

SWRPC

Commission Highlights

February 2023

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SWRPC 2023 Winter Meeting

On February 14th, SWRPC held its Winter Meeting in Cohen Hall at the Keene Library Annex. During the meeting, SWRPC staff provided a presentation and follow-up discussion regarding a recently completed transit feasibility study. The Study recommends significant improvements to existing transit service delivery in phases starting in the Greater Keene area and then expanding to serve other areas including Winchester, Peterborough and Jaffrey. A copy of the presentation is available at www.swrpc.org/transitpresentation_021423. The second presentation described a project managed by the Greater Keene and Peterborough Chamber (GKPC) to develop a brand for the Monadnock Region. Information about how the brand was developed and how it will be used were a focus of the presentation. It was noted that municipalities can play a role in rolling out the brand in a variety of ways including updating their websites and sharing information about their towns through coordination with GKPC. A copy of this presentation is available at www.swrpc.org/brandingpresentation_021423. For more information, please contact J. B. Mack or Todd Horner of SWRPC staff at jbmack@swrpc.org or thorner@swrpc.org respectively.

Community Transportation Projects Gain Momentum

The Monadnock Regional Coordinating Council for Community Transportation (MRCC) launched the Rural Transportation Equity Program (RTEP) in March 2022. The RTEP provides funding for projects that improve community transportation services in the region with the purpose of addressing disparities resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic particular to rural populations who have difficulty accessing health care and other essential services. Target populations include people who are unable to drive, including but not limited to those without access to personal vehicles, children, individuals with disabilities, lower-income individuals, and older adults. Projects launched to date include:

- HCS Shopping Shuttles – the goal is to address food insecurity through improved access to food among older adults, people with disabilities and lower-income residents of Keene, Swanzey and Winchester.
- Keene Housing Kids Collaborative Youth Transportation Program – the goal is to improve opportunities for 600 children and youth, 0-17 years old, from lower-income households through providing transportation to youth programs offered by more than 40 community partners.
- Community Volunteer Transportation Company (CVTC) Advancement – the goal is to increase access to healthcare and other essential services for older adults and people with disabilities through a volunteer recruitment campaign focused on communities where CVTC does not have a registered driver.

For more information, please contact Terry Johnson of SWRPC staff at tjohnson@swrpc.org.

Monadnock Broadband Group

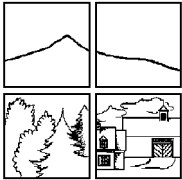
On February 14th, SWRPC staff facilitated a meeting of the Monadnock Broadband Group. Clay Purvis, Federal Program Officer at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, provided an overview of his agency's broadband programs and included timelines by which the State of New Hampshire will submit various plans and implement projects. In addition, staff from the University of New Hampshire shared information about their broadband data collection initiatives which include mapping broadband speeds (nhbroadbandspeedtest.unh.edu) and improving address information through E911 data. Finally, the NH Office of Broadband Initiatives also provided an update about the Federal Communication Commission's updated National Broadband Map and associated challenge process (www.fcc.gov/BroadbandData/consumers). To review the recording and meeting materials, please visit www.swrc.org/broadbandgroup. For more information, please contact Henry Underwood of SWRPC staff at hunderwood@swrpc.org.

Community Center Investment Program (CCIP)

On February 23rd, SWRPC staff attended a session on the NH Community Development Finance Authorities newly announced CCIP initiative. This \$20 million program is designed to support community centers throughout New Hampshire through improvements to existing facilities as well as new construction. Eligible applicants include municipalities and non-profits. The process is unfolding quickly with an application webinar scheduled for March 23rd and proposals due April 21, 2023. For additional information, please visit: <https://bit.ly/CCIPpdf>

Emergency Management Planning

Over the course of several months SWRPC has completed seven Hazard Mitigation Plan updates for Antrim, Richmond, Sullivan, Surry, Swanzey, Westmoreland, and Winchester. In addition, Emergency Operations Plans have been completed for Chesterfield, Langdon and Richmond. Currently, staff is assisting Alstead, Harrisville and Windsor in updating Hazard Mitigation Plans with Hancock, Nelson, Sharon, Stoddard, and Walpole likely later in the year. Staff will soon be assisting Hinsdale and Marlborough with updates to their Emergency Operations Plans. As part of the process, towns assemble a team of municipal staff, local boards and volunteers to contribute local information and expertise essential in updating a plan. These meetings are open to the public. For more information, please contact Lisa Murphy of SWRPC staff at lmurphy@swrpc.org



Transportation Advisory Committee

On February 6th the SWRPC Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) learned about a proposed project focused on improvements to the NH 9/10/12/101 intersection in Keene. The proposal features analysis to determine ways to reduce vehicle idling and improve air quality. The TAC expressed support for the project put forward by the NH Department of Transportation. Additionally, the TAC received updates on three regional priority projects including improvements to NH 10 from NH 101 to the Swanzey Market Basket driveway, improvements to US 202 in Jaffrey's downtown and improvements to NH 101 at the intersection with Swanzey Factory Road in Keene. For more information, please contact J. B. Mack of SWRPC staff at jbmack@swrpc.org.

