

March 18, 2015

NASHUA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION



# Program Highlights

## Letter from the Interim Executive Director

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It has been a remarkable few years at NRPC. As most of you know NRPC was at the forefront of a statewide effort we all know now as Granite State Future. This Regional Planning Effort provided the opportunity for all 9 RPC's to work cooperatively, and share a common framework in developing their regional plans. As a result, for the first time in decades, the Nashua Region has a comprehensive regional plan which was adopted in December 2014.



Our planning effort included extensive public outreach and analysis of existing conditions and trends. Through this we learned that two of the most significant issues facing the region are the significant increase of those 65 and older as a percent of total population, and a much-slowed population growth rate.

This changing demographic landscape played a significant role in the development of NRPC's Regional Plan along with the need to promote a region that continues to be a place where residents love to live, work and play. How do we ensure a resilient region that can adapt to demographic changes and economic challenges? How do we ensure a range of transportation and housing choices for all residents regardless of age, ability or income?

Now that the Regional Plan has been adopted, the next step is to work towards implementation. The Plan's Implementation Chapter identifies realistic and achievable actions that may be taken to further the region's vision and help communities achieve their vision for the future. Outcomes occur only when plans are implemented. NRPC has identified a series of actions it may undertake to this end and can best support member municipalities through building strategic partnerships and providing regional coordination; develop data, outreach, education resources, and planning tools; provide technical assistance; focus our transportation efforts; and support local economic development and transportation projects. We look forward to working to help meet the needs of the region and hearing from each of our communities as they plan for the future.

Tim Roache

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## Community Transportation Planning Effort

In the mid 2000's, the Federal government began requiring a locally coordinated effort, to address the transportation needs of older individuals, persons with disabilities and low-income populations. This effort needed to be completed in conjunction with local social service agencies and transit providers. To address these requirements, NRPC began a human service transportation planning process in 2006 and released the Locally Coordinated Transportation Plan for the Greater Nashua and Milford Region later that year, with a minor revision in 2008. One of the most significant successes from this effort was the establishment of Souhegan Valley Transportation Collaborative (SVTC). SVTC, through Souhegan Valley Rides (SVR) now provides a dial-a-ride type demand response bus service available to residents of Amherst, Brookline, Hollis, Milford, Mont Vernon and Wilton NH.

Now we are embarking on an update to the plan to continue looking at effective ways to improve transportation options throughout the region, and provide access to all populations. This update will be completed with the guidance of the local Regional Coordinating Council (RCC), a group representing numerous social service agencies and transportation providers throughout the region. The RCC is tasked with helping to develop, implement, and provide guidance to the coordination of locally provided transportation.

## 2017-2024 Ten Year Transportation Plan

NRPC has begun the process of soliciting new projects for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and to be considered for the State's Ten Year Plan (TYP). This includes a review projects from the current MTP and TYP that as of yet do not have funding in the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), as well as the submission of new projects. Projects listed in the TIP are anticipated to be funded and implemented and not part of this review, but will be included automatically. The focus of the process is on Federal Aid eligible projects. Municipalities have been asked to review the previously identified projects to determine whether they are still a local priority for consideration along with any new projects.

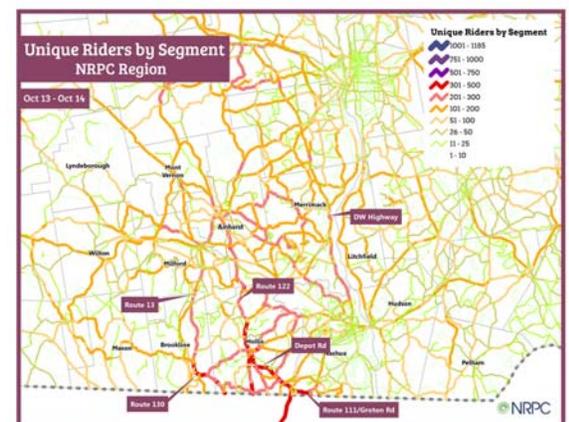
A preliminary list of projects for consideration in the 2017-2024 TYP was reviewed by TTAC on March 11, 2015 and will be available for at the March Commission meeting. The next step will be project prioritization using consistent scoring criteria and weighting developed by the nine RPCs and NH DOT. It is projected that NRPC will have an approximate total of \$23.8 million for new projects over the 10-year planning period. Prioritized projects are due to NHDOT by the end of April 2015 following which NH DOT will develop the Draft Ten Year Plan for consideration by The Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation, the Governor, and the State Legislature for adoption in the first half of 2016.

## STRAVA

NHDOT purchased one year's worth of bicycle GIS data from STRAVA, a company that has an application designed for smart phones and other personal GPS tracking devices that allows users to track bicycle activities. The data provides an additional way to look at bicycle transportation in New Hampshire and how and where bicyclists are traveling in the state and Nashua region.

STRAVA data can be used in the many places where there is little or no count data available, or where costs of conducting bicycle counts are too high. It will also be used to compliment data that is collected during the regional bicycle and pedestrian counting program.

NRPC staff has used the GIS data provided by STRAVA to develop a "heat map" that represents bicycle travel in the region. A heat map is simply a graphical representation of the bicycling activities of STRAVA users in the Nashua region. While the map (shown below) is not representative of all bicycle users, it gives insight into decisions regarding routes to travel based on safety and comfort level.



### NRPC UPCOMING TRANSPORTATION ACTIVITIES:

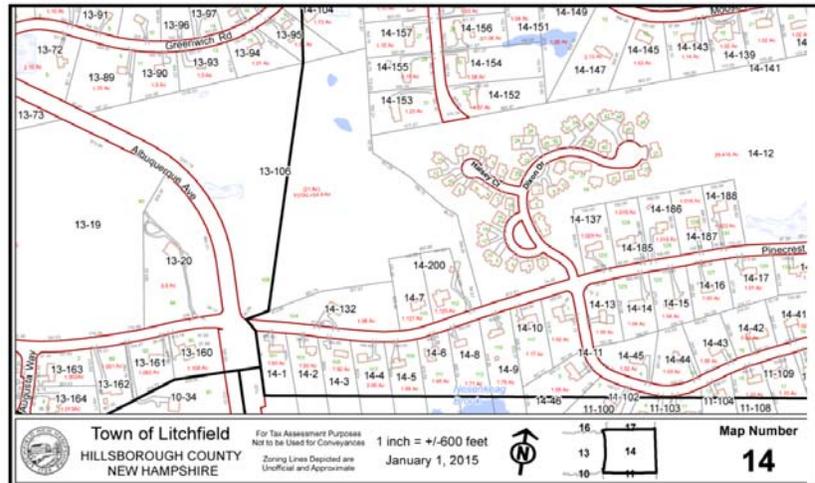
- Comprehensive Plan for Nashua Transit System
- North Bridge Summit—northern crossing of the Merrimack River

### NRPC ONGOING TRANSPORTATION ACTIVITIES:

- Traffic Counting Program & Intersection Analyses
- Travel Demand Modeling
- Congestion Management
- TAP Funding Program

## Tax Mapping for our Communities

NRPC maintains up-to-date, comprehensive parcel data for each of our member communities. GIS parcels are cost-effective way to create high quality tax maps. Now, **Hudson, NH** and **Hollis NH** are working with NRPC to create GIS-based tax maps. With these two contracts, NRPC is now proudly providing tax map services to five of our communities including Mont Vernon, Amherst, and Litchfield.



## Comprehensive Data Update for NRPC Online Apps



[mapgeo.com/nrpcnh](http://mapgeo.com/nrpcnh)

Now features updated parcels and assessing data region-wide buildings; an overhaul of the conserved lands overlay, and the proposed pipeline route!

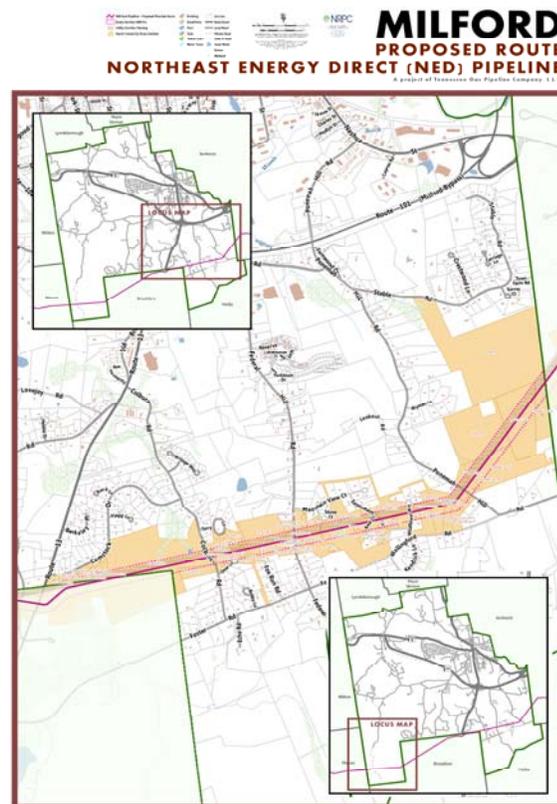


[nashuarpc.org/transview](http://nashuarpc.org/transview)

Updated traffic counts for 2014!

## Pipeline Mapping In

NRPC's Live Maps is a public online parcel viewer for the 13 towns in our region. As part of our annual comprehensive data update, NRPC included the Proposed Northeast Energy Direct (NED) Pipeline route on the basemap. Additionally, NRPC has produced a set of eight pdf map posters showing detail along the NED proposed route. These resources can be accessed at [www.nashuarpc.org/project-pipeline/](http://www.nashuarpc.org/project-pipeline/)



### NRPC UPCOMING GIS ACTIVITIES:

- Continued GIS trails and conserved lands data compilation
- Support to NRPC Energy Facilities Advisory Committee
- Robust Metadata Development

### NRPC ONGOING GIS SERVICES:

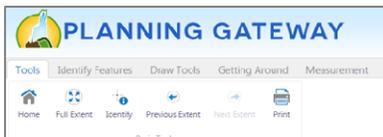
- Regional GIS Data Development
- GIS Brownbag Series
- Interactive Online Mapping
- Travel Demand Modelling
- Downloadable Maps
- Custom Mapping

## Granite State Future

In January NRPC concluded its coordination of Granite State Future, the statewide planning collaborative developed to support each of the nine RPCs in their efforts to prepare and update their regional plans as required by [NH RSA 36:45](#). As part of this process, **several statewide studies, reports and planning metrics** were authored to support the [nine regional plans](#), as well as local master plans.

Available statewide resources of assistance to local planning include:

- Statewide Snapshot: compilation of the nine regional plans commonalities and distinctions and statewide studies
- Planning Metrics Gateway: downloadable Excel data for comprehensive plans and GIS data viewer



- Regional Plan Framework: catalogue of existing resources, policies and goals
- Statewide Existing Conditions and Trends

Assessment: big picture data trends

- Regional Climate Change Assessments for Southern and Northern NH: historic and projected climate data for regions and municipalities
- The Equity and Engagement Checklist: guide to public engagement for planners
- Report out of the Statewide Listening Sessions conducted by NH Listens
- Granite State Future Survey Results conducted by UNH Survey Center

## Baboosic Lake Watershed Plan Update

NRPC recently completed an update to the Baboosic Lake Watershed Based Plan, originally written in 2008. The updated Plan includes existing water quality conditions in Baboosic Lake, a status report on implementation actions originally identified in the 2008 Plan, options for further reducing phosphorus loading to the Lake, public information and education opportunities, an implementation schedule, and monitoring and assessment recommendations.

## Planning for Healthy Communities

NRPC has recently published two new resources for planners to incorporate planning for healthy communities into local policy and land use development decisions. [The Complete Streets Health in all Policies Guide](#) outlines the health benefits and considerations for municipalities interested in implementing a complete streets policy or infrastructure improvements. The [Health Policy Checklist for Planners](#) outlines the many different considerations and potential impacts of common land use, housing, transportation and environmental planning decisions.

### NRPC UPCOMING LAND USE & ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES:

- Plan for Health Nashua

### NRPC ONGOING LAND USE & ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES:

- Development Review & Planning Services to Mason, Wilton & Litchfield
- Master Plan Update Services
- Household Hazardous Waste Program
- Regional Competitive Electricity Purchase Aggregation

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