

# SWRPC

## Commission Highlights

December 2022

Vol. 28 - No. 12

### **SWRPC 2023 Winter Meeting**

The SWRPC Winter Meeting will be held on February 14, 2023 at a time and place TBD. For more information, please contact Becky Baldwin of SWRPC staff at [bbaldwin@swrpc.org](mailto:bbaldwin@swrpc.org).

### ***Southwest Connects Update***

Over recent weeks SWRPC hosted two virtual public meetings to discuss transportation issues with community members and collect input and local knowledge for SWRPC's update to *Southwest Connects: Southwest Region Transportation Plan 2014 - 2035*. These meetings focused on the major corridors identified in the Plan including NH Routes 9, 10, 12, 101, and US 202. On November 21<sup>st</sup>, SWRPC hosted a meeting focused on the NH Route 12 South Corridor which includes Keene, Swanzey, Marlborough, Fitzwilliam, and Richmond. On December 7<sup>th</sup>, SWRPC hosted a meeting on the NH Route 101 East Corridor which includes Keene, Marlborough, Harrisville, Dublin, Peterborough, Sharon, Temple, New Ipswich, and Greenville. SWRPC has now completed six of eight transportation corridor meetings. These meetings have been attended by local elected officials and committee members, municipal staff, police and fire chiefs, and members of the public. On January 4, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. SWRPC will host the US Route 202 North Corridor meeting. For more information, please visit: [www.swrpc.org/swconnects](http://www.swrpc.org/swconnects), or contact Andrew Smeltz at [asmeltz@swrpc.org](mailto:asmeltz@swrpc.org) or Lisa Murphy of SWRPC staff at [lmurphy@swrpc.org](mailto:lmurphy@swrpc.org).

### **Local Solutions for Local Housing Needs Workshop**

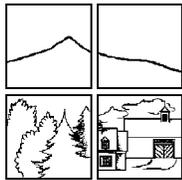
On December 1<sup>st</sup>, SWRPC Planner Sean O'Donnell attended the Local Solutions for Local Housing Needs Workshop hosted by Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation's Southern Vermont Economy Project (SVEP). The workshop was a packed day of peer learning and inspiration with 42 attendees getting together to make regional connections, exchange experience and lessons in tackling current housing challenges, and gather tools to facilitate progress in addressing housing supply and affordability concerns at the community level. A theme that emerged from the one-day event was the critical role that community support and stakeholder engagement can play in advancing housing solutions from the concept and predevelopment stage to real action. Other themes included the roles that local communities and regional planning agencies can play in helping modernize local regulations, invest in long term planning for infrastructure maintenance and expansion, and working with the private sector to develop housing on vacant and underutilized properties. SWRPC will incorporate some of the workshop's key takeaways into its on-going planning activities. For more information, please contact Sean O'Donnell of SWRPC staff at [sodonnell@swrpc.org](mailto:sodonnell@swrpc.org).

### **New Initiative Aims to Build Economic Development Capacity**

The South-West Collaborative Economic Development Region (SW CEDR) aims to build capacity in the Monadnock and the Upper Valley regions of New Hampshire to pursue opportunities related to economic and community development. The CEDR is composed of individuals and organizations working across the economic spectrum and provides a channel of communication to state agency staff, in particular the NH Department of Business and Economic Affairs (NH BEA) which launched the CEDR initiative as a way to better support and connect with regional economic development stakeholders across the state. SWRPC, Upper Valley Lake Sunapee RPC, and NH BEA are working together to facilitate the work of the SW CEDR, which over the next 6-12 months, will identify economic development projects in an effort to assist in moving toward implementation. The CEDR effort will prioritize a limited number of projects for more in-depth technical assistance, including services such as grant writing. For more information about the SW CEDR, please contact Todd Horner of SWRPC staff at [thorner@swrpc.org](mailto:thorner@swrpc.org).

## Regional Housing Needs Assessment Update

During December, housing planners from NH's Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) and the NH Department of Business and Economic Affairs met with private consultants to consider presentations on a proposed draft fair share housing production model and housing toolbox. Both products are being reviewed as resources to incorporate into Regional Housing Needs Assessments (RHNA). The fair share housing production model is an analytical tool designed to guide municipalities in proactively addressing NH RSA 674:58-61, a law that requires every NH municipality that exercises the power to adopt land use ordinances and regulations to provide "reasonable and realistic opportunities for the development of workforce housing." The housing toolbox will include content ranging from approaches to zoning to funding sources to outreach and engagement strategies that municipalities of any size can implement to meet local housing goals. SWRPC expects to publish its RHNA in early 2023. For more information, please contact J. B. Mack of SWRPC staff at [jbmack@swrpc.org](mailto:jbmack@swrpc.org) or visit <https://www.swrpc.org/housing/>.



## 2022 Traffic Research Field Work Season

During December, SWRPC completed its 2022 traffic research field work season. This involved the collection of 134 vehicle traffic counts as assigned by the NH Department of Transportation (NH DOT), 17 special request traffic counts, eight rideshare surveys, one intersection movement count and 11 multiuse trail/bicycle traffic counts. The NH DOT Traffic Bureau uses the data to formulate average annual daily traffic values at traffic counting locations throughout the Region. NH DOT will post the 2022 data results in early- to mid-2023. The new and older data will be available for viewing through SWRPC's traffic count webpage portal: [http://www.swrpc.org/trans/traffic\\_counts](http://www.swrpc.org/trans/traffic_counts). SWRPC is using other data collected this year to inform ongoing transportation planning activities including the *Southwest Connects* Long Range Transportation Plan. In addition to collecting traffic data, SWRPC staff completed a number of asset management related data inventories including a road surface assessment in Greenville and a stream crossing inventory in Harrisville. For more information, please contact Henry Underwood of SWRPC staff at [hunderwood@swrpc.org](mailto:hunderwood@swrpc.org).

