are invited to submit applications through July 31, 2020 with notification of award(s) later in the calendar year. For more information, please contact Henry Underwood of SWRPC staff at hunderwood@swrpc.org. On **May 28th**, at 6:30 p.m., MAST will co-present a free, virtual film screening of the award-winning crowdsourced documentary entitled *Motherlode*. The film documents the story of a mother's quest to reconnect with the world – with a cargo bike. The film is rated PG, and there will be a 30-minute post-film discussion live with the filmmaker, Liz Canning, VBike Founder, Dave Cohen, and Keene State College Film Professor, Ted White. Registration details are available at www.moniff.org/events.

Southwest Region Planning Commission

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