

# SWRPC

## Commission Highlights

July 2021

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### **ARPA Funding Application Deadline: August 18, 2021**

On July 26<sup>th</sup>, SWRPC staff attended a session held by the New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA) on *American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fiscal Recovery Funds in NH: Virtual Resources & Information Fair*. The event - a collaboration between NHMA, NH Community Development Finance Authority, NH Association of Counties, NH Charitable Foundation, and NH Center for Nonprofits - provided an opportunity for local officials to hear from a variety of stakeholders and state agencies about efforts being undertaken to use ARPA funds to address municipal needs. In addition to direct funding for cities, towns and counties through the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CLFRF), the ARPA has created numerous programs and opportunities across New Hampshire. The goal of the webinar was to provide local officials with an introduction to how funding is being implemented in New Hampshire and to potentially spur collaboration and partnership in applying for and utilizing ARPA funds. The webinar also covered the upcoming August 18, 2021 deadline for municipalities to apply for CLFRF program funds. Municipalities can apply on the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief & Recovery website here: [https://nhpublichealth.force.com/nhgoferr/CORE\\_Solicitation\\_Detail\\_Page](https://nhpublichealth.force.com/nhgoferr/CORE_Solicitation_Detail_Page). The application requires basic information, and is a **necessary step in order to receive CLFRF funding. Municipalities that do not apply by the 8/18 deadline will not be eligible to receive CLFRF funding.** For more information, please contact James Weatherly of SWRPC staff at [jweatherly@swrpc.org](mailto:jweatherly@swrpc.org).

### **Attention to Broadband**

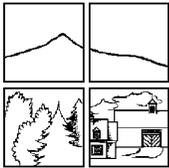
SWRPC staff recently participated in two broadband-related discussions. On July 8<sup>th</sup>, SWRPC facilitated an in-person roundtable discussion in Keene led by US Senator Jeanne Shaheen which included representatives of Southwest Region communities at various stages of broadband implementation. Also in attendance was NH Senator Jay Kahn and representatives from the New Hampshire Municipal Bond Bank and Consolidated Communications. On July 30<sup>th</sup>, staff participated in a virtual roundtable convened by US Senator Maggie Hassan and US Department of Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo. Participants included a diverse group of representatives from around the State. Remarks shared by staff focused on challenges to expanding broadband and how they could be addressed through federal sources. The month of July was notable with respect to State legislative efforts as well. On July 13<sup>th</sup>, Governor Chris Sununu signed SB 85 into law, establishing a matching broadband grant initiative to be administered by the newly-created NH Department of Energy. For more information about broadband-related resources, news and other information visit [www.swrpc.org/broadband](http://www.swrpc.org/broadband) or contact Henry Underwood of SWRPC staff at [hunderwood@swrpc.org](mailto:hunderwood@swrpc.org).

### **Emergency Preparedness Workshop**

On July 27<sup>th</sup>, SWRPC, in collaboration with the Monadnock Public Health Network, hosted an online workshop on emergency preparedness in the Monadnock Region. Workshop panelists included Jane Parayil, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for the Center for Population Health at Cheshire Medical Center, and Sylvie Rice, Leadership Team member for the Greater Monadnock Medical Reserve Corps. Additional expertise was provided by Vanessa Palange, Community Outreach Coordinator for New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management. The timeliness of the workshop was evident as it occurred between two recent heavy precipitation events that caused local area flooding. Workshop participants learned about the increasing frequency of extreme precipitation events and the significant health hazards associated with changes in climate and weather. Attendees also participated in activities designed to help create emergency plans, identify essential supplies and equipment, and understand how to utilize early warning systems. A recording of the session, copies of workshop materials and related resources, contact information and more are available online at: [www.swrpc.org/BRACE-Webinar](http://www.swrpc.org/BRACE-Webinar).

## NH Rail Trail Plan Update Public Hearings Scheduled

An update to the New Hampshire Rail Trail Plan (last updated in 2005) is underway. The Plan is designed to ensure the preservation and integrity of state-owned rail trails and provide direction for future development. The project involves an update to the inventory of trails, an economic impact analysis, prioritization of sections for repair, design standards, outreach components and more. A total of four public hearings are scheduled between August 9<sup>th</sup> and August 18<sup>th</sup> to help shape the Plan and final report. The agenda will include a presentation from the project consultant as well as taking public comment. An in-person public hearing will be held in Keene on Wednesday, August 11<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the Keene Recreation Center Multi-Purpose Room (located at 312 Washington Street). There will also be an opportunity to participate via Zoom on August 18<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Project materials and details for all four public hearings are available at [www.nhrailtrailsplan.com](http://www.nhrailtrailsplan.com). For more information, please contact J. B. Mack of SWRPC staff at [jbmack@swrpc.org](mailto:jbmack@swrpc.org).



## Swanzy NH 10 Corridor Study

During July, SWRPC released a report for the *Swanzy NH 10 Corridor Study*. The Study was undertaken in 2020 and 2021 with support from a Working Group appointed by the Town of Swanzy to better understand the corridor's challenges and opportunities. The Study examines how the corridor is used today including an assessment of who is using (living, working, shopping, and traveling through) the corridor, whether it is meeting the current needs and expectations of stakeholders, and includes recommendations for the management of the corridor into the future. Over thirty capital improvement projects and recommended actions are proposed in the Study designed to address highway safety, improve land use and transportation planning coordination and enhance economic activity along the corridor. Go to: <http://www.swrpc.org/files/data/trans/NH10CorridorStudy.pdf> to view the study. For more information, please contact J. B. Mack of SWRPC staff at [jbmack@swrpc.org](mailto:jbmack@swrpc.org).

