



# SWRPC

## Commission Highlights

August 2020

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### 10-Year Transportation Improvement Plan

At its meeting on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, the SWRPC Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) finalized the project criteria weighting system that it will use in evaluating transportation project nominations for New Hampshire's 2023-2032 10-Year Transportation Improvement Plan (TYP). The TAC agreed on weights for fifteen different subcriteria ranging from a project's anticipated economic development impact, safety benefits, community support, etc. For more information about the project criteria and weights visit [www.swrpc.org/trans](http://www.swrpc.org/trans) and look under the Transportation Resources and Plans section. **TYP project nominations are due by September 4<sup>th</sup>.** For more information, please contact [J. B. Mack](mailto:jbmack@swrpc.org) of SWRPC staff.

### Preventing Childhood Lead Exposure

According to the [2018 Lead Exposure Data Brief for the Greater Monadnock Region](#), 85 children were identified with elevated lead levels. Between 2014-2018, Keene and Rindge were among the highest-risk communities in New Hampshire. SWRPC is partnering with the [Leadership Council for Healthy Monadnock](#) to implement strategies to reduce lead poisoning among children up to 6 years-old in the Monadnock Region. Key strategies include educating families, community service providers and public officials on prevention of lead exposure in homes and other child-occupied facilities and working with pediatricians to promote lead exposure screening as a routine part of a child's annual checkup. The project runs through June 30, 2021. For more information, please contact [Terry Johnson](mailto:tjohnson@swrpc.org) of SWRPC staff.

### 2020 Transportation Field Work Season

Through August, SWRPC's 2020 field research season is nearly complete. During the roughly 3-month effort, SWRPC submitted 140 traffic counts to the NH Department of Transportation Highway Performance Monitoring System, an annual program which tracks changes in traffic volume and composition through short-term studies. Information is available online through the Department's Transportation Data Management System at [nhdot.ms2soft.com](http://nhdot.ms2soft.com). In addition, SWRPC completed many other traffic studies to inform local roadway projects and issues. This fieldwork included data collection dedicated to freight, pedestrian and bicyclist use, turning movements at intersections and carpooling. SWRPC also made substantial use of the NH Statewide Asset Data Exchange System to collect location and condition information about culverts, stream crossings and sidewalks. For more information about SWRPC's fieldwork activities, please contact [Henry Underwood](mailto:hunderwood@swrpc.org) of SWRPC staff.

### Broadband Implementation Guide

During August, SWRPC released a working draft of the *Monadnock Broadband Implementation Guide*, an informational resource intended to help municipalities take proactive steps towards expanding broadband connectivity. The guide focuses specifically on the *Chesterfield Model*, an approach to broadband infrastructure development successfully implemented in the Town of Chesterfield that involves a public-private partnership between a municipality and internet service provider. SWRPC is currently seeking comments on the draft Guide from those familiar with broadband issues as well as local broadband champions just beginning to evaluate how to best expand broadband connectivity in their communities. Feedback is being solicited to improve the clarity and utility of the Guide which is available at <https://adobe.ly/2CV7LVr>. Comments can be submitted via the browser or by e-mail to Todd Horner at [thorner@swrpc.org](mailto:thorner@swrpc.org).

## Climate Change, Transportation and Energy

On August 18<sup>th</sup>, SWRPC Planner Todd Horner participated in a virtual screening of the documentary *2040* and a post-film panel discussion on the connections between transportation, energy and climate change. The film explored existing and emerging technologies that could prove critical for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and capturing carbon already in the atmosphere. It also presented a positive vision of what the year 2040 could look like if adoption of specific technologies were to become widespread. During the post-film discussion, panelists shared efforts underway in the Monadnock Region to mitigate climate change including advocacy for electric vehicle infrastructure, walking and bicycling, and community power aggregation which represents a new tool available to municipalities to reduce electricity costs while shifting production to cleaner energy sources. The event was organized by the Monadnock International Film Festival and the Monadnock Food Co-op. For more information please contact [Todd Horner](#) of SWRPC staff.



## Cheshire County Awarded CDBG Funding

On August 12<sup>th</sup>, a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application submitted on behalf of Cheshire County in the amount of \$427,365 was approved by the NH Community Development Finance Authority. Cheshire County will receive a CDBG on behalf of the Hannah Grimes Center for Entrepreneurship in Keene and the Regional Economic Development Center in Raymond to make micro-grants to small business in the Monadnock Region and across the state. Micro-grants are intended to assist very small businesses owned by low- to moderate-income entrepreneurs in transitioning their business in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information, please contact [James Weatherly](#) of SWRPC staff.

**Southwest Region Planning Commission**

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