

SWRPC

Commission Highlights

September 2023

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Fall Meeting

SWRPC's 2023 Fall Meeting is scheduled for October 10, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at Delegation Hall in the Historic Cheshire County Courthouse located at 12 Court Street in Keene, NH. The featured topic is *Weathering the Storm: Towards Local Climate Resilience in the Monadnock Region*. Although there is no cost to attend the event, please register in advance by going to <https://swrpcfall23.eventbrite.com>, or contacting Rich Clough of SWRPC staff at admin@swrpc.org or (603) 357-0557.

2023 Radically Rural Summit

During September, SWRPC Assistant Director Todd Horner served as the Main Street track leader for the 6th annual Radically Rural event, a summit that educates, connects, and inspires people who care about the future of rural places. An initiative of the Hannah Grimes Center for Entrepreneurship, Radically Rural attracts attendees from across the country with a wide array of interests. In addition to the Main Street track, programming included sessions on public health, land and community, arts and culture, local journalism, and energy. The two Main Street sessions focused on housing and welcoming new neighbors with immigrant backgrounds. During the former session, attendees visited Tanglewood Estates, a resident-owned community (ROC) located in Keene. Participants learned how ROCs offer affordable, sustainable homeownership opportunities. The latter session explored the benefits of proactively welcoming immigrants and steps communities can take to do so. For more information, please contact Todd Horner of SWRPC staff at thorner@swrpc.org.

Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan Public Hearings

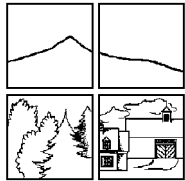
On September 25th, SWRPC staff joined the New Hampshire Department of Transportation in presenting information relating to the draft 2025-2034 Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan (TYP) update during a public hearing at the Keene Recreation Center. Following the presentation, NH Executive Councilor Cinde Warmington invited comments from the public. Approximately 30 people attended the event with many providing testimony. Reoccurring topics included the need for more state revenue for maintaining existing roads and bridges, the need for additional investment in transit and volunteer driver services, and the importance of investing in regional rail trail systems. An additional public hearing in the Southwest Region is scheduled for October 17th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Jaffrey Fire Station located at 138 Turnpike Road in Jaffrey. Those interested in reviewing the draft TYP are encouraged to visit <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.

Tri-State Transit Conference

On September 6th & 7th, Jason Cooper of SWRPC staff attended the Tri-State Transit Conference in Killington, Vermont. The conference included a variety of programming relevant to transit agencies in rural and urban settings, policy makers, planners, and advocates for community transportation in Northern New England. Sessions of particular interest to on-going SWRPC efforts included *Technology-Enabled Mobility: Current Perspectives*, *A Vision for Small Urban and Rural Transit*, and *Mobility for All*. Speakers at the conference represented transit agencies from across Northern New England, transportation officials at the state and federal levels, and private consultants. Information from the conference will help to inform efforts towards increasing community transportation options within the Monadnock Region. To learn more about the Tri-State Transit Conference, or about the SWRPC's community transportation efforts, please contact Jason Cooper of SWRPC staff at jcooper@swrpc.org.

Hundred Nights Facility Event

On September 23rd, SWRPC staff attended the Hundred Nights emergency shelter ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house in Keene. Attendees included civic leaders, capital campaign donors, funders, construction workers involved in building the shelter, volunteers who donate their time, as well as shelter occupants. Executive Director Mindy Cambiar acknowledged the many partners that helped bring the project to fruition. Located at 122-124 Water Street, the 48-bed emergency shelter and resource center offers support services, private rooms for families, dorms for men and women, and kitchen and laundry facilities. Financing for the shelter included \$857,870 in federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the NH Community Development Finance Authority. The CDBG grant was awarded to Cheshire County which sub-granted the funds to Hundred Nights for the construction project. SWRPC serves as grant administrator for the project and is currently providing similar services for multiple CDBG-funded projects in Southwest New Hampshire. The CDBG national objective is to provide direct benefit to low- and moderate-income persons. For more information about the CDBG program, please contact Jack Ahern of SWRPC staff at jahern@swrpc.org.



4th National Summit on Rural Road Safety

From September 11th through 14th, Henry Underwood of SWRPC staff participated in the 2023 National Summit on Rural Road convened by the National Center for Rural Road Safety (RuralSafetyCenter.org) and the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO.org). He presented as part of a panel in the NADO-sponsored session entitled *Planning and Environment Linkages: Flexible Implementations* along with staff from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and NADO. Highlights from the conference included instruction on FHWA's Local Road Safety Plan "do-it-yourself" website, a road safety trip with the FHWA Resource Center, and two sessions from the National Center for Rural Road Safety's Road Safety Champion Program. For more information about the conference and its content, including road safety resources for municipalities, please contact Henry Underwood of SWRPC staff at hunderwood@swrpc.org.

