

10-Year Transportation Improvement Plan

On November 8th and 29th, SWRPC staff attended meetings of the Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) to follow deliberations regarding its recommendations on the 2025-2034 Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan (TYP) update. GACIT, comprised of NH's 5 Executive Councilors and the Commissioner of the NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT), discussed feedback and testimony resulting from 24 separate hearings held earlier this year, and coordinated to present a revised draft of the TYP for further review. The draft TYP features dozens of projects in Southwest NH, and based on the November meetings, the GACIT is likely to preserve project funding and schedules originally proposed by NHDOT. The next step in the TYP process involves the Governor reviewing the draft TYP and sending any recommendations to the State Legislature this winter with the goal of passing the TYP by the end of the legislative session in June 2024. For more information about the GACIT or the TYP process, please contact J. B. Mack of SWRPC staff at jbmack@swrpc.org.

Monadnock Clean Energy Roundtable

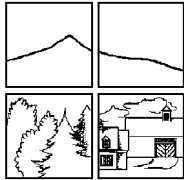
On November 15th, SWRPC staff attended the Monadnock Region Clean Energy Roundtable at the Dublin Community Center. Hosted by the Monadnock Sustainability Hub and Clean Energy New Hampshire, the event included many short-format presentations on topics such as Community Power implementation, municipal solar, and electric vehicle infrastructure, for which SWRPC provided remarks from a regional perspective. The event also included a presentation from Clean Energy New Hampshire on the status of clean energy legislation at the state level. Additionally, an overview was provided about adoption of the Cheshire County Community Power plan. Following the presentations, participants were able to interact and discuss opportunities for collaboration on these and similar efforts. To learn more, please contact Jason Cooper of SWRPC staff at jcooper@swrpc.org.

Monadnock Broadband Group

On November 17th, SWRPC hosted a Monadnock Broadband Group meeting to coincide with the NH Department of Businesses and Economic Affairs (BEA) announcement of a public comment period of documents required by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) relative to the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) program. The program will provide \$196.5 million to promote the State's goal of providing broadband infrastructure to 100% of addresses in the state that currently lack sufficient broadband speeds. The documents are available for review on the BEA website (nheconomy.com/office-of-broadband-initiatives/ijja/bead). To provide feedback, comments can be e-mailed to broadband@livefree.nh.gov or mailed to Business and Economic Affairs, Office of Broadband Initiatives, 100 North Main Street, Suite 100, Concord, NH 03301. All comments must be submitted by **December 13, 2023 at 12:00 p.m.** During the meeting, John Dougherty of Mission Broadband provided a summary of the process and answered questions about the comment period. Charlie French from the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension also joined the meeting to summarize work to create the State's first ever Digital Equity Plan (nhdigitalequity.org). Links to a recording and meeting materials are available on the Monadnock Broadband Group webpage (swrpc.org/broadbandgroup). For more information, please contact Henry Underwood of SWRPC staff at hunderwood@swrpc.org.

Brownfields Assessment: Seeking Nominations

In its 20th year of hosting a Brownfields Assessment Program, SWRPC continues to accept nominations for brownfields sites from member communities, their partners and affiliates. Brownfields, as defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, are properties where *the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant*. SWRPC's brownfields assessment program helps to investigate and characterize potential contamination on a site, filling an important role when owners or prospective purchasers of such properties do not have the financial resources or are reluctant to investigate a property due to the cost of an environmental assessment or associated stigma. For municipalities considering tax deeding potentially contaminated properties or helping advance a public or private redevelopment project idea that would benefit the community, the SWRPC Brownfield Assessment Program is an invaluable resource. For more information about the Program, visit www.swrpc.org/programs-services/brownfields/ or contact J. B. Mack of SWRPC staff at jbmack@swrpc.org.



2023 Traffic Research Season

In November, the SWRPC traffic research team completed the 2023 season of traffic counts, which started in April. Every year SWRPC conducts between 130 and 150 traffic counts on area roads as requested by NHDOT for the purpose of monitoring traffic trends throughout the State. Traffic count locations are on a 3-year rotation with approximately 70% of the counts recording traffic volume and 30% also measuring speed and vehicle classification. Additionally, SWRPC conducted traffic research on behalf of several member municipalities that requested assistance in measuring traffic speeds and volumes and understanding turning movements at key intersections. This year SWRPC also collected data on bicycle and pedestrian use at multiple sites in the Region. For more information about SWRPC's traffic research program, please contact Rich Clough of SWRPC staff at rclough@swrpc.org.

Southwest Region Planning Commission

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