



Program Highlights

September 15, 2010

Welcome Back!

NRPC Staff has been busy this summer working on a number of different projects. NRPC took the lead on the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Initiative Grant that was filed in mid-August. The New Hampshire Sustainable Communities Initiative (NH SCI) is an innovative statewide project that will enable communities to create fully-integrated, place-based, sustainable development plans. Over the last several years, the nine Regional Planning Commissions in NH have prepared a foundation for success by building collaborative relationships and demonstrating the necessity of regionally coordinated strategies.

The state's readiness for this project is evident in the breadth and depth of commitment to the Initiative. 88 partners including 63 municipalities and counties representing 75% of the state's population have formally committed their time, energy and resources to the Initiative. We will hopefully hear the results of our work in the coming months.

Over the summer we also conducted 2 NRPC Commissioner Workshops that provided an overview of NRPC and the MPO, NRPC programs and the roles of Commissioners. If you missed these workshops but are interested in reviewing the topics, please contact me.

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,

Kerrie Diers, Executive Director

Administration:

Kerrie Diers, Executive Director

424-2240 x12 kerried@nashuarpc.org

Shirley Vance, Executive Assistant

424-2240 x10 shirleyv@nashuarpc.org

Karen Baker, Administrative Assistant

424-2240 x11 karenb@nashuarpc.org

Transportation Programs



Tim Roache, Assistant Director/MPO Coordinator
424-2240 x28 timr@nashuarpc.org

Julie Chizmas, Transportation Planner
424-2240 x19 juliec@nashuarpc.org

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 is working with the consulting firm Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. to complete the Environmental Re-Evaluation process. A decision on the re-evaluation from the Federal Highway Administration in the form of a revised Record of Decision is in draft form and is expected to be finalized before the end of September 2010. Based on that decision the City will move forward with the final design of the project. The completion of this task will mark 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 developing recommendations to allow programming flexibility and implementation in a fiscally responsible manner.

Congestion Management Process

The Congestion Management Process (CMP) is a systematic approach that provides for the safe and effective management and operation of new and existing transportation facilities through demand reduction and operational management strategies. NRPC, in cooperation with Rockingham Planning Commission and Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission, is developing a Congestion Management Process for the region. This will result in a set of recommendations to be implemented in the Transportation Improvement Program that will improve travel on the most congested corridors in the region. This process and Plan will be added to the NRPC Long Range Transportation Plan in September.

Safe Routes to Schools Program

The Safe Routes program encourages children to bike or walk to school through education and incentives that remind children how much fun biking and walking can be. The program also addresses the safety concerns of parents by encouraging greater enforcement of traffic laws, exploring ways to create safer streets, and educating the public about safe biking, walking, and driving practices. NRPC continues to pursue Safe Routes to Schools funding for communities and school districts in the region. The Town of Hollis is current at the beginning stages of working with NRPC to develop a SRTS Travel Plan.



Land Use & Environmental Programs

Camille Pattison, Principal Planner

424-2240 x14 camillep@nashuarpc.org

Jill Longval, Public Outreach Coordinator

424-2240 x27 jilll@nashuarpc.org

Minda Shaheen, Environmental Planner

424-2240 x29 mindas@nashuarpc.org

Steve Wagner, Senior Regional Planner

424-2240 x25 stevew@nashuarpc.org



Hazard Mitigation

This summer staff completed the Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Town of Mason. This was the last hazard mitigation plan to be developed in the NRPC region. Now we will begin the process of updating each town's plan every five years. Since July NRPC staff has been working with a dedicated group in Hudson to update their plan and anticipates a completion date of late 2010. Staff will begin updating the Pelham plan later this month and anticipates a completion date of early 2011. During 2011 efforts will begin to update these plans in the Towns of Hollis and Brookline. For additional information contact Camille Pattison at 424-2240 x14 or camillep@nashuarpc.org.

Agricultural Assistance

As part of a Community Technical Assistance Program (CTAP) grant to assist the communities of Pelham, Litchfield and Hudson, NRPC staff held an Agriculture Commission Workshop at NRPC on May 24. Technical assistance was provided to Litchfield because of their extensive agricultural lands. A Farm Friendly survey was conducted; zoning and regulations reviewed; agriculture inventory documents were reviewed. Recommendations and comments will be provided to the Planning Board this Fall for potential regulation and zoning amendments. For additional information contact Steve Wagner at 424-2240 x25 or stevew@nashuarpc.org.

Brownfields Program

Three properties have successfully been entered into the NRPC Brownfields program and are nearing the final stages of contaminant assessment on each of the sites. A Phase I (historical records review) assessment report has been completed for both sites and Phase II (on-the-ground sampling and testing for air, water, and soil contaminants) assessments are being finalized for two sites in Milford, the Former Milford Police Department site and Grug-nale site. An additional site in Hudson with documented asbestos contamination is in the final stages of Phase I assessment. Completing the environmental site contamination assessment at each of these sites represents an important step towards eventual cleanup and increased redevelopment potential of the sites. For additional information please visit www.nashuarpc.org/brownfields/index.htm or contact Minda Shaheen, 424-2240 x29 or mindas@nashurpc.org.

Souhegan Outreach Kit

NRPC recently distributed an outreach toolkit to ten communities within the Souhegan River Watershed (Amherst, Bedford, Greenville, Lyndeborough, Merrimack, Milford, Mont Vernon, New Ipswich, Temple, and Wilton) in an effort to focus increased attention on the valuable resource that is the Souhegan River and the importance of protecting its surrounding watershed. The ultimate goal of this project is to encourage watershed communities to adopt the Souhegan River Watershed Management Plan into community master plans; and understand the Souhegan River Watershed resource. For additional information please visit www.nashuarpc.org/SRLAC/index.htm or contact Minda Shaheen, 424-2240 x29 or mindas@nashurpc.org.

GIS Programs



Steve Schaffer, GIS Manager

424-2240 x21

steves@nashuarpc.org

Ryan Friedman, Senior GIS Planner

424-2240 x20

ryanf@nashuarpc.org

Matt Waitkins, Field Data Manager/Transportation Planner

424-2240 x18

mattw@nashuarpc.org

Joe Taranto, GIS Technician

424-2240 x19

joet@nashuarpc.org

Broadband Mapping

NRPC is part of a statewide effort for Broadband Mapping that received a \$1.7 million dollar grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). \$1.2 million dollars of the grant will be allocated over the next two years to map broadband availability across the state, identify gaps in broadband accessibility, and pinpoint underserved areas. In January, NRPC began to survey and map regional anchor institutions including city and town halls, emergency service facilities, hospitals, medical centers, schools, and libraries. The national broadband map will display the geographic areas where broadband service is available, the technology used to provide the service, the speed of the service, and broadband service availability at important community anchor locations.

The Nashua Regional Planning Commission will hold a Community Broadband Forum on Tuesday Sept. 28, from 6:30-8:30 PM in the Banquet Hall (3rd floor) of the Milford Town Hall. The goal of this forum is to educate communities about the NH Broadband Mapping Program and to collect local data to support mapping and data verification activities. During the forum, participants will engage in an interactive mapping session that will help to identify gaps in current broadband service. The Community Broadband Forum is open to anyone in the region who is interested in learning more about high speed internet access and the NH Broadband Mapping Program

Nashua Transit System Ridership Prediction Model

NRPC is working on a project to statistically predict ridership potential for areas of Nashua and surrounding communities currently without bus service. Using a spatial regression method called Geographically Weighted Regression (GWR) and current ridership totals as inputs, we plan to create a model that will best estimate ridership based on surrounding land use. This combination of network produced service areas and parcel data will give this project much more specific service area data for each bus stop to put in our model. The final predicted ridership totals will be a valuable tool for NTS in future route planning.

Nashua Regional Planning Commission

9 Executive Park Drive, Suite 201
Merrimack, NH 03054

Phone ~ 603-424-2240

Fax ~ 603-424-2230

Website ~ www.nashuarpc.org

Online Newsletter ~ nashuarpc.blogspot.com