

# SWRPC

## Commission Highlights

May 2020

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### **2020 SWRPC Annual Meeting**

The Southwest Region Planning Commission's Annual Meeting is scheduled for **June 16<sup>th</sup>** at 3:00 p.m. and will be conducted remotely using a Zoom format this year due to the current pandemic. In addition to conducting the regular business portion of the meeting, staff will provide a report on recent activities as well as provide overviews on select projects of interest. We ask that you register in advance if you plan to attend the meeting since roll call votes of SWRPC Commissioners will be required. Log-in information for the meeting will be provided in advance to registrants and posted on the SWRPC website at [www.swrpc.org](http://www.swrpc.org). For more information **or to register**, please contact [Becky Baldwin](#) of SWRPC staff.

### **Youth Transportation Workgroup Meeting**

On May 27<sup>th</sup>, the Monadnock Youth Transportation Workgroup held its first meeting which capped-off a planning process to mobilize collective action to strengthen the youth transportation network in the Region. The meeting was preceded by an issue-focused mobility forum for youth transportation stakeholders that produced a number of priority actions designed to provide increased community transportation options for youth and teens. These include conducting surveys and focus groups to engage youth input and involvement, making improvements to the region's community transportation network and conducting a media and outreach campaign to increase visibility of the issue and promote action by state and local entities. During the May 27<sup>th</sup> meeting, Workgroup members mapped out next steps and formed sub-groups to move actions forward. The sub-groups committed to a follow-up meeting to continue their work. The Workgroup welcomes others to join the effort. For more information, please contact [Terry Johnson](#) of SWRPC staff.

### **Making a Case for Rural Broadband**

On May 28<sup>th</sup>, SWRPC Executive Director Tim Murphy participated in a panel discussion hosted by U.S. Senator Maggie Hassan and featuring Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner of the Federal Communication Commission (FCC). Discussion focused on broadband connectivity and implications of the Covid-19 pandemic. Panelists also included representatives of K-12 education and health services delivery. Mr. Murphy used the opportunity to describe how the pandemic has further exposed broadband connectivity deficits and associated challenges in rural areas such as Southwest NH. At the invitation of Commissioner Rosenworcel, he offered suggestions to better align FCC programs with current challenges including support of coordination among rural communities, planning for right-sized broadband design solutions, re-visiting the high-bars established in existing program criteria, and coming to a consensus definition among federal agencies relative to adequacy of broadband service. For more information, please contact [Tim Murphy](#) of SWRPC staff.

### **Climate Health Advisory Council**

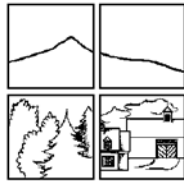
On May 13<sup>th</sup>, SWRPC staff attended and facilitated a portion of the State's most recent Climate and Health Advisory Council meeting. The group's roots go back to *The New Hampshire Climate Action Plan* (2009), and includes participation from various State agencies. The meeting featured updates from the New Hampshire Departments of Environmental Services (NH DES) and Health and Human Services (NH DHHS) on their strategic plans, current projects, at-risk populations, new priority areas, and program challenges. The meeting included a presentation on recent research around heat stress, extreme weather, and other weather or climate exposures as well as small group discussions on temperature and heat injury, habitat change and Lyme disease, extreme weather and emergency preparedness, and sea level rise and health impacts. The results will help NH DHHS Department of Public Health Services develop priorities for moving forward. For more information, please contact [Henry Underwood](#) of SWRPC staff.

## Hazard Mitigation Updates

SWRPC staff have begun working with Greenville and Temple in updating their local hazard mitigation plans. Jaffrey, Bennington and Marlborough will also begin their updates later this year. Meetings are currently being held online using a Zoom format. The updates will include an expanded list of potential hazards including infectious disease, technological and human-caused hazards. For more information please contact [Lisa Murphy](#) of SWRPC staff.

## CDBG-CV Session

On May 21<sup>st</sup>, SWRPC staff attended an informational session on the recently announced Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) opportunity hosted by the NH Community Development Finance Authority. The session covered priority funding areas, federal requirements, application thresholds, and eligible activities for approximately \$5.4 million in CDBG-CV funds provisioned to the State of New Hampshire through the federal CARES Act. For more information, please contact [James Weatherly](#) of SWRPC staff.



## Virtual Screening of Motherload

On May 28<sup>th</sup>, the Monadnock Food Co-op, Monadnock International Film Festival (MONIFF), and Monadnock Alliance for Sustainable Transportation (MAST) co-hosted a virtual screening of MOTHERLOAD, a crowdsourced documentary, which explores how the cargo bicycle becomes a vehicle for exploring motherhood in the digital age of climate change. The film was followed by a panel discussion with filmmaker Liz Canning, VBike Director Dave Cohen, Prime Roast owner (and recent e-bike convert) Judy Rogers, and Keene State College film professor Ted White. The event attracted widespread attention, with over 270 individuals registering to participate. The screening was organized in celebration of National Bike Month, a promotion each May that highlights the many benefits of bicycling and inspires individuals to bike more often.

**Southwest Region Planning Commission**

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