

SWRPC

Commission Highlights

March 2019

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Northern Border Regional Commission Grant Opportunity

Applications are now being accepted for the Northern Border Regional Commission's (NBRC) Economic and Infrastructure Development Investment Program, which awards grants of up to \$500,000 for infrastructure projects and \$250,000 for other eligible projects. The application deadline is **May 10, 2019** at 5:00 p.m. Submission of a letter of notification is recommended, but not required, even if received beyond the recommended due date of March 29, 2019. The recent reauthorization of the federal Farm Bill extends the NBRC service area to include Cheshire County. Created in 2008, the NBRC is a federal-state partnership to support economic and community development activities in designated counties of New York, Vermont, Maine, and New Hampshire. Proposals will be accepted for projects related to transportation, telecommunication and basic public infrastructure; workforce development; entrepreneurship, technology, or business development; resource conservation, tourism and recreation; publicly owned renewable energy development; or projects for basic health care and other public services. Eligible applicants include public bodies and IRS 501(c) organizations. Please find application details at nbrc.gov. For more information, please contact Todd Horner of SWRPC staff.

Community Development Block Grant Applications

During the month of March, SWRPC assisted Cheshire County in preparing applications under the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. The proposed projects involve Cheshire County sub-granting CDBG funds to the Hannah Grimes Center, the University of New Hampshire/Pathway to Work program, and the Regional Economic Development Center. These funds would support training and technical assistance services to low- and moderate-income business owners through microenterprise programs which include small businesses and start-ups. The microenterprise program's mission is to increase the income and economic stability of self-employed people and microenterprises, by helping them to access capital, business training and expanded market opportunities. SWRPC will serve as grant administrator should funding be awarded. For more information, please contact Rebeckah Bullock of SWRPC staff.

Brownfields Assessment Activities

At its meeting of March 5, 2019 the SWRPC Brownfields Advisory Committee (BrAC) authorized work on three properties. The BrAC approved a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) at the former McGoldrick site in Hinsdale, a Supplemental Phase II ESA at the former W. W. Cross site in Jaffrey, and a Supplemental Phase II ESA and Remedial Action Plan at the former A. C. Lawrence Tannery site in Winchester. SWRPC has been working closely with the three towns and other partners to promote active redevelopment of each site. Noteworthy is the former AC Lawrence Tannery site, which has been vacant since the 1980s and is being considered by the Town of Winchester as a potential site for a 1 MW solar array. If successful, it would be the first solar array built on a brownfield site in New Hampshire. SWRPC continues to accept nominations for properties under its Brownfields assessment program. For more information, visit swrpc.org/brownfields or contact J. B. Mack of SWRPC staff.

Annual Spring Planning and Zoning Conference

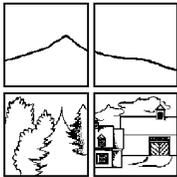
The NH Office of Strategic Initiatives (OSI) has announced the opening of registration for its 25th Annual Spring Planning and Zoning Conference, scheduled for Saturday, **June 1, 2019** at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord. **OSI recommends early registration as sessions fill up quickly.** To view details of the Conference and to register, visit the OSI site: <https://bit.ly/2UoQL0C>.

CommuteSmart NH

SWRPC is helping to plan and coordinate activities related to CommuteSmart NH, a statewide initiative that aims to promote commuting alternatives. Currently, the initiative is working toward increasing awareness and use of the NH Department of Transportation's online ride matching platform, Rideshare NH, located at nh.gov/dot/programs/rideshare, which helps commuters find carpooling partners. In addition, CommuteSmart NH is organizing a statewide challenge that offers incentives to workplaces and individuals who use carpooling, biking, or other alternative modes to travel to/from work. For more information, please visit commutesmartnh.org or contact Todd Horner of SWRPC staff.

NH Pedestrian & Bike Plan

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation and its consultant Alta Planning+Design are seeking public input on the NH Pedestrian and Bike Plan, currently in development. The Plan's goal is to increase walking and bicycling in all regions of New Hampshire. Alta Planning asks that interested parties complete a short online survey and/or submit written comments. An online interactive map is also available, on which the public can flag favorite routes or destinations, as well as difficult intersections or challenging bicycle/pedestrian corridors. More information about the NH Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan is available at nhpedbikeplan.com.



Age-Focused Planning

In March, SWRPC staff took part in a local public radio show to provide information about the Age-Focused Planning project. Also during March, SWRPC conducted two public focus group meetings in the on-going effort to collect information to inform the Age-Focused Planning project for Southwest New Hampshire. On March 7th, *Planning Transportation for All Ages* was held to hear about transportation issues and potential solutions in the region. On March 14th, *Meeting Housing Needs in the Monadnock Region* provided a chance to discuss housing issues particularly as they may relate to individuals across the age spectrum. Additional meetings are being organized for public input to the project in locations around the region. To learn more visit swrpc.org/age-focused and while there, **please take the survey**. For additional information about the project, please contact Lisa Murphy of SWRPC staff.

Southwest Region Planning Commission

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