

SWRPC

Commission Highlights

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SWRPC Launches Housing Survey for Employers

As part of SWRPC's Regional Housing Needs Assessment, a survey has been developed for employers to gauge how the local and regional housing market affects their business. Early data collected by SWRPC suggests that a significant proportion of employers believe that a housing shortage has affected their ability to recruit and retain workers, however, the survey sample at this time remains small. In an effort to gather a larger survey sample of employers, SWRPC seeks assistance in spreading the word about the survey. The goal is to better understand employer's perceptions of the housing market in the Region as well as attitudes about the connection between housing and business growth. If you are an employer in the Region or you are connected to local employers, please consider taking or sharing this survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SWRPCEmployerSurvey>. A link to this survey is also available on the Regional Housing Needs Assessment project webpage: www.swrpc.org/housing. For more information about the employer survey or the RHNA project, please contact Andrew Smeltz of SWRPC staff at asmeltz@swrpc.org.

Transportation Plan Updates

During the month of March SWRPC participated in meetings with the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) regarding its plans to update the *NH State Rail Trails Plan* (last updated in 2005) and the *NH Statewide Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan*, both of which are scheduled to be finalized in 2022. SWRPC staff comments have focused on ensuring that the documents are user friendly and that the plans are realistic, feasible, and reflect local and regional priority needs and issues that staff has become aware of in day-to-day communications with member towns and other relevant stakeholders. Both policy documents seek to more broadly define funding opportunities for implementing projects, provide policy guidance recommendations on priority project selection and identify project priorities - all of which are improvements that are likely to enhance transparency and better coordination among different state and federal funding programs administered by NHDOT and other State agencies. For more information about the *NH State Rail Trails Plan*, visit <https://www.nhrailtrailsplan.com/>; and <https://www.nh.gov/dot/programs/bikeped/advisory-committee/index.htm> for the *NH Statewide Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan*, or contact J. B. Mack of SWRPC staff at jbmack@swrpc.org.

Monadnock Broadband Group

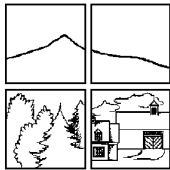
The next meeting of the Monadnock Broadband Group is scheduled for Wednesday, April 13th, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. via Zoom. If your community has not been engaged with the group or is in need of assistance in improving broadband access, this meeting is for you. The agenda will focus on a discussion about lessons learned from completed projects, provide a forum for questions from those currently considering solutions, and guidance for those just getting started. Whether the focus is adoption of existing projects, affordability, or availability of high-quality connections like fiber to the home, it's an opportune time to make these efforts a priority for your community. To join the Zoom meeting please go to this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87200791814?pwd=bmdWTWdSRlQ4VlQvNHdhTFZGVGJMOT09>, and use Meeting ID: 872 0079 1814, Passcode: 440853. For more information, please contact Henry Underwood of SWRPC staff at hunderwood@swrpc.org. Information about upcoming Monadnock Broadband Group meetings, as well as agendas, presentations and recordings from past meetings can be found at www.swrpc.org/broadbandgroup.

Traffic Study Request Form

Did you know that SWRPC can provide technical assistance to collect data on travel trends? Is your community looking for information about the volume of vehicle traffic on a specific road? Information on operating speeds? Use by trucks? How about biking and walking? The SWRPC 2022 traffic study request form is now available. To submit a request, please visit <https://arcg.is/11GnLe0>. For more information, please contact Henry Underwood of SWRPC staff at hunderwood@swrpc.org.

Emergency Management Planning

SWRPC will soon begin working with the towns of Langdon and Chesterfield in updating their Emergency Operations Plans. The Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Town of Windsor will also be updated in the coming months. As part of the process, towns assemble a team of individuals to assist SWRPC staff by sharing local information and expertise essential in updating a plan. This typically includes members of municipal staff, local boards and volunteers. These meetings are open to the public. For more information please contact Lisa Murphy of SWRPC staff at lmurphy@swrpc.org.



Age-Focused Planning: Social and Recreational Resources

Social engagement and recreational opportunities are critical to retaining and attracting a diverse population and promoting public health. Did you know that the average number of hours per day spent socializing by U.S. residents is declining across all age categories? The greatest declines are occurring among the 15-24 and 65+ age groups (declines of 23.8% and 21.8%, respectively between 2003-2018). Fortunately, Southwest New Hampshire offers many opportunities for social engagement and recreation; however, the lack of awareness of these opportunities prevents people from participating. SWRPC is developing an inventory of resources in support of social engagement and recreation. Please visit SWRPC's latest Age-Friendly Strategies article at <https://www.swrpc.org/age-friendly-strategies-social-and-recreational-resources/>. For more information about the Promoting Age-Friendly Strategies project, please contact Terry Johnson of SWRPC staff at tjohnson@swrpc.org.

Southwest Region Planning Commission

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