



SWRPC

Commission Highlights

December 2016

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MAST 2017 Annual Meeting

The Monadnock Alliance for Sustainable Transportation (MAST) will hold its annual meeting on January 18, 2017 from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. at the HCS conference room located on Marlboro Street in Keene. The program will include an update on efforts to promote sustainable transportation options and is open to the public. For more information visit www.MASTNH.org or to RSVP, please contact Mari Brunner of Commission staff.

Air Quality Workshop

On December 7, 2016, the Greater Keene Air Quality Education and Outreach Campaign Partners hosted a workshop on small particle air pollution at Keene State College (KSC). Attendees learned about small particle air pollution and its associated health and environmental impacts, air quality forecasts, and how to burn wood safely and efficiently. Presenters included Dr. Nora Traviss, environmental studies faculty member at KSC and Sherry Godlewski, Environmental Program Manager, NH Department of Environmental Services. For more information, please visit www.swrpc.org/airquality or contact Henry Underwood of Commission staff.

Regional Transportation Improvement Program

On December 13th the SWRPC Board of Directors adopted a Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) for Southwest New Hampshire. The RTIP which is updated on an annual basis, is included within *Southwest Connects: Southwest Region Transportation Plan* and identifies priority transportation projects and initiatives in Southwest NH. In order to view the newly adopted RTIP, please visit <http://swrpc.org/files/RTIP.pdf>. To learn more about the RTIP, please contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff.

Carsharing in the Monadnock Region

The Monadnock Alliance for Sustainable Transportation (MAST) has released a new report entitled *Carsharing: An Alternative to Private Vehicle Ownership*, which includes background information about carsharing, three detailed case studies, and recommended next steps for determining the feasibility of carsharing in the Monadnock Region. Carsharing is a transportation option that offers the benefits of having access to a car without the cost or obligations associated with private ownership. Carsharing can increase choices and options for transportation in an area. To learn more or to access the report, please visit www.MASTNH.org or contact Mari Brunner of Commission staff.

Local Master Plan Updates

SWRPC is assisting several towns in the region with updates to their master plans. The towns of Greenfield, Greenville, and Stoddard are currently working on chapters to maintain a more recent reflection of the plans for their communities. For more information about master plan updates, please contact Lisa Murphy of Commission staff.

Community Development Block Grant Training

On December 15, 2016 SWRPC staff attended a training hosted by the NH Community Development Finance Authority on the HUD Environmental Review process. Topics covered included an overview of the exempt, categorical exclusion, environmental assessment review processes, appropriate steps to be taken to conduct the reviews, and an overview of resources available to assist in the review process. For more information about the training or the CDBG program, please contact Rebeckah Bullock or Raul Gonzalez of Commission staff.

SWRPC Applies for Additional Brownfields Support

During the month of December, Commission staff applied for \$400,000 in additional funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to support the ongoing Brownfields Assessment Program for Southwest New Hampshire. The program assists project partners, such as our member towns, to conduct environmental assessments on privately or publicly owned vacant and/or underutilized parcels with real or perceived contamination. Such assessments help in defining whether contamination exists and if so, the most cost and environmentally effective way to address the situation. This is often one of the first steps to bringing underutilized properties back to productive use. Since its inception, the program has facilitated 4 brand new community institutions, over 40 new housing units, over 150 new jobs, and acres of new office and commercial space. For more information about the Brownfields Assessment Program, please contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff.



Hazard Mitigation Plan Updates

SWRPC has begun working with the towns of Gilsum, Harrisville, and Winchester to update their hazard mitigation plans. An update is required every five years to remain eligible for assistance in the event of federal disaster declarations. In conducting the updates, SWRPC staff conducts a series of meetings with local officials. These meetings are posted on SWRPC's website (www.swrpc.org) under *Upcoming Events* and are open to the public. The Commission recently completed updates for the towns of Antrim, Chesterfield, Richmond, Sharon, Surry, Sullivan, Swanzey, Westmoreland, and Windsor. For additional information, please contact Lisa Murphy of Commission staff.

Southwest Region Planning Commission

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