

SWRPC

Commission Highlights

November 2024

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Brownfields Advisory Committee Approves Additional Funding for Local Projects

On November 1st, the SWRPC Brownfields Advisory Committee (BrAC) approved additional funds towards projects in Greenville and New Ipswich. SWRPC consultant, BETA Group Inc. will proceed with a Supplemental Phase II Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) associated with a cluster of vacant properties on Main Street in Greenville. Ransom Consulting LLC, another SWRPC consultant, is assisting the Town of New Ipswich and a private property owner in completing an investigation of the Town's old Highway Garage and its impact on an abutting parcel. Finally, the BrAC approved a brownfield nomination from the Town of Windsor for assistance with a former auto recycling property that the Town tax deeded and is now under a purchase and sale agreement with a prospective purchaser. In December, the BrAC is expected to review a scope of work to help the Town and purchaser assess PFAS levels on the property. For more information, please contact J. B. Mack of SWRPC staff at jbmack@swrpc.org.

Monadnock Region ADU Design Challenge

Around 30 architects, building designers, and students from around the Monadnock Region, state, and nation have registered to submit conceptual Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) design submissions in the Monadnock Region ADU Challenge. All 11 selected homeowners have been matched with a participating designer. Submissions are due on January 31, 2025 with a celebration and awards ceremony to be held on March 8, 2025, details to be announced. Next steps for the Advisory Committee include recruiting competition jury members to review the submissions. For more information, please go to www.swrpc.org/adu, or contact Chloe Gross of SWRPC staff at cgross@swrpc.org.

Cyber Defense Workshop

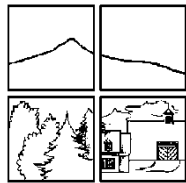
On Tuesday, November 19th, SWRPC and Cheshire County hosted Cori Casey of Primex Insurance and Jason Sgro of The Atom Group to deliver a free training for public employees of municipalities, school districts and public safety entities entitled *General Cybersecurity Training Overview*. Approximately twenty attendees from various municipalities and school districts in the Monadnock region participated in-person or via Zoom. Cheshire County Administrator Chris Coates welcomed the group by saying that the training was timely and needed for everyone in the region. The workshop covered a variety of cybersecurity threats and trends impacting organizations including phishing and business email compromise; financial frauds; ransomware tactics; personal internet protection; and data privacy. The session was positively received, with a lively question and answer session following the presentation. For more information about the New Hampshire Municipal Cyber Defense Program, please visit theatomgroup.com/mcdp. For more information, please contact Henry Underwood of SWRPC staff at hunderwood@swrpc.org.

Complete Streets 2024 Grant Round Awards

At the November meeting of the Monadnock Alliance for Sustainable Transportation (MAST) Steering Committee, awards were made to two communities in our region to implement their respective complete streets policies. The Town of Marlborough was awarded \$48,750 for pedestrian safety improvements at the intersection of NH 124 (Jaffrey Road) and Pleasant Street (including overhead lighting upgrades and a button-activated warning light called a rectangular rapid flashing beacon). The Town of Swanzey was awarded \$51,250 to install similar beacon systems at three intersections of the Ashuelot Rail Trail and Matthews Road. Such systems can reduce pedestrian crashes by 47% and increase motorist yield rates up to 98%. Both projects are proposed to be completed by the end of 2025. For more information about the grant program, please contact Henry Underwood of SWRPC staff at hunderwood@swrpc.org.

Transit Project Public Meeting

The second in a series of three public meetings was held on November 14th for the [Planning for a Next Generation Transit System in the Monadnock Region](#) project. Meeting attendees had an opportunity to learn about progress and provide input on the project. The project aims to expand much needed public transit services to more areas and people in the Monadnock Region, beginning with the selection of a governance and operating model and identification of a transit system managing entity. The most promising models included a County operated system, a Non-Profit operator, a Joint Powers Agreement between municipalities, and an entity designated through State legislation similar to the COAST system currently serving the NH Seacoast Region. In addition to serving seniors and individuals with disabilities which are the primary users of current transit services, expanded services will be designed to be more attractive to “Choice Riders”, including commuters and those who desire to have the option to use public transportation instead of their personal vehicles. For more information, please contact Terry Johnson of SWRPC staff at tjohnson@swrpc.org.



SWRPC Submits Finalist Candidate Projects to NHDOT

At its meeting on November 4th, the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) recommended that SWRPC submit three finalist projects for review and comment to the NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT) for the FY 2027-2036 Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan (TYP). The recommendations, which are based on the committee’s scoring evaluation of four projects in October, include a project to address inadequate stormwater and pedestrian infrastructure on NH Route 124 in Marlborough, improve the configuration of the intersection between NH Route 12 and NH Route 32 in Keene, and to address gaps in sidewalk infrastructure in North Swanzey including the development of a new sidewalk on Lake Street. NHDOT will review the project proposals and their cost estimates and provide feedback by February 2025. Following a review of NHDOT’s feedback, the TAC will assist SWRPC in recommending one finalist project. For more information, please contact J. B. Mack of SWRPC staff at jbmack@swrpc.org.

