



SWRPC

Commission Highlights

December 2018

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FCC Mobility Fund Phase II Challenge Process

On December 19th SWRPC facilitated a meeting of the Monadnock Broadband Group. The meeting featured updates from the NH Public Utilities Commission, on the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Mobility Fund Phase II Challenge, including a summary of data collected. The Process documented 4G LTE (or mobile broadband) speed test data throughout the State, including over 27,000 tests in the Monadnock Region) to "challenge" areas documented as served by major wireless providers including AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile, and Verizon Wireless. In total, the effort successfully challenged 321 square kilometers for consideration of eligibility for a portion of \$4.53 billion in federal support available nationwide to expand 4G service. In an effort to make the data more available, SWRPC has created an online interactive map to make the speed test data more accessible and available for review. For more background on the FCC Challenge, visit www.swrpc.org/mf2. The interactive map can be viewed at <https://arcg.is/09vHS0>. For more information, please contact Henry Underwood of Commission staff.

Projects Selected for Engineering Review

During its December 3rd meeting, the SWRPC Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) reviewed and discussed several transportation projects to prioritize them for the purpose of preliminary engineering review by the NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT). These activities are part of the process for developing updates to the 2021-2030 10-Year Transportation Improvement Program (TYP). Four projects designed to improve safety and mobility were identified by TAC as appropriate for engineering review. The projects selected are along a section of NH Rt. 10 referred to as Manning Hill Road in Winchester and three projects in Keene - on NH 10/Winchester Street between the NH 10/12/101 roundabout and the Swanzey town line; on NH 101 from the Stone Arch Bridge to the Marlborough town line, and on West Street from School Street to the NH 9/10/12 interchange. The results of engineering review will help inform the TAC in its process of prioritizing projects for the TYP update in Spring 2019. For more information, please contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff.

CDBG Project Completed

During December, SWRPC staff assisted the City of Keene in completing a project under the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The project involved support in the amount of \$455,000 in CDBG funds for leasehold improvements on the third floor of the United Church of Christ located at 23 Central Square in Keene. The project allowed MAPS Counseling Services (MAPS) to relocate its operations to a more functional space. The project includes leasehold improvements, professional fees, moving costs, and furniture and equipment costs. MAPS provide out-patient mental health services in Cheshire County and serves more than 400 clients annually through its Keene office, the majority of whom are low to moderate income individuals. For more information, please contact Rebeckah Bullock of Commission staff.

Hinsdale Brattleboro Bridge Project Advisory Committee Update

The Hinsdale Brattleboro Bridge Project Advisory Committee (PAC) met recently and received an update from the NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT) on project #12210C to construct a new bridge across the Connecticut River. NHDOT officials reported that a pending BUILD (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development) discretionary grant application that would help finance the project has not yet been announced by the Federal Highway Administration. However, they also indicated that the project remains on schedule, and NHDOT plans to solicit contractor bids in September 2019. In addition, NHDOT and SWRPC provided updates on bridge lighting, outlooks and interpretive signage, which remain some of the final design components of the bridge that will need to be addressed during 2019. For more information, please contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff.

Transportation Alternatives Program

At its December 3rd meeting, the SWRPC Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) completed its review of applications under the federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). TAP is designed to improve mobility and access for non-motorized modes of transportation including pedestrians and bicyclists. Applications were submitted by the towns of Hinsdale, Jaffrey, New Ipswich and Swanzey and the City of Keene under the 2018 TAP round. In its review of proposals, the TAC determined that there were several quality applications and, after considering established criteria and other factors, selected the Jaffrey project which involves improving bicycle and pedestrian access on US 202 (Peterborough Road) and Stratton Road. The results of the TAC's review and rankings were provided to the NH Department of Transportation for further review. For more information, please contact Todd Horner of Commission staff.



MAST 2019 Focus Area Survey

During December, the Monadnock Alliance for Sustainable Transportation (MAST) launched its 2019 Focus Areas Survey. The purpose of the survey is to rank up to five focus areas, based on the 2012-2020 MAST Action Plan, to inform on-going activities for 2019. The survey is available at www.surveymonkey.com/r/5PHRFTR and should take only a few minutes to complete. In related news, notable accomplishments for 2018 include conducting a complete streets implementation grant round and Bicycle Friendly Business designation by the Keene Family YMCA and Monadnock Food Co-op (the 2nd and 3rd businesses in NH to receive this designation). For more information, visit www.mastnh.org/ and www.facebook.com/MASTNH; or, please contact Henry Underwood of Commission Staff.

Southwest Region Planning Commission

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