

SWRPC

Commission Highlights

March 2018

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Community Transportation Forums Planned for April 17th and 18th

People living in your community without access to transportation, face barriers to their health, well-being and independence. Supporting transportation options to meet the needs of these individuals is a primary goal of the Monadnock Region Coordinating Council for Community Transportation (MRCC), a group that includes transportation providers, agencies requiring transportation services, funding agencies, area residents, and others. The MRCC will host two Community Transportation Forums during April to launch its Coordinated Community Transportation Plan. Municipal leaders, chambers of commerce, and local legislators are encouraged to attend. One event will be held in Peterborough on April 17th from 7:30 - 9:00 a.m. at the Monadnock Community Hospital, 452 Old Street Road (Conference Center Room 5). A light breakfast will be provided. Another event will be held in Keene on April 18th from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. at HCS, 312 Marlboro Street (Main Floor Conference Room). To register for either forum, visit <http://monadnockrcc.eventbrite.com/>. For more information, please contact Ellen Avery of the Community Volunteer Transportation Company at ellen@cvtc-nh.org or call 821-4081.

Accelerating Practical Solutions Complete Streets Workshop

On March 6th, GIS Specialist/Planner Henry Underwood attended a workshop at the NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT) hosted by the Governors' Institute on Community Design. The Institute, a program of Smart Growth America, aims to assist states in addressing issues that include economic development, housing, and transportation. NHDOT was one of several states able to participate in the Institute's Accelerating Practical Solutions program. Objectives included understanding the benefits of complete streets, discussing opportunities to integrate complete streets in the current project development framework, and participating in discussions about how to trade-off between different modes of travel based on the context of a given project. The workshop was facilitated by Emiko Atherton, Director of the National Complete Streets Coalition at Smart Growth America. For more information about complete streets or the workshop, please contact Henry Underwood of Commission staff.

Brownfields Program Update

On March 20th, the SWRPC Brownfields Advisory Committee (BrAC) met and authorized program activities including a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) at the former Kingsbury Corporation property in Keene, legal assistance to the Town of Jaffrey regarding the former W. W. Cross property and a Phase I ESA and limited Hazardous Building Materials Inventory at the former McGoldrick Paper Company site in Hinsdale. This work is scheduled over the next several weeks and results will be reported to the BrAC. SWRPC has applied for an additional community-wide mixed hazardous assessment grant and expects announcements from EPA regarding the 2018 grant round in the coming months. For more information, please contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff.

State Freight Summit

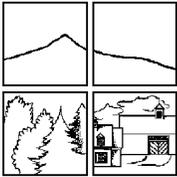
On March 22nd, Principal Planner J. B. Mack attended the first of three planned Freight Summits being conducted by the NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT). Mr. Mack attended as a representative of NHDOT's freight advisory committee to listen to feedback as well as to pass along local freight concerns from Monadnock area stakeholders. The event, which was held in Claremont, featured a review of global, national and state freight trends, an overview on the Federal Highway Administration's freight-related policy and programming, a presentation about the Port Authority in Portsmouth, and remarks about freight challenges in Claremont. NHDOT began work on New Hampshire's first statewide freight plan in spring 2016 and expects to complete the effort this fall. This ongoing process will include more opportunities for participation. For more information or to get involved, please contact J. B. Mack of Commission staff or visit <https://nh.gov/dot/org/projectdevelopment/planning/freight-plan/>.

Community Development Block Grant Application Writing Workshop

On March 28th, 2018 Community Development Specialist, Rebeckah Bullock attended a Community Development Block Grant Application Writing Workshop hosted by the NH Community Development Finance Authority at the NH Audubon Center located in Concord, NH. The workshop covered eligible projects, federal requirements, scoring process, housing and public facilities applications, economic development applications, and the online Grants Management System through which all applications must be submitted. For more information, please contact Rebeckah Bullock of Commission staff.

Annual Spring Planning and Zoning Conference

The Office of Strategic Initiatives (formerly NH Office of Energy and Planning) has announced the opening of registration for its 24th Annual Spring Planning and Zoning Conference, scheduled for Saturday, April 28, 2018 at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord. Seating capacity is limited, so register early in order to ensure your preferred choice of sessions. The agenda, registration form, and directions can be accessed at the OSI website: <https://nh.gov/osi>. For questions, please contact Danielle Craver at (603) 271-2155, or danielle.craver@osi.nh.gov.



NHDOT Accepting Public Comment on Process for Evaluating Historic and Cultural Resources

The NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the NH State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), has announced the first update to its Section 106 Programmatic Agreement regarding the Federal Aid Highway Program in NH. The Update, and associated information, may be found at: <http://nh.gov/dot/org/projectdevelopment/environment/units/program-management/cultural.htm> under the heading “Section 106 Programmatic Agreement - 2018 Update.” The NHDOT will be accepting public comment through the close of business on April 27, 2018. Please submit your written comments to Jill Edelmann, Cultural Resources Program Manager, Bureau of Environment, NH Department of Transportation, 7 Hazen Drive, PO Box 483, Concord, NH 03302-0483, or via email to Jillian.Edelmann@dot.nh.gov.

Southwest Region Planning Commission

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