



SWRPC

Commission Highlights

June 2015

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2015 Annual Commission Meeting

The Planning Commission held its 2015 Annual Commission Meeting on June 16, 2015 at Keene State College. The event included the approval of the Commission's work program budget as well as the election of directors and officers for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015. For more information, please contact Becky Baldwin of Commission staff.

Daytime Population Estimates Developed for Region's Largest Communities

"Daytime population" is a concept that refers to the number of people who are present in an area during the daytime hours. This is in contrast to the "resident" population, which refers to people who reside in a given area and are typically present during the evening and nighttime hours. Information on the expansion or contraction of community populations during the course of the day can be utilized for various purposes ranging from disaster response planning, to economic development planning, to gauging the amount of pressure placed on local infrastructure to determine unmet development needs. Typically, the data source used for this information today is based on U.S. Census data on residents and workers. Unfortunately, this data does not account for the other trips that people may make on a daily or occasional basis when people commute to school, access services or go shopping. Using our vehicle traffic counting equipment, SWRPC has developed some new estimates which are designed to be more representative of daytime population. Daytime population ranges are presented in a report for our five largest member communities including Keene, Swanzey, Peterborough, Jaffrey and New Ipswich. For the estimates and daytime population estimate methodology, please look for the report on our www.swrpc.org/trans page or contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff.

Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

The Planning Commission will soon begin working with several communities within the Southwest Region to update their hazard mitigation plans. Meetings in the towns of Chesterfield, Richmond and Swanzey will begin in July and August. Other communities within this round of updates will begin later this year and include the towns of Antrim, Sharon, Sullivan, Surry, Westmoreland, and Windsor. These meetings are open to the public and neighboring communities are encouraged to participate in the planning process. For more information, please contact Lisa Murphy of Commission staff.

Bike Map Completed and New Bikeway Signs Planned for Hinsdale

The Planning Commission recently completed a project in conjunction with the Franklin Region Council of Governments and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission in MA and the Windham Regional Commission in VT to develop a print and on-line bicycle facility map and install a wayfinding sign system in the tri-state area of the Connecticut River Scenic Byway. The Connecticut River Byway is a nationally recognized and registered Scenic Byway that was developed several years ago to attract visitors to the unique scenic, natural, recreational, historical and cultural resources of the Connecticut River Byway area. This project is intended to impart Byway travelers with a greater knowledge of the bicycling resources that exist in this multi-state area. Wayfinding signs are scheduled to be installed throughout the tri-state area including NH 119 and NH 63 in Hinsdale. Maps are available at the SWRPC office and an on-line map is currently located at <http://frcog.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Connecticut-River-Byway-Bike-Map.pdf>. For more information, please contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff.

North Walpole Village Inventory of Pedestrian Facilities

Through a statewide initiative to support uniform data collection standards, the Planning Commission performed an inventory of sidewalks, crosswalks, and curb ramps in North Walpole Village. The guide, which was developed through a partnership between New Hampshire Department of Safety, New Hampshire Department of Transportation, UNH Technology Transfer Center, and NH Regional Planning Commissions, was accompanied by a formal training session in early June. The data will undergo quality assurance and control measures and will then be prepared for distribution to interested parties through three outlets: a web application, a web mapping service, and direct download portal. In North Walpole Village, 6 crosswalks, 27 curb ramps, and 62 segments of sidewalk totaling over 4 miles were assessed using a field of attributes including their dimensions, slope, condition, accessibility concerns, and many other aspects. The data will inform maintenance consideration, improvements to address gaps in connectivity, and document the full extent of pedestrian facilities in the village area. As an early participant in this initiative, the Commission has provided valuable feedback to improve the usefulness of the data and the collection process. For questions about the Statewide Asset Data Exchange System pedestrian assessments, please contact Henry Underwood of Commission staff.



CDBG Application Awarded Funding

A Community Development Block Grant application submitted on behalf of the Town of Winchester was approved by the NH Community Development Finance Authority on June 4th. The Town of Winchester will receive a Planning/Feasibility Study Community Development Block Grant to investigate the water infrastructure needs of the Jones Road neighborhood. The Town will use the funds to secure a firm to conduct the study and determine the feasibility of a future implementation grant. SWRPC will act as grant administrator on the Town's behalf. For more information, please contact Rebeckah Bullock of Commission staff.

Southwest Region Planning Commission

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