



SWRPC

Commission Highlights

January 2020

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2020 Winter Meeting

The Southwest Region Planning Commission's Winter Meeting is scheduled for February 18th and will feature a panel discussion on *Addressing Opioid Addiction in the Monadnock Region: Challenges for Communities*. The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. in North Conference Room 1, Cheshire Medical Center/Dartmouth-Hitchcock, located at 580 Court Street, Keene. Please join us for an informative session about this important issue. For more information or to register, please contact Rich Clough of SWRPC staff at admin@swrpc.org.

Transportation Center Feasibility Study Open House

On February 4th, SWRPC will host an open house presenting information from a study to assess the feasibility of an intermodal transportation center from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (presentation and discussion from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.) at the Keene Public Library located at 60 Winter Street. The objectives of the study are to: evaluate the transportation needs of Greater Keene and the Monadnock Region; examine whether an intermodal transportation center might help address those needs; explore what such a center might potentially look like, including its features, location and potential cost. Project posters will be on display in the atrium of the Library from January 28th through February 4th. The posters will illustrate how different scenarios of future growth in the Greater Keene area could affect the built environment, transportation options and design of a transportation center. SWRPC staff will be available on-site for informal discussion about the study on February 4th, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. A presentation will follow from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the library auditorium, located in the basement. For more information please contact Todd Horner or J. B. Mack of SWRPC staff at thorner@swrpc.org or jbmack@swrpc.org or visit the project homepage at www.swrpc.org/ITC.

Monadnock Vital Economies

SWRPC is currently seeking proposals as part of a new program intended to provide member municipalities technical assistance with economic development planning. *Monadnock Vital Economies* can assist in moving toward improving local employment opportunities or attracting new businesses as well as broader issues related to economic well-being such as expanding housing options, increasing broadband access, or enhancing community amenities. Specific projects supported through this program might include developing an economic development chapter in a local master plan, evaluating how zoning revisions could encourage economic activity, consideration of tax incentives designed to attract development, and improving promotional efforts. To learn more please visit www.swrpc.org/vitaleconomies which includes an online project proposal form. It is recommended that those interested in proposing projects contact Todd Horner of SWRPC staff at thorner@swrpc.org to discuss project eligibility. Proposals will be reviewed on a rolling basis, but for full consideration, should be submitted by **February 28, 2020**.

Youth Transportation Meeting

On March 6th, the Monadnock Regional Coordinating Council for Community Transportation (MRCC) will host a day-long meeting on building an innovative, coordinated and resilient youth transportation network in the Monadnock Region. The meeting will be facilitated by a youth transportation expert from the National Center for Mobility Management. Increasing capacity to provide youth transportation is identified as a priority project in the MRCC's [Coordinated Community Transportation Plan](#). The goal of the meeting is to strengthen the region's youth transportation network by mobilizing collective action. This can be done through increased awareness and understanding of youth transportation challenges and identifying the opportunities to address them. SWRPC will soon announce the opening of registrations for the meeting. For those interested in attending or learning more about the event, please contact Terry Johnson or Todd Horner of SWRPC staff at tjohnson@swrpc.org or thorner@swrpc.org.

Community Development Block Grant Applications

During January, SWRPC staff assisted in the preparation and submission of two applications under the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, summarized as follows:

- Sponsored by the City of Keene, the Community Kitchen is applying for \$500,000 in CDBG funds for a \$625,000 project. The Community Kitchen proposes improvements to their facility located at 37 Mechanic Street in Keene. The Community Kitchen provides meals and programs to low- and moderate-income residents of the Monadnock Region.
- Sponsored by Cheshire County, Keene Housing Authority is applying for \$500,000 in CDBG funds as part of a \$1.3 million total project to rehabilitate the Bennett Block building located on Washington Street adjacent to Central Square in Keene. The project proposes substantial renovations to 14 apartments for low- and moderate-income households.

These applications will be considered under the current round of New Hampshire's CDBG program, with awards scheduled to be announced in Spring of 2020. For more information, please contact James Weatherly of SWRPC staff at jweatherly@swrpc.org.



Plan for Ashuelot Rail Trail

During January, *The Plan for Ashuelot Rail Trail* was completed. SWRPC provided technical assistance in the collaboration of several communities and organizations to produce this document focused on the management and use of the trail over the next ten years. Through informed planning, the Ashuelot Rail Trail can reach its full potential as a well-maintained, scenic, convenient, and welcoming corridor. The Plan includes clear objectives, technical analyses, an interactive map of projects and needs, an account of community participation and other resources and can be accessed at swrpc.org/plan-for-ashuelot-rail-trail. For more information, please contact Henry Underwood of SWRPC staff at hunderwood@swrpc.org.

Southwest Region Planning Commission

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