

SWRPC

Commission Highlights

August 2023

Vol. 29 - No. 8

Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan Public Hearings

The Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation has scheduled public hearings throughout the State to discuss and listen to testimony on the draft 2025-2034 Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan (TYP) update. The TYP is a listing of transportation-related capital and operations improvements scheduled for the period 2025 through 2034. Hearings in the Southwest Region will be held at the following times and locations:

- September 25, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at the Keene Recreation Center, Room 14, located at 312 Washington Street, Keene
- October 17, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the Jaffrey Fire Station located at 138 Turnpike Road, Jaffrey

The draft 2025-2034 TYP is available to review at <https://www.dot.nh.gov/projects-plans-and-programs/ten-year-plan>. For more information, please contact J. B. Mack of SWRPC staff at jbmack@swrpc.org.

Northern Border Regional Commission 2023 Catalyst Awards

On August 23rd, the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) announced this year's Catalyst Grant Program awards. The program aims to promote local economic and community development in northern New England and upstate New York. This year, the total award amount for the 4-state area was \$43.6 million, with Cheshire County entities receiving approximately \$3.1 million of this total. (Note: Hillsborough County is not within the NBRC's service area.) The awards were distributed as follows:

- Hannah Grimes Center (\$416,154): This funding will boost the Center's capacity to assemble and support formal working groups addressing regional challenges.
- Monadnock Family Services (\$496,886): The grant will be used for the installation of a 734-panel solar array, leading to significant cost savings.
- Keene Housing (\$500,000): This amount will be utilized for the redevelopment of the vacant Roosevelt School building in downtown Keene, transforming it into 30 apartments.
- Monadnock United Way (\$499,015): The Monadnock Region Afterschool Partnership Program (MRAPP) plans to unify afterschool programs with higher education institutions and local businesses.
- Greater Monadnock Collaborative (\$233,000): The initiative is a marketing campaign targeting individuals aged 16-29, highlighting the abundant opportunities in Cheshire County.
- Monadnock Economic Development Corporation (\$1,000,000): These funds will assist in acquiring a 12.9-acre vacant lot and in developing the necessary infrastructure for the new Keene Technology and Innovation Park.

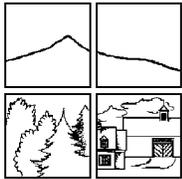
As an NBRC-recognized Local Development District for Cheshire County, SWRPC offers technical assistance concerning proposal development and grant administration. For more information, please contact Todd Horner of SWRPC staff at thorner@swrpc.org.

Community Power Presentations

During August, in collaboration with Monadnock Sustainability Hub (MSH), SWRPC staff gave presentations on Community Power to Select boards in Antrim and Alstead. Community Power allows towns to aggregate the buying power of residents and businesses to receive better rates from electricity suppliers. Alstead and Antrim have joined a growing list of communities within the Monadnock Region to receive a presentation from the SWRPC-MSH team. These presentations offer a comprehensive overview of Community Power and outline the steps needed to implement a policy. For more information, please contact Jason Cooper of SWRPC staff at jcooper@swrpc.org

Keene Senior Center Awarded Community Transportation Equity Funding

At its August 15th meeting, the Monadnock Regional Coordinating Council authorized Transportation Equity funding to the Keene Senior Center (KSC) to conduct outreach activities aimed at increasing its volunteer drivers corps. KSC is the fourth organization to receive Transportation Equity funding, the source of which is the NH Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control. For more information, please contact Terry Johnson of SWRPC staff at tjohnson@swrpc.org.



Brownfields Advisory Committee Update

SWRPC's Brownfields Advisory Committee (BrAC) met on August 1st. SWRPC environmental consultant Ransom Consulting, LLC gave a presentation on the results of two Phase I Environmental Site Assessments (ESA) for two neighboring lots on Turnpike Road in New Ipswich. The update uncovered several recognized environmental conditions associated with the site of a former New Ipswich Department of Public Works garage and recommended Phase II ESA activities to investigate potential sources of contamination. In addition, the BrAC approved two scopes of work including a request from the Town of Greenville to conduct a Phase I ESA at 24 and 28 Main Street, and the Town of Hinsdale to conduct a Supplemental Phase II ESA at the former McGoldrick Paper Mill site. For more information, contact J. B. Mack of SWRPC staff at jbmack@swrpc.org.

Southwest Region Planning Commission

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