

SWRPC

Commission Highlights

February 2021

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2023 - 2032 Ten Year Plan Update

On February 16th, SWRPC's Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) met to discuss projects for consideration in the FY 2023-2032 Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan update (TYP). After reviewing comments from the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT), the TAC identified three projects to score and rank. Project #41590, partially funded in the 2021-2030 TYP, would widen and reconstruct NH 101 in Keene from the Stone Arch Bridge to Branch Road as well as address sight distance issues at the intersection of Swanzey Factory Road and NH 101. Project #41720, also partially funded, would rehabilitate and reopen the Vilas Bridge between Walpole and Bellows Falls, Vermont. The third project would retrofit West Street in Keene from the NH 9/10/12 bypass to School Street by installing a raised median, adding bicycle lanes and improving sidewalks along the corridor. TAC will be meeting on March 1st to review and further discuss the projects and develop a recommendation ranking the projects for further consideration by the SWRPC Board of Directors. Final rankings are due to NHDOT by March 31st. For more information, please contact [J. B. Mack](#) of SWRPC staff.

Monadnock Housing Roundtable

On February 12th, the Monadnock Housing Roundtable hosted a virtual meeting. The Roundtable is currently facilitated by SWRPC and is aimed at discussing how to respond to the region's housing challenges. The meeting focused on the topic of housing-related state legislation, with discussion on how local and regional stakeholders might participate in the legislative process, as well as some key bills to watch during this legislative session. Staff from NH Housing and Housing Action NH attended the meeting to share the provisions and status of highlighted bills. For a more detailed summary of the meeting, including specific legislation, visit monadnockhousingroundtable.com. For more information, please contact [Todd Horner](#) of SWRPC staff.

Hazard Mitigation Planning Update

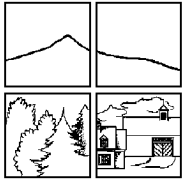
During February, SWRPC staff assisted communities with Hazard Mitigation Plan Updates. The towns of Bennington, Greenville, Jaffrey, Marlborough, and Temple have updates that are nearing completion. These plans are incorporating content featured in the updated State of NH Hazard Mitigation Plan including infectious disease, solar storms and space weather, aging infrastructure, cyber-attacks, and more. During the next phase of plan updates, SWRPC staff will assist Antrim, Chesterfield, Hinsdale, Richmond, Sullivan, Surry, Swanzey, Westmoreland, and Windsor in similar efforts. For more information, please contact [Lisa Murphy](#) of SWRPC staff.

Hinsdale-Brattleboro Existing Bridges Subcommittee Update

On February 22nd, the Hinsdale-Brattleboro Existing Bridges Subcommittee met to discuss economic development opportunities in proximity to the existing Charles Dana and Anna Hunt Marsh bridges and Hinsdale Island. Dr. Shannon Rodgers, a nature-based economist from the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension, gave a presentation on how other communities have leveraged rivers, trails, vistas, and other natural and recreational amenities for economic development purposes. The Subcommittee is currently developing a conceptual plan that would increase access to the Connecticut River, provide a new island park area and schedule outdoor programming activities for the bridges and island. Dr. Rodgers's presentation is available to view on a project webpage located at http://www.swrpc.org/hinsdale-brattleboro_planning. For more information, please contact [J. B. Mack](#) of SWRPC staff.

Tri-State Learning Collaborative on Aging-Events, Tools and Resources

The Tri-State Learning Collaboration on Aging (TSLCA) provides information, tools, resources, and networking opportunities for communities and organizations interested in building, strengthening and growing community initiatives that help older adults thrive in their homes and communities. TSLCA hosts [webinars and live events](#) focused on strategies and success stories for creating age-friendly communities. Helpful web-based tools and resources address topics such as transportation, aging at home and intergenerational planning which are aligned with SWRPC's [Age-Focused Planning Project](#) (AFP). The AFP aims to improve access to transportation, housing options, economic opportunities, and vital community services for older and younger adults in Southwest New Hampshire. For more information, please contact [Terry Johnson](#) of SWRPC staff.



Community Development Block Grant Activities

During February, SWRPC staff were active in assisting member communities in the administration of Community Development Block Grant projects. Staff assisted project partners through the federal bidding requirements for projects sponsored by the City of Keene and Cheshire County. Construction is slated to start later this spring on these projects, and will result in the rehabilitation of 14 affordable apartments, two shelter facilities and major energy improvements for a food pantry. For more information, please contact [James Weatherly](#) of SWRPC staff.

Southwest Region Planning Commission

37 Ashuelot Street Keene, NH 03431 603-357-0557 www.swrpc.org

