

SWRPC

Commission Highlights

April 2022

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Annual Meeting – Save the Date

SWRPC's 2022 Annual Meeting is scheduled for June 14, 2022 at a time and place TBD. For updates, please visit the SWRPC website at www.swrpc.org or contact Becky Baldwin of SWRPC staff at bbaldwin@swrpc.org.

Housing Study Seeks Community Engagement

During April, SWRPC continued community engagement activities in support of the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA). The RHNA will comprehensively assess the region's housing needs across all income levels. In order to accomplish this, SWRPC will gather data and perform analyses on the latest demographic and housing datasets. Additionally, SWRPC will be reaching out directly to stakeholders in order to learn specific information about housing needs. Please take the Household Survey, which is available via this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SWRPC-RHNA> and share it with your networks. A link to this survey is also available on the RHNA project webpage: www.swrpc.org/housing. For more information, please contact Andrew Smeltz of SWRPC staff at asmeltz@swrpc.org.

CDBG Award

During April, the City of Keene was awarded a \$500,000 grant through the federal Community Development Block Grant Program. The grant will be used to support the relocation of Monadnock Family Services (MFS) to consolidate its programming into a campus-like setting located in Keene. MFS is a nonprofit community mental health center that has serviced Cheshire County and surrounding areas for more than 100 years. The new headquarters will provide MFS with a better, brighter and more energy efficient building that will allow their organization to better serve their clients. SWRPC prepared the successful grant application and will provide administration services. For more information, please contact Terry Johnson of SWRPC staff at tjohnson@swrpc.org.

Transit Feasibility Study Update

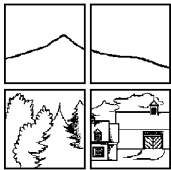
On April 26th, SWRPC held a kick-off meeting of the Transit Feasibility Study Work Group. A number of key stakeholders were recruited to serve on the Work Group representing different populations interested in improvements to transit provision in the Region ranging from Keene State College to Southwestern Community Services to the City of Keene's Climate and Energy Committee. The kick-off meeting included a discussion about stakeholder goals and interests, an overview of the project scope of work, and a summary presentation about current transit services in the Monadnock Region. One result of the meeting is that the project consultant, Via Mobility LLC, will prepare an existing conditions report for the Work Group to review and provide feedback. The Work Group's next steps will involve examining the feasibility of fixed route transit and microtransit options in the Region. Several meetings will be held for general public feedback in the coming months and will be advertised on SWRPC's website and other outlets. For more information about this project, please contact J. B. Mack of SWRPC staff at jbmack@swrpc.org.

Emergency Management Planning

SWRPC staff have recently completed hazard mitigation plan updates for Antrim, Sullivan and Westmoreland, all of which are now at various stages of the approval and adoption process. In addition, SWRPC staff assisted Nelson in updating their Emergency Operations Plan and will soon begin working with Langdon, Chesterfield, and Richmond in updating their plans. All local work group meetings are open to the public. For more information, please contact Lisa Murphy of SWRPC staff at lmurphy@swrpc.org.

Monadnock Broadband Group Meeting

On April 13th, SWRPC convened a meeting of the Monadnock Broadband Group that included a roundtable discussion with communities at various stages of implementing broadband-related projects: from sharing past achievements and lessons learned to status updates on projects underway to introductions from those just getting started. Communities in the Monadnock Region have made tremendous strides in expanding broadband access over recent years, with roughly half of the region's communities entering into a public-private partnership with an internet service provider. The meeting agenda also featured an update on an initiative to assess digital literacy of older adults and others in the Monadnock Region. Individuals interested in catching-up on broadband meetings and other updates are encouraged to visit www.swrpc.org/broadband or contact Henry Underwood of SWRPC staff at hunderwood@swrpc.org.



2022 Traffic Research Season Kicks Off

On April 11th, SWRPC staff attended the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) Bureau of Traffic's annual kick-off meeting on traffic data collection. Attendees included NHDOT staff and representatives from the State's nine regional planning agencies. The meeting agenda featured equipment demonstrations and discussions about 2021 performance, bicycle and pedestrian data and collection of freight and vehicle speed information. In addition to well over 100 studies requested by NHDOT in our region this year, SWRPC has some capacity to conduct traffic counts or other studies as may be requested by its municipal members. To initiate a request, please complete the 2022 traffic study request form at arcg.is/11GnLe0. For more information, please visit www.swrpc.org/traffic or contact Henry Underwood of SWRPC staff at hunderwood@swrpc.org.



2022 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 2022. This opportunity is made possible through a donation made through an anonymous donor. Proposals will be considered on a competitive basis for Complete Streets projects that enhance safety and mobility for users of all ages, abilities and modes of travel. Staff anticipates an application due date this summer 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 at hunderwood@swrpc.org.

