

# SWRPC

## Commission Highlights

April 2021

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### **2021 Transportation Alternatives Program**

On April 12<sup>th</sup>, SWRPC's Transportation Advisory Committee met to consider proposals for the federal Transportation Alternatives Program. Two proposals from Southwest NH communities include 1) a project from the Town of Hinsdale to improve comfort and safety of walkers and pedestrians entering the Hinsdale School District campus on School Street, and 2) a project from the City of Keene to restore the Transportation Heritage Trail from Eastern Avenue to NH 101. Both projects were supported by the TAC, with the Keene project considered the top-ranked project. Results have been provided to NHDOT for consideration among a wider field of applications submitted from throughout the State. Announcements for funding awards are expected in the summer of 2021. For more information, please contact [J. B. Mack](#) of SWRPC staff.

### **Food Access in Southwest New Hampshire**

SWRPC has been selected to conduct a comprehensive analysis of assets and gaps in existing food security programs on behalf of the Monadnock Children's Food Access Alliance. The Alliance is committed to identifying opportunities for families to access affordable healthy food and increase participation in food assistance programs. Food security and access programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Granite State Market Match (which doubles SNAP benefits for fruits and vegetables at participating farmers markets) are underutilized in the Region. Among other components the analysis includes an examination of food access system assets and gaps, assessing affordability at food access points, and mapping connections between network partners. The Alliance will use the results to design and implement a plan to promote the goal that all children have easy access to affordable nutritious food. For more information, please contact [Terry Johnson](#) of SWRPC staff.

### **New Hampshire Micro-Enterprise Technical Assistance Network**

During April, staff participated in a meeting coordinated by the New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority and the statewide network of micro-enterprise technical assistance partners. The growing network consists of nine nonprofits located throughout the State that provide training, technical assistance and lending opportunities to businesses with five or fewer full-time employees. Each organization in the network receives federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to provide these opportunities to low- and moderate-income entrepreneurs and business owners. SWRPC staff provide important support to Cheshire County and three organizations in the network serving southern New Hampshire including the Hannah Grimes Center in Keene, the Regional Economic Development Corporation in Raymond and the UNH Small Business Development Center in Durham through administration of federal CDBG funding for each program. For more information, please contact [James Weatherly](#) of SWRPC staff.

### **Swanzy NH 10 Corridor Study**

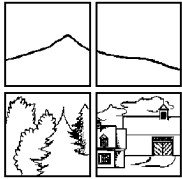
SWRPC has been working with the Town of Swanzy to conduct a Corridor Study for the 5.5 mile segment of NH Route 10 in Swanzy. The Study will include findings and recommendations meant to improve mobility, accessibility and safety for all users of the Corridor. The main focus of the Study has been an examination of the Corridor as a transportation facility while also examining the highway's relationship to surrounding land uses and economic activities. Therefore, the Study will also include recommendations on ways to align future efforts to improve transportation with the Town's land use and economic development goals. SWRPC and the Town recently released a survey specific to the West Swanzy section of the NH Route 10 Corridor. People that live, work or pass through West Swanzy on NH Route 10 are encouraged to participate in the survey by going to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WYVWWRM>. For more information, please contact [J. B. Mack](#) of SWRPC staff.

## Annual Spring Planning and Zoning Conference

May 7<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to register for the NH Office of Strategic Initiative's 2021 Annual Spring Planning and Zoning Conference. The Conference is being held on-line on May 15<sup>th</sup> and is being offered free of charge. The Conference provides training for new members of municipal planning and zoning boards and also serves as a refresher course for existing members. Please email [training@osi.nh.gov](mailto:training@osi.nh.gov) for more information.

## Public Involvement Plan Update

SWRPC's Public Involvement Plan (PIP) is undergoing an update. The Plan is designed to establish policy relative to public participation in planning activities led by SWRPC. The Plan is updated every five years and has been released for public review and comment. The public comment period will extend through **June 11, 2021**. The document is available for review via the SWRPC website: <http://swrpc.org/>, click on [Draft 2021 Public Involvement Plan](#). To access a hard copy of the draft Plan or to provide written feedback on the PIP, please contact [Lisa Murphy](#) of SWRPC staff.



## 2021 Complete Streets Implementation Grant Round

On behalf of the Monadnock Alliance for Sustainable Transportation (MAST), SWRPC staff anticipates another Complete Streets implementation grant round for 2021. Accordingly, municipalities that have an adopted a Complete Streets policy will be invited to submit applications. This opportunity is made possible through a donation in the amount of \$100,000 made through the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation's *You Have Our Trust* fund. Proposals will be considered on a competitive basis for Complete Streets implementation projects that enhance safety and mobility for users of all ages, abilities and modes of travel. Staff anticipates an application due date in **July 2021** with notification of award(s) later in the calendar year. Specific details will be made available soon. For more information, please contact [Henry Underwood](#) of SWRPC staff.

**Southwest Region Planning Commission**

37 Ashuelot Street Keene, NH 03431 603-357-0557 [www.swrpc.org](http://www.swrpc.org)

