

# SWRPC

## Commission Highlights

February 2019

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### Age-Focused Planning Input Sessions

SWRPC is hosting two upcoming focus group meetings as part of an Age-Focused Planning project. These sessions are open to all. Information shared will help inform the relationships transportation and housing have with quality of life across the age spectrum in Southwest New Hampshire.

Transportation for All Ages: **March 7<sup>th</sup>** from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. at the Cheshire Medical Center, Auditorium A & B at 580 Court Street in Keene.

Housing in the Monadnock Region: **March 14<sup>th</sup>** from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. at Southwestern Community Services, Railroad Square Conference Room located at 49 Community Way in Keene.

These events are free, but registration is appreciated. Please email [lmurphy@swrpc.org](mailto:lmurphy@swrpc.org) or call 357-0557. For additional information, please visit [www.swrpc.org/age-focused](http://www.swrpc.org/age-focused) or [www.facebook.com/SouthwestRPC](http://www.facebook.com/SouthwestRPC).

### Informational Session on the Northern Border Regional Commission

An informational session on the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) is scheduled for **March 11<sup>th</sup>** from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Delegation Room at the Historic Cheshire County Courthouse located at 12 Court Street in Keene. Cheshire County was recently added to the NBRC service area as part of the federal Farm Bill. NBRC is a federal-state partnership for economic and community development in the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York. Each year, the NBRC provides federal funds for critical economic and community development projects throughout its service area. In 2018, NBRC-supported projects in New Hampshire include development of a fiber-optic broadband internet network, construction of a trail for non-motorized users, creation of a workforce training program, enhancement of recreational public space, and more. At the informational session, attendees will learn more about NBRC and the funding opportunities it now offers Cheshire County municipalities and non-profit organizations. The application process for the 2019 funding round will also be discussed. In the event of inclement weather, a snow date has been targeted for March 13<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the same location. For more information, please contact Todd Horner of SWRPC staff.

### Kickoff Meeting with Intermodal Transportation Center Feasibility Study Working Group

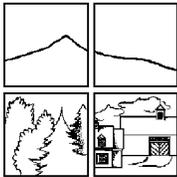
On February 11<sup>th</sup>, SWRPC convened the first meeting of a newly formed working group to support an Intermodal Transportation Center (ITC) Feasibility Study. The purpose of an ITC is that of a centralized hub location to connect various modes of transportation for a larger region. The four-phase study, which began in June 2018, seeks to determine the value of establishing an intermodal transportation center in the Greater Keene area and the feasibility of constructing such a center. The Working Group will provide guidance and community perspective to SWRPC and a project consultant. For more information about the ITC Feasibility Study, please contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff.

### New Hampshire Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan

In February, the NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT) consultant Alta Planning + Design announced a dedicated website to support an update to NHDOT's Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan. The website will play a critical role in the development of this Plan by hosting a 16-question survey, interactive map, and documents about the effort. The planning team hopes to see hundreds of surveys from this region in addition to comments about difficult intersections and challenging corridors for walking and biking through an interactive map tool. For more information, visit [nhpedbikeplan.com](http://nhpedbikeplan.com) or contact Henry Underwood of Commission staff.

## Support for Transportation Services

The Monadnock Region Coordinating Council for Community Transportation (MRCC) met on February 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> to develop a proposal to the Federal Transit Administration to provide transportation services to seniors and people with disabilities in the region for the year beginning in July 2019. The \$163,333 apportionment to the Monadnock Region would support the operation of a weekly shuttle from Keene to Upper Valley region hospitals, two senior grocery shopping shuttles (one serving Keene, Swanzey and Marlborough senior housing and one serving Jaffrey and Peterborough senior housing), and two volunteer driver programs. The latter includes a newly funded program that would reimburse volunteer drivers for transporting seniors to the Keene Senior Center. The funding would also support Community Volunteer Transportation Company in overseeing transportation coordination services among various transportation providers and other transportation stakeholders. For more information, contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff.



## Climate and Health Plan of Action

In February, a plan of action was completed to address potential health risks during extreme precipitation events with increased emergency preparedness knowledge and skills. The Plan was developed by SWRPC with assistance from Antioch University New England in partnership with the Monadnock Public Health Advisory Council. The Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE) initiative will work toward implementation of the Plan during 2019 and beyond with support from the NH Department of Health and Human Services Climate and Health Program as well as regional partners. For more information about the BRACE project, visit [www.swrpc.org/brace](http://www.swrpc.org/brace) or contact Henry Underwood of Commission staff. Further information about other regional health improvement initiatives is available within the “Resources” section of [healthymonadnock.org](http://healthymonadnock.org).

**Southwest Region Planning Commission**

37 Ashuelot Street Keene, NH 03431 603-357-0557 [www.swrpc.org](http://www.swrpc.org)

