

SWRPC

Commission Highlights

August 2022

Vol. 28 - No. 8

Monadnock Regional Coordinating Council Update

During its August 16th meeting, the Monadnock Regional Coordinating Council (MRCC) approved a third round of Transportation Equity Project (TEP) funding for Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services (HCS). Since June 2022, HCS has been the recipient of \$57,200 in TEP funding to expand its shopping shuttles services. Since the release of the MRCC Solicitation for TEP Proposals in March 2022, five community transportation improvement projects have been selected for funding, with the MRCC approving a total of \$152,000 in funding. Supported with funding from a COVID Health Disparity grant from the NH Department of Health and Human Services, projects must serve high-risk, underserved, and/or racial and ethnic minority populations disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. An additional \$55,460 in TEP funds have been issued to Monadnock Region transportation providers to meet increased expenses and demand for transportation services for older adults and individuals with disabilities. In June 2022, Southwest Region Planning Commission executed an agreement with Cheshire County to serve as the MRCC's Mobility Manager which includes oversight and monitoring of TEP. For more information, please contact Terry Johnson of SWRPC staff at tjohnson@swrpc.org.

Transportation Asset Management Field Work

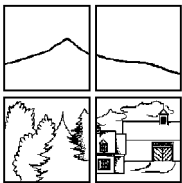
During August, SWRPC kicked-off two transportation asset inventory projects in Greenville and Harrisville. In Greenville, SWRPC completed a field inventory and assessment of all pedestrian features (including sidewalks, crosswalks and curb ramps) and all Town-maintained paved roads. In Harrisville, SWRPC reached a major milestone in an ongoing project to map and assess all town-maintained culverts and stream crossings. The assessment and project deliverables are designed to inform decision-making on everything from routine maintenance, to repairs and replacements, to evaluating flood risk during precipitation events. In the next phase of the project, SWRPC staff will map drainage infrastructure not related to streams (including inlets, outlets, pipes, and other structures). For information about the Harrisville project and culvert and road/stream crossing inventories, please contact Henry Underwood of SWRPC staff at hunderwood@swrpc.org. For information about the Greenville project and pedestrian infrastructure assessments, please contact Andrew Smeltz of SWRPC staff at asmeltz@swrpc.org. You can also learn more about SWRPC's other transportation-related asset management work at www.swrpc.org/asset-management.

Complete Streets Policy Development Projects

In Southwest NH, nine communities have adopted municipal policies designed to improve road safety by balancing the needs of all road users including people of all ages, abilities and modes of travel. In short, Complete Streets *are* safe and *feel* safe, regardless of how you travel. One way to get there is through the tools and strategies, including a municipal policy, that are offered by a complete streets approach. Through support from the Monadnock Alliance for Sustainable Transportation's 2021 Complete Streets Implementation Grant Program, the Towns of Greenville and Marlborough have initiated activities with SWRPC to develop such policies along with accompanying design guidelines and identification of potential implementation projects to consider. The work involving local committees will be pursued for the remainder of the calendar year, with the goal of finalizing a complete streets policy for town officials to consider in the next several months. Is your community one of the nine that have already adopted such a complete streets policy? If so, you are eligible to apply for implementation funding through the Monadnock Alliance for Sustainable Transportation's 2022 Complete Streets Implementation Grant at www.mastnh.org/2022-complete-streets-grant. For more information, please contact Henry Underwood of SWRPC staff at hunderwood@swrpc.org.

Southwest Connects Update

On August 10th, SWRPC hosted a virtual public meeting to discuss the NH Route 9 East Corridor, which runs from Keene to Antrim. The Corridor also includes NH Routes 10, 12A, 123, 123A, 31, and several non-numbered State routes. The Corridor encompasses the towns of Surry, Langdon, Marlow, Gilsum, Alstead, and Windsor in addition to communities located on NH Route 9 including Keene, Roxbury, Sullivan, Nelson, Stoddard, and Antrim. This meeting represents the second in a series designed to inform an update to the region's long-range regional transportation plan - *Southwest Connects*, which was last updated in 2014. Members of the public are encouraged to attend these meetings, share concerns and discuss potential solutions about needs, safety, concern during severe storms, and bicycle and pedestrian use. The next meeting in this series will focus on the NH Route 10 South Corridor, which includes Keene, Swanzey, Winchester, Hinsdale, and Richmond. It will be a virtual meeting and is scheduled for Thursday, September 8th, at 6:30 p.m. If you are interested in joining the meeting, you can find Zoom log-in information at www.swrpc.org/10s or www.swrpc.org/swconnects. For more information, please contact Andrew Smeltz asmeltz@swrpc.org or Lisa Murphy lmurphy@swrpc.org of SWRPC staff.



Brownfields Assessment Grant Award

On August 8th, SWRPC Principal Planner J. B. Mack, attended an event in Nashua facilitated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to recognize New Hampshire awardees of 2022 brownfield assessment and clean up grants. The meeting featured remarks from EPA Region 1 Administrator David Cash, Congresswoman Annie Kuster and Congressman Chris Pappas that acknowledged the importance of EPA's brownfields program to the State of New Hampshire and its exemplary brownfields-related coordination across federal, state and local government. At the event, EPA announced that SWRPC has been awarded a 4-year \$500,000 grant to support on-going brownfields assessment activities. SWRPC was also recognized as having won over \$2.5 million since starting a brownfields assessment program in 2003, making it the longest running regional scale assessment program in the State. For more information, please contact J. B. Mack of SWRPC staff at jbmack@swrpc.org.

