



SWRPC

Commission Highlights

August 2019

Vol. 25 - No. 8

NH Ten Year Transportation Plan

Every two years, the Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) hosts public hearings throughout the State to present information and receive input as part of the Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan (TYP) update process. GACIT and NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT) gather input from the hearings in order to inform TYP recommendations to the Governor and Legislature. The newest draft TYP, which can be viewed at www.nh.gov/dot/org/projectdevelopment/planning/typ, contains information about the NHDOT anticipated transportation revenues for the period 2021-2030 as well as a listing of priority projects across the state. GACIT hearings scheduled in Southwest NH are as follows:

- **September 18th, 6:00 p.m., Peterborough Town Hall**, 1 Grove St.
- **October 15th, 6:00 p.m., Keene Parks and Recreation**, 312 Washington St., Room 14.

For more information about the current draft TYP or about the GACIT hearings, please contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff.

Spofford Lake Watershed Management Plan Implementation Project

SWRPC was recently awarded a grant by the NH Department of Environmental Services to conduct the first phase of implementation of the Spofford Lake Watershed Management Plan. Projects will include applying best management practices to multiple sites around the Lake that have been identified in the Plan as areas of erosion. The project will address approximately 11 sites using stormwater management strategies such as rain gardens, water bars, infiltration steps, and other methods. Staff will work closely with the Town of Chesterfield and the Spofford Lake Association to determine the priority sites and projects to be completed as part of the project. An outreach component will also be utilized to provide workshops for lake users and landowners. This two-year effort begins in the Fall 2019. For additional information, please contact Lisa Murphy of Commission staff.

Community Development Block Grant Listening Session

On August 21st, SWRPC staff attended a listening session held by the NH Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA) on the 2020 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Annual Action Plan at the Hannah Grimes Center in Keene. The CDBG program represents approximately \$8 million annually in federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds distributed through CDFA at the state level for housing, public facilities, emergency, economic development, and feasibility study projects. The listening session provided an opportunity for SWRPC, along with other stakeholders in the Monadnock region, to provide input on the future of the CDBG program. For more information, please contact Terry Johnson or James Weatherly of SWRPC staff.

SWRPC Receives Support to Provide Economic Development Planning Assistance

During August, SWRPC was notified of selection as a grant awardee to support economic development planning efforts. The grant will enable SWRPC to enhance services including, but not limited to developing or revising economic development chapters of local master plans; assisting municipalities in examining and revising land use regulations impacting economic development; helping identify and promote economic development opportunities; and assisting with establishing policies or processes that support local entrepreneurship. The grant program is administered by the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC), a federal-state partnership for economic and community development in areas of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York. Cheshire County was added to the NBRC service area in late 2018. For more information, please contact Todd Horner of SWRPC staff.

Federal Program Workshop

On August 14th SWRPC staff attended a federal program workshop hosted by Congresswoman Ann McLane Kuster at the Claremont Makerspace. The workshop focused on introducing organizations, communities and businesses to federal, state and local grant and loan program opportunities in support of community and economic development activities. The Claremont Makerspace was featured as a successful economic development project that drew on city, federal and state funding opportunities to get started and is now helping to anchor the economic and cultural revitalization of the City of Claremont. For more information, please contact Terry Johnson or James Weatherly of SWRPC staff.

NH Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan

The NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT) is working to improve and expand the walking and biking network through an update to the Statewide Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan. A public meeting and outreach event related to the update will be held in Keene on **September 17th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** at Heberton Hall (76 Winter Street). The event will assist NHDOT and its consultant in identifying places where people feel safe and unsafe to walk and ride, prioritize resources for improvements and share goals related to walking and biking. More information about the project, upcoming events, and other methods of providing input are available at <https://nhpedbikeplan.com>.



Plan for Ashuelot Rail Trail

On August 29th, the Project Advisory Committee for Plan for Ashuelot Rail Trail met to discuss project activities including analysis of an online trail user survey, mapping of existing trail conditions and trail user counts. The group also provided feedback on a draft vision, goals and objectives which will serve to guide development of other Plan elements. Plan for Ashuelot Rail Trail is an effort aimed at addressing challenges and opportunities along the 21.5-mile stretch of trail between Hinsdale and Keene. The Project Advisory Committee is a volunteer group of trail stakeholders formed to provide input and guidance to the effort. Work on the Plan will continue through the fall, and is expected to be complete by the end of the calendar year. For more information, visit www.swrpc.org/plan-for-ashuelot-rail-trail or contact Todd Horner or Henry Underwood of SWRPC staff.

Southwest Region Planning Commission

37 Ashuelot Street Keene, NH 03431 603-357-0557 www.swrpc.org

