

SWRPC

Commission Highlights

January 2021

Vol. 27 - No. 1

NHDOT Announces 4th Round of Transportation Alternatives Program

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) has announced a new competitive selection round for pedestrian and bicycling infrastructure projects under the federally funded Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). Two years of funding will be awarded in this round. The overall purpose of TAP is to foster non-motorized transportation infrastructure that is safe, in good physical condition and accessible. For this round of TAP projects, the following guidelines have been developed by NHDOT:

- Minimum project limit is \$400,000 (total dollars) – (\$320,000 federal)
- Maximum project limit is \$1,250,000 (total dollars) – (\$1,000,000 federal)
- Project will require at least a 20% match provided by the applicant.

The application process is broken into three distinct and mandatory steps, starting with a requirement to submit a letter of interest by **Friday, February 5, 2021**. Other requirements include attendance at a pre-application informational meeting hosted by NHDOT and submission of a TAP application. For more information, please contact [J. B. Mack](#) of SWRPC staff.

Monadnock Broadband Group Update

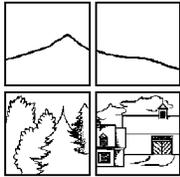
On January 25th, SWRPC staff facilitated a meeting of the Monadnock Broadband Group – an informal coalition interested in understanding and coordinating actions relative to broadband issues. Michael Janson, Director of Rural Broadband Auctions Task Force and Assistant Chief for the Office of Economics and Analytics for the Federal Communication Commission, provided a presentation on the \$20.4B Rural Digital Opportunity Fund auction (www.fcc.gov/auction/904). Guest presenter Rob Koester, Senior Vice President of Consumer Product for Consolidated Communications, along with colleagues Jeff Austin and Jeff McIver, presented on CARES Act projects, public-private partnerships and a 5-year plan to add 4,000 miles of fiber-optic cable in New Hampshire. SWRPC maintains a catalogue of broadband planning resources, a list of state legislation related to broadband proposed for the 2021 session and meeting materials and recordings about the Monadnock Broadband Group at www.swrpc.org/broadband. For more information, please contact [Henry Underwood](#) of SWRPC staff.

Land Use and Municipal Fiscal Health

On January 20th, SWRPC staff planner Todd Horner served as moderator for a virtual event hosted by NH Housing and featuring Joe Minicozzi of the planning firm Urban3. The event, titled *From the Outskirts to Downtown: Taxes, Land Use, & Value in Two Southwest NH Communities*, focused on how land development patterns can impact municipal revenue. Urban3's analysis looked at 15 communities across the state, including Keene and Peterborough, which were highlighted during the presentation. Urban3's framework, which centers on evaluating property value on a per acre basis, holds many lessons for planners, local officials and community members interested in the long-term prosperity of their town or city. The analysis underscores how traditional development patterns - especially historic town centers - are powerhouses when it comes to building property value. It also challenges the economic logic of sprawling commercial or residential development. Slides of the presentation can be found here: <http://www.nhhfa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/U3-NHHFA-Southwest.pdf>, a recording of the presentation can be found here: <https://youtu.be/xo3oc7euTxM>. For more information, please contact [Todd Horner](#) of SWRPC staff.

Childhood Lead Poisoning in New Hampshire: What Pediatric Healthcare Providers Need to Know

On Thursday, February 18, 2021, from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m., the NH Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) will host a lunch and learn presentation on issues related to childhood lead poisoning in NH. Over 650 children annually in New Hampshire are poisoned by lead and experience blood lead levels known to impair academic performance and cause behavior challenges. Gail Gettens, Health Promotion Advisor and Child Development Specialist with the DHHS Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, will review lead exposure and testing surveillance data and discuss legislation impacting pediatric health providers along with other topics. The presentation is relevant to healthcare providers and others interested in preventing lead exposure among children. Ms. Gettens serves as an advisor to SWRPC and the Greater Monadnock Public Health Network on the Greater Monadnock Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Project. [Registration](#) is now open. For more information, please contact [Terry Johnson](#) of SWRPC staff.



Welcome New Advisory Committee Members!

At the beginning of every calendar year, the rosters of SWRPC's Advisory Committees are updated. This year, SWRPC welcomes Danica Melone, Town Planner for Peterborough, to the Brownfields Advisory Committee (BrAC) and Matthew Bachler, Director of Planning and Economic Development for the Town of Swanzey; Sara Powell, Program Director at the Hannah Grimes Center for Entrepreneurship; Michael Remy, Senior Director of Operational Network Strategy at C&S Wholesale Grocers; Ron Rzasa, Chair of the Town of Chesterfield Economic Development Committee; Derek Scalia, Director of Retention and Diversity at Franklin Pierce University; and Scott Young, Chief Retail Officer at Mascoma Bank to the Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC). For more information about BrAC or EDAC, please contact [J. B. Mack](#) or [Todd Horner](#) of SWRPC staff, respectively.

Southwest Region Planning Commission

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