

SWRPC

Commission Highlights

September 2022

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Fall Meeting

SWRPC's 2022 Fall Meeting is scheduled for October 11, 2022 at 5:00 p.m., at Cohen Hall in the Keene Public Library Annex located at 60 Winter Street in Keene, NH. The featured topic is *Resident Owned Communities (ROC): A Strategy for Addressing the Housing Challenge*. The NH Community Loan Fund staff will join SWRPC staff in examining the potential of ROCs to address housing needs in Southwest NH and beyond. Although there is no charge to attend the event, please register in advance by contacting Rich Clough of SWRPC staff at admin@swrpc.org or by calling (603) 357-0557.

Southwest Connects Update

On September 8th, SWRPC hosted a virtual public meeting to discuss the NH Route 10 South Corridor. This corridor facilitates north-south regional traffic movements between Keene and Winchester. The Corridor is comprised of a network of regional highways including but not limited to parts of NH Routes 63, 78 and 119, and also facilitates traffic flow to and from I-91 in Vermont. Corridor communities include Hinsdale, Keene, Richmond, Swanzey, and Winchester. This meeting was the third in a series designed to inform and update the region's long-range regional transportation plan - *Southwest Connects*. The next meeting in this series will take place on October 26th at 6:30 p.m. and will focus on the NH Route 12 North Corridor, which includes Alstead, Keene, Surry, Walpole, and Westmoreland. Join via Zoom at www.swrpc.org/12n or www.swrpc.org/swconnects. For more information, please contact Andrew Smeltz at asmeltz@swrpc.org or Lisa Murphy of SWRPC staff at lmurphy@swrpc.org.

Project Nominations for the Ten Year Transportation Plan

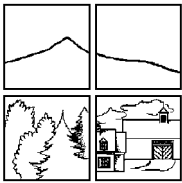
On September 12th, staff presented the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) with results of SWRPC's solicitation to communities of the SWRPC planning district to nominate regional priority transportation projects for consideration in the 2025-2034 New Hampshire Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan (TYP) update process. Priority project finalists include five nominations recommended by Hinsdale, Keene, Swanzey, and Westmoreland. To view these projects, please go to the resource section at the bottom of this page: <https://www.swrpc.org/programs-services/transportation/ten-year-plan/>. The TAC will be evaluating these projects during the month of October. For more information, please contact J. B. Mack of SWRPC staff at jbmack@swrpc.org.

Population Projections: 2020-2050

During September, the New Hampshire Office of Planning and Development released population projections for NH and its political subdivisions for the period 2020 through 2050. Prepared by RLS Demographics, the report located at <https://www.nh.gov/osi/data-center/population-projections.htm> projects population at the state and county levels. A model based on a community's share of its host county is then used to generate projections for each municipality. These projections are based on the 2020 U.S. Census, with updated input of vital records information, migration data, and American Community Survey data. Building upon the 2020 U.S. Census, which identified 100,307 residents within the Southwest Region, RLS Demographics projects the region's population to grow by 3.6% to 103,931 residents by 2030. Looking further ahead, the region's population is projected to decline to 103,415 and 100,248 residents in 2040 and 2050, respectively. It is important to note that population projections are not predictions, and this process attempts to use probable assumptions and then extend those assumptions into the future using mathematical formulas which may be revisited or adjusted as trends change. For more information, please contact Sean O'Donnell of SWRPC staff at sodonnell@swrpc.org.

Bus Tour of Resident-Owned Communities

On September 27th, SWRPC teamed up with the NH Community Loan Fund to host a bus tour of resident-owned communities (ROCs) in the Monadnock Region. A ROC is a manufactured housing community owned cooperatively by the residents. This type of community provides an important path to homeownership for a range of households including older adults, young families, and essential workers. Hundreds of people in the Monadnock Region live in ROCs. Despite the significant role they play within the region's housing supply and the potential they hold for adding more units, ROCs are often overlooked as a part of the solution in addressing the region's housing needs. The tour provided an opportunity for stakeholders to see with their own eyes how ROCs can be great neighborhoods to live in. The tour visited two ROCs; Forest Park in Jaffrey and Tanglewood Estates in Keene. Information was also shared about the Regional Housing Needs Assessment currently underway at SWRPC, as a means of providing context to the conversation about ROCs. This topic will be featured during SWRPC's 2022 Fall Meeting scheduled for October 11th (see article in this newsletter). For more information, please contact Todd Horner of SWRPC staff at thorner@swrpc.org.



Funding Broadband Infrastructure

On September 20th, SWRPC staff participated in the New Hampshire Municipal Association's 2022 Budget and Finance Workshops to update attendees about funding broadband infrastructure projects. The session was held virtually and in-person in Manchester. The workshops included topics such as *Fundamentals of the Municipal Budget Process* and *Understanding State Aid to Municipalities*. There is substantial financial stimulus at the federal level for broadband infrastructure and many of the steps recently taken by some communities for improving broadband still remain valid for these new programs. These steps can be explored in detail through the Monadnock Region Broadband Implementation Guide available at www.swrpc.org/broadband. For more information, please contact Henry Underwood of SWRPC staff at hunderwood@swrpc.org.

