



# SWRPC

## Commission Highlights

December 2014

Vol. 20 - No. 12

### **Internet Speed Test Pilot Project**

Commission staff in partnership with the Southwest Region Broadband Stakeholder Group and the Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD) undertook a pilot project to better understand the residential availability of Internet in the MRSD area. During the month of December, staff worked with MRSD's five elementary schools to distribute a take-home assignment that encouraged students to conduct broadband speed tests from their place of residence. A total of 161 students completed the assignment. Of this total, 13% of students indicated that they did not have Internet at home. Average download and upload Internet speeds recorded by students that completed the assignment were 8.7 megabits per second and 2.0 megabits per second, respectively.

The results of this effort will help inform school administrators and teachers in the District, who are increasingly employing the Internet in their instruction. The research will also build on a coordinated state-wide mapping effort overseen by the University of New Hampshire's Broadband Mapping & Planning Program and will help increase the understanding of broadband availability in the Southwest Region. Staff hope to continue this project with the Monadnock Regional High School and Middle School in early 2015. To take the broadband speed test visit: [www.iwantbroadbandnh.com/speedtest](http://www.iwantbroadbandnh.com/speedtest). For more information on this project, please contact Tara Germond or Henry Underwood of Commission staff.

### **Traffic Research Season Wraps Up**

SWRPC completed its traffic research season in December 2014 and will not resume data collection until spring of 2015. This past season involved the collection of 173 vehicle traffic counts, 21 multiuse trail/bicycle traffic counts, 14 ridesharing surveys, 10 intersection turning movement counts, and 1 automated pedestrian count. Raw vehicle traffic data is submitted to the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NH DOT) Traffic Bureau which uses it to formulate average annual daily traffic values at traffic counting locations throughout the Region. NH DOT will post the 2014 data results in early to mid 2015. The new and older data will be available for viewing through SWRPC's traffic count webpage portal: [http://www.swrpc.org/trans/traffic\\_counts](http://www.swrpc.org/trans/traffic_counts). SWRPC is using other data collected this year to inform ongoing transportation planning activities including the Long Range Transportation Plan. For more information, please contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff.

### **Town of Richmond Awarded CDBG Funding**

A Community Development Block Grant application submitted on behalf of the Town of Richmond was approved by the NH Community Development Finance Authority on December 11, 2014. The Town of Richmond will receive a Planning Study Community Development Block Grant to investigate the redevelopment needs of the Four Corners Site in Richmond. For more information, please contact [Rebeckah Bullock](#) of Commission staff.

### **Brownfields Advisory Committee Activities**

SWRPC's Brownfields Advisory Committee (BrAC) met on December 18, 2014, following the award of a new \$400,000 Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields Assessment Grant in October 2014 and the completion of a procurement process for environmental consultant subcontractors. During the meeting, the BrAC conditionally accepted the nomination of a site at 797 Marlborough Road in Keene as well as a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment scope of work on the property. The property is currently being examined by Monadnock Economic Development Corporation as a potential site for developing a new Cheshire County Nursing Home facility using New Market Tax Credits and other financing tools. The property is one of the few remaining large parcels available in the City that is eligible for New Market Tax Credits. For more information, please contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff.

## Local Mapping Projects

In December, Planning Commission staff completed a tax map update for the Town of Sullivan and started work on a similar project for the Town of New Ipswich. Staff also started work on maps depicting conserved lands for the Town of Jaffrey Conservation Commission, including both large format and foldable sizes. In addition to these activities, staff have been active with mapping projects including fluvial erosion hazard areas and stream crossings in the Piscataquoq and Souhegan river watersheds, transportation and environmental mapping to support the Route 12 South Corridor Study, Greenfield and Chesterfield master plan updates, and hazard mitigation plan updates for Marlborough and Hinsdale. For more information about these projects, or to discuss upcoming mapping needs in your community, please contact Henry Underwood of Commission staff.



## Congratulations to the Town of Peterborough!

The Town of Peterborough has been recognized as a leader in the country for their commitment and contribution to help the advancement of the development of the country's green power market. On December 3, 2014, the town was presented an award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Peterborough was one of only nine organizations in the country to receive this award which recognizes leaders in the purchasing of green power such as wind, solar, geothermal, biogas, eligible biomass, and low-impact hydro power. Peterborough combined its purchasing power with other nearby towns and local organizations to make the green power purchase more cost effective. The towns and organizations that contributed purchasing efforts include: Dublin, Frankestown, Jaffrey, Rindge, Swanzey, Temple, SAU 47, and the Monadnock Economic Development Corporation. Peterborough purchases enough green power to meet 100% of the Town's electric needs.

## Southwest Region Planning Commission

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

