

# SWRPC

December 2020

## Commission Highlights

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### Promoting the Monadnock Region

The *Promoting the Region* (PTR) initiative, led by the Greater Keene Chamber of Commerce and other regional partners, is designed to create a sustained branding and marketing campaign to attract and retain visitors, residents, workers, and students to Southwest New Hampshire. During December SWRPC submitted a report representing technical assistance to the effort. Findings, recommendations and metrics were compiled to assist the PTR management team define campaign success, identify different approaches to measuring progress and communicate that progress to stakeholders. For more information, please contact [Todd Horner](#) of SWRPC staff.

### Monadnock Regional Coordinating Council Update

The NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT), Bureau of Rail & Transit recently announced that it is seeking proposals for the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Section 5305(e) State Planning and Research Program for planning and technical studies of public transportation systems. Proposals are due February 2, 2021. This represents an opportunity to secure resources to assist in implementing priority projects in the [2018 Coordinated Community Transportation Plan for the Monadnock Region](#). SWRPC has reached out to members of the Monadnock Regional Coordinating Council (MRCC) for input. Additionally, in early January it is anticipated that NHDOT will announce the availability of additional funding from the FTA Section 5310 *Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities* program for the State's Regional Coordinating Councils to support coordinated transportation services in their regions. The MRCC will be discussing the opportunity during its regularly scheduled meeting scheduled for January 19, 2021. For more information, please contact [Terry Johnson](#) of SWRPC staff.

### Complete Streets Implementation Grants

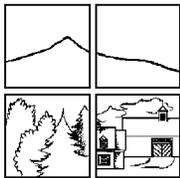
The Monadnock Alliance for Sustainable Transportation (MAST) recently announced awards to Harrisville, Keene, Swanzey, and Troy through its 2020 Monadnock Region Complete Streets Implementation Grant ([www.mastnh.org/2020-complete-streets-grant](http://www.mastnh.org/2020-complete-streets-grant)). All projects are planned to be completed by the end of the 2021 calendar year. To be eligible, a municipality must have an adopted complete streets policy – designed to promote safety and accessibility for all users regardless of how they choose to travel. For more information, please contact [Henry Underwood](#) of SWRPC staff. To learn more about MAST, visit [www.mastnh.org](http://www.mastnh.org) and [www.facebook.com/MASTNH](https://www.facebook.com/MASTNH).

### Community Development Block Grant Update

During December, SWRPC staff assisted the Town of Peterborough in completing a federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project. Grant funds were subgranted to the Monadnock Economic Development Corporation for the purpose of making a loan to Nuttin' Ordinary, LLC., New England's first cashew cheese manufacturer, which operates a manufacturing facility located at 49 Vose Farm Road in Peterborough. As a result of the project, Nuttin' Ordinary increased their manufacturing capacity to provide a line of products to major grocery store chains throughout the Northeast and created six new jobs, five of which were filled by persons with low- to moderate-incomes. For more information, please contact [James Weatherly](#) of SWRPC staff.

## Energy and Natural Resources Advisory Committee Update

On December 15<sup>th</sup> SWRPC's Energy and Natural Resources Advisory Committee (ENRAC) met with a focus on watershed planning projects currently underway and opportunities for new projects. Joining in the discussion were Tracie Sales and Jeff Marcoux of the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) along with Bayard Tracy, President of the Spofford Lake Association. SWRPC is in its second year of a project to implement best management practices for stormwater management at several locations within the Spofford Lake watershed. Some of the sites have already completed projects to reduce the amount of stormwater from entering the lake while others will be completing projects in 2021. SWRPC will soon begin a project in Alstead to implement actions identified in the Lake Warren Watershed Management Plan. In addition, a presentation was given by Francie Von Mertens, ENRAC member from Peterborough, introducing the recently published [Nature Almanac and Calendar](#). For more information, please contact [Lisa Murphy](#) of SWRPC staff.



## Cheshire Rail Trail South Planning Project

On December 1<sup>st</sup>, SWRPC staff facilitated the first meeting of the Cheshire Rail Trail South Planning Project Working Group. As the “kick off” meeting for the project, the agenda featured introductions from trail stakeholders, organizations and municipalities; a discussion about priority needs; and a review of the project scope and timeline. Later this winter, the Working Group will review the results of data collection activities and continue the development of goals, objectives, strategies, and projects. SWRPC is currently promoting a 5-minute survey to gather information as well as perceptions regarding the trail which can be found at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/9PZM3SK](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9PZM3SK). This spring, the Working Group will present a vision and 10-year plan for the trail to better inform volunteer groups, local governments as well as regional and statewide transportation planning efforts. For more information, please visit the project webpage ([www.swrpc.org/cheshire-rail-trail-south](http://www.swrpc.org/cheshire-rail-trail-south)) or contact [Henry Underwood](#) of SWRPC staff.

## Southwest Region Planning Commission

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