

SWRPC

Commission Highlights

September 2014

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2014 Fall Commission Meeting

The Planning Commission's 2014 Fall Meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, **October 21st** at The Inn at East Hill Farm in Troy, NH. The event will be focused on a presentation of the Monadnock Region Future document which is the result of a multi-year effort to create a comprehensive plan for Southwest New Hampshire. For additional information or to register, please contact Becky Baldwin or Wendy Woodland of Commission staff.

MRTMA Wraps Up "Rack It Up!" Program

The Monadnock Region Transportation Management Association, for which SWRPC provides programmatic and technical assistance, wrapped up the pilot round of its bicycle rack cost-sharing program "Rack It Up!" this September. The program used funding from a New Hampshire Charitable Foundation (NHCF) grant to leverage private interest and additional funds to acquire and site new bicycle racks that provide 90 new bicycle parking spaces for customers, employees and residents throughout the City. The program was introduced to increase convenience and acceptance of bicycling as a form of transportation and tackle some of the City's goals to increase multimodal transport options, reduce need for new vehicle parking infrastructure, increase community health by encouraging more physical activity, and reduce transport sector greenhouse gas emissions. If you are interested in emulating this program in your community, please J. B. Mack of Commission staff.

Emergency Operations Planning

SWRPC staff is available to assist towns in creating and updating Local Emergency Operations Plans. The State of New Hampshire through the NH Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (NH HSEM) offers a grant program which allows towns to gain assistance in creating and/or updating their Local Emergency Operations Plans at no monetary cost to the town. SWRPC staff has completed the latest Local Emergency Operations Plan training recommended by NH HSEM and is qualified to assist towns with their plans. This training involved the completion of FEMA courses covering the National Incident Management System, the National Response Framework, the Incident Command System (ICS), and ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents. SWRPC staff also participated in a NH HSEM training session covering Local Emergency Operations Plan creation and update processes. For more information, please contact Rebeckah Bullock of Commission staff.

Public Informational Meeting - VT Yankee Closure

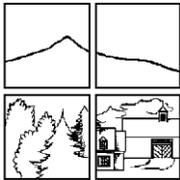
A public informational meeting regarding the Vermont Yankee closure will take place at 6:30 p.m. on October 23, 2014. The meeting will be held at the Hinsdale middle/High School located at 49 School Street in Hinsdale.

Planners as Broadband Champions Seminar

SWRPC staff attended a conference on September 16, 2014 that featured a day-long seminar on broadband planning. The session, led by Kate McMahon of Applied Communications was co-sponsored by Broadband Communities Magazine and the American Planning Association Technology Division. State, regional, and local planners, as well as broadband infrastructure experts discussed the critical role of broadband infrastructure for communities of all sizes. Presenters described opportunities for planners and officials to promote broadband through comprehensive plans and regulatory processes, discussed code and regulatory considerations, broadband adoption, and a number of case studies. As a rural area with low population density and challenging terrain, high-quality and affordable broadband has been slow to develop in Southwest NH. Educational opportunities like this one highlight successful strategies and resources to address these challenges and barriers to improved infrastructure. For more information, please contact Henry Underwood of Commission staff.

NH Route 12 South Corridor Study Community Meetings

During the month of September, Commission staff began meeting with the five communities that are involved in the NH Route 12 Corridor Study that began in 2013. The corridor runs from Route 101 south to the Massachusetts state line. Meetings have taken place with town officials from Troy and Fitzwilliam and are scheduled for October 9th in Swanzey and October 22nd in Marlborough. A meeting is also being scheduled with the City of Keene Planning Board. Information and recommendations are being provided to the individual communities based on the results of a combined analysis of transportation and land use data that was collected to determine the future needs of the corridor. For more information, please contact Lisa Murphy of Commission staff.



Keene City Express Proposes Route Changes

The Keene City Express held a public hearing on September 29th at Stone Arch Village in Keene to share information and receive public comment on proposed changes to its bus route and schedule. The proposed modifications are based on input received from riders and the general public over the past year. Some of the recommended changes to the City Express' Red Route (Bus #5) include adding a stop at the Kohl's Plaza on West Street and adding a stop at a proposed turn-around at the entrance to the Keene Family YMCA on Summit Road. In order to make time for these additions, the stop at Harper Acres on the Red Route will be discontinued. However, the stop at Harper Acres on the Black Route will continue. Changes to the Black Route (Bus #1) include, relocating the Winter Street stop at the Keene Public Library to West Street. New schedules and route information as well as the date these changes will take place will be posted in all buses, on the City Express' Facebook page (www.facebook.com/cityexpresskeene), and on www.hcsservices.org/transportation.

Southwest Region Planning Commission

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