



SWRPC

Commission Highlights

July 2017

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State Strategic Transit Assessment

On July 26th SWRPC staff and local transit providers met with Stedman Hill Consulting, Inc. and RSG Inc., a consultant team hired by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) Bureau of Rail and Transit, to assist the state in developing a State Strategic Transit Assessment Study. NHDOT and the consultant team are currently meeting with NH's nine regional planning commissions and local transit providers to obtain initial feedback about regional transit needs. More public outreach is planned for later this year and in 2018. The overall goals of the study are to gather information about current public transportation in New Hampshire, engage the public to help determine needs and priorities, increase connectivity throughout the state, enhance efficiency through performance measurement, and develop a plan to improve service delivery statewide. The study will also look at the need for park and ride lots throughout the state. For more information, please contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff.

Conservation Priority Setting Meeting

On August 25, SWRPC staff attended a local work group meeting at the Hillsborough County Conservation District to discuss, identify and work on developing potential natural resource priorities within Hillsborough County. Participants included agricultural producers, foresters, town conservation commissions, and state and federal agency representatives. Priorities discussed included the current impact of insects and diseases on crops and trees, water quality, stormwater management, and outreach to the public about programs and opportunities to assist farmers. For more information, please contact Lisa Murphy of Commission staff.

Complete Streets Updates

- On July 8th the Town of Harrisville worked with SWRPC to install temporary crosswalks on Main Street during the Harrisville Old Home Days. The goal of the event was to generate conversation about how to improve safety on the Town's roads, share information about the proposed Complete Streets policy and design guidelines, and gather feedback from the public.
- On July 11th, the Jaffrey Planning Board voted to adopt Complete Streets design guidelines. These guidelines provide information about design features the Town can consider for improving the safety of the transportation network. Following adoption of the design guidelines, the Jaffrey Board of Selectmen adopted a Complete Streets resolution that formalizes the Town's commitment to the concept of Complete Streets.
- On July 22nd, the Town of Winchester worked with SWRPC to conduct a Complete Streets demonstration event in conjunction with the Winchester Farmer's Market in downtown Winchester. The event included traffic calming features such as temporary curb extensions and a pocket park.

For more information, please contact Mari Brunner 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 New Hampshire 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. For more information, please contact Rebeckah Bullock of Commission staff.

Municipal Technical Assistance Grant (MTAG) Program

Plan NH recently announced that the Municipal Technical Assistance Grant (MTAG) Program will continue in the coming year. Its purpose is to support municipalities who wish to create or amend their zoning ordinances to encourage more housing choices to meet the changing and diverse needs of their citizens. Grants of \$2,500 to \$10,000 are available for developing new or revised regulations to improve choices in types and locations of places to live. Examples of projects that may qualify under this program include, but are not limited to: mixed-use zoning, infill development, neighborhood heritage districts, building codes for energy-efficient rehabilitation of older structures, and regulatory reviews of zoning ordinance, site plan review and subdivision regulations. Grants will be awarded through a competitive application process, and include a 25% cash match requirement. Applications must be submitted by **September 29, 2017** and awards will be announced in October. Additional information and application materials are available at [NH MTAG Program Description and Application Materials 2017-18](#). To discuss potential proposals that might qualify under this program, please contact Lisa Murphy of Commission staff.



NADO National Regional Transportation Conference

Principal Planner J. B. Mack recently attended the three-day National Association of Development Organization's (NADO) National Regional Transportation Conference in Denver, Colorado. The conference, which was held from June 28th - 30th, is one of the premier peer-to-peer annual learning opportunities to discuss rural transportation planning best practices in the nation. He attended a number of workshops including sessions about linking transportation and economic development planning, achieving safety by addressing behavioral issues, planning for freight, improving rural transit services, and applying data tools for transportation planning analysis. In addition to attending the training sessions, J. B., who serves as the state representative on NADO's Regional Planning Organization Council also attended their business meeting. For more information, please contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff.

Southwest Region Planning Commission

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