

GIS Programs



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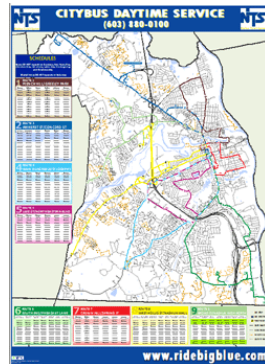
Traffic Counting Season Successfully Completed

In November, NRPC once again reached the 100% completion rate for its regional traffic counts in support of NHDOT's Highway Performance Monitoring System. In all, 130 counts were performed this year across 8 of NRPC's 13 communities, including required speed and vehicle classification counts at key locations. The data is sent to the State, where it is processed and adjusted for seasonal differences and vehicle mix.

Regional Model Data Collection

In anticipation of the release of 2010 U.S. Census Data, NRPC will be updating its Regional Travel Demand Model, which provides forecasts for roadway volumes, intersection operations, and air quality analysis inputs for the Nashua region. As part of this effort, NRPC has already begun collecting traffic data that will aid in the calibration of the model to 2010 conditions.

Staff has collected daily and peak hour volume data at several important sites, including many Everett Turnpike ramps, and areas on the region's border—this effort will continue into the next traffic counting season. In addition, the updated model will have the capability to more accurately reflect small-scale traffic patterns thanks to new signal timing and intersection geometry inputs. Data collection for this task is also currently ongoing.



Nashua Transit System Official Route Map

The Nashua Transit System recently introduced a new daytime route system and NRPC was there to update their official route map and schedule poster, soon to be seen at the Transit Center on Elm Street. The maps use newer, easier to follow route lines, as well as all the new timetable information and bus stop locations. Copies are also available at the NRPC office.

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Program Highlights December 15, 2010

In this issue, we highlight the great work that NRPC staff has been undertaking this past quarter on behalf of member communities:

- Nashua Transit System New Routes Map
- Merrimack North End Land Use Study
- Household Hazardous Waste Year End Results
- CMAQ Program Proposals

Also this Fall, we said goodbye to two staff members: long-time GIS Manager Steve Schaffer and Environmental Planner Minda Shaheen. We will miss Steve's professionalism, considerable GIS and technical knowledge, and his high standards of excellence. Steve's maps are truly works of art. We will also miss Minda's analytical skills and her ability to give real life meaning to data. We wish them both well in their new endeavors!

We encourage you to share the enclosed program highlights report with your constituents to keep them up-to-date about NRPC's programs and resources.

We look forward to hearing from you and your communities!

Sincerely,

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Broad Street Parkway

NRPC has continued efforts in support of the Broad Street Parkway project. In cooperation with the City, NHDOT, and FHWA, NRPC managed an environmental re-evaluation process required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). NRPC has worked with the consulting firm Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. to complete the Environmental Re-Evaluation process. The Federal Highway Administration signed a revised Record of Decision in September 2010. This action by FHWA allows the city to begin to spend Federal funds to advance the final design of the project. The completion of this task marks the end of a 3 year effort by NRPC to assist the City in advancing the project.

Transportation Improvement Program and Long Range Transportation Plan

NRPC completed a comprehensive and cooperative planning approach to develop programming recommendations for the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the 2011-2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). This process was run in parallel with the NHDOT Ten Year Plan update. Once again, NRPC recognized the budget constraints at the state and federal level and did not propose new projects be added to the TIP or LRTP. Working with the TTAC, NRPC reviewed existing projects and priorities and developed recommendations to allow programming flexibility and implementation in a fiscally responsible manner. In October NRPC formally adopted the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the 2011-2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Looking ahead to 2011, NRPC will begin the process to develop the draft 2013—2016 TIP and update the Long Range Transportation Plan.

Metropolitan Planning Organization Operations

The NRPC staff has begun work on updating several documents related to the operation of the MPO. This work includes updates to the MPO Prospectus which provides a framework and guidelines for the administration of the Transportation Planning Process in the region. Updates are also planned for the project selection process and criteria, the Public Participation Plan and Memorandums of Understanding between NRPC, NHDOT and Nashua Transit System. In addition NRPC will be developing the 2012—2013 Unified Planning Work Program for implementation in July of 2011.

Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Program

The CMAQ program provides funding opportunities for communities to address transportation needs that have a direct and beneficial impact on air quality in the region. Typical projects include intersection signalization improvements and improvements to transit service. NRPC is currently working with the communities of Hudson and Milford to acquire funding for intersection related improvements. In Hudson, the intersections of 1). Ferry St. and Library St., 2). Derry St., Ferry St. and Chase St., and 3). Derry St., Highland St. and Library St. are being considered for improvement. In Milford the intersection at Route 13 with Emerson and Armory Road is proposed for improvement. A funding decision on these projects is expected in February with funds available for construction as early as June 2011.

Land Use & Environmental Programs



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Merrimack North End Land Use Study

The Merrimack North End Land Use Study is designed to provide input on how to positively and proactively guide and influence future development in a manner that benefits Merrimack residents. There are several emerging issues that could affect development potential in northern Merrimack, including the Airport Access Road and a proposed commuter rail station. In light of these projects, this area represents an opportunity for the Town to attract regional scale developments, stimulate economic growth, generate revenue, and ensure that the process results in benefits for the public. Stakeholder input is an integral part of this process and NRPC has assisted Merrimack in obtaining input from property owners, developers, study area residents, town land use boards and development process officials. Staff is currently in the process of developing recommendations and the final report. For additional information contact Camille Pattison at 424-2240 x14 or camillep@nashuarpc.org.

Ongoing Planning Board Technical Assistance

There are a number of towns in the region that have or will be hearing applications on new Telecommunication Facilities. NRPC Circuit Rider services assisted in approval of a tower in Litchfield and will be assisting Wilton this month with a proposed facility. Little or no development is occurring because of the slow economic recovery. Assistance with Litchfield, Wilton and Mason zoning and regulation amendments continues. NRPC contracts for 2011 are being secured to continue service to these communities. NRPC is actively assisting Brookline with their Master Plan update. A Master Plan Forum was held recently hosted by the Planning Board and UNH Cooperative Extension, and Breakout sessions were facilitated by NRPC staff. Approximately 35 residents participated. iTRaC continues to support communities with planning tools to help integrate land use and transportation planning. For additional information contact Steve Wagner at 424-2240 x25 or stevew@nashuarpc.org.

Energy Technical Assistance

Energy Technical Assistance and Planning for NH Communities (ETAP) is a two year program providing energy efficiency technical assistance free of charge to NH municipalities and counties. ETAP's goal is to advance energy efficiency in all NH municipalities and provide the tools communities need to monitor energy performance. ETAP projects are currently underway in Amherst, Brookline, Hollis, Hudson, Nashua, and Pelham. Lyndeborough is scheduled to begin in early 2011. For additional information contact Jill Longval at 424-2240 x27 or jilll@nashuarpc.org.

Household Hazardous Waste Update

Six Household Hazardous Waste collections were held this year; five of the events were located in Nashua and a sixth was held in Milford. A total of 1,368 households participated from across the region. Collection dates for the 2011 season will be determined at the Nashua Regional Solid Waste Management District meeting on December 16. These dates will be posted to NRPC's website as soon as they are available and the first collection is typically held in April. For additional information contact Jill Longval at 424-2240 x27 or jilll@nashuarpc.org.