

Program Highlights

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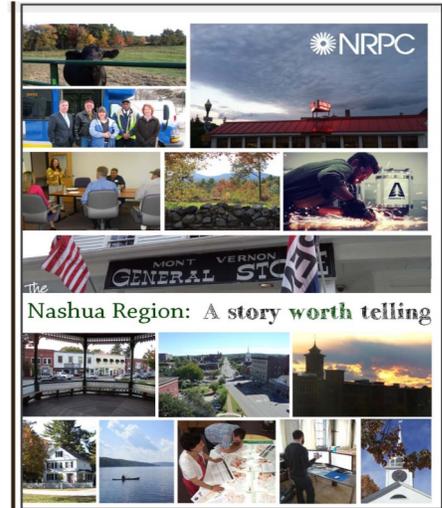
Letter from the Executive Director

This month, NRPC is wrapping up work on the Regional Plan.

The Nashua Regional Plan is based on thousands of conversations that we had with individuals, town officials and business owners from across the region. They told us what they value most about the Nashua Region and what they would like to see for the future. The Plan also provides an accurate portrait of demographic trends and existing conditions covering all aspects of life in the region from housing, transportation, economic development, and natural resources, to climate change and energy. The Plan sets forth goals that we aspire to and offers strategies for what we can do together to achieve them. It also makes recommendations for communities interested in pursuing similar goals at the local level.

After adoption of the plan, implementation begins. Over the next few months, we will be working with NRPC Commissioners to develop an action plan for regional strategies. This is an opportunity for communities to set emphasis areas and work priorities for NRPC staff to pursue in the coming years. Some activities we can accomplish through existing funding, and in other areas we will need to pursue new funding sources. With direction provided by NRPC Commissioners, staff can be confident we are pursuing the needs and interests expressed by our communities. Thank you for your hard work through this planning process and we look forward to the future!

With Best Wishes for 2015, Kerrie

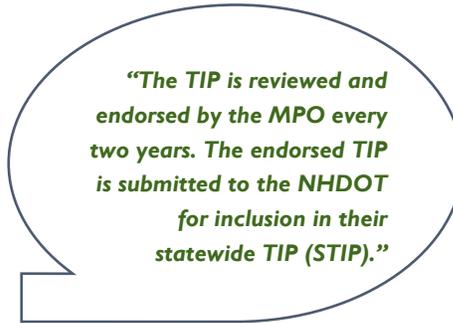


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Draft 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

NRPC completed the draft 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP is a four-year work program that lists all regionally significant and federally funded projects, as required by federal transportation legislation. The TIP contains an agreed-upon list of specific transportation improvement projects and associated financial information for the Nashua Regional Planning



Commission (NRPC) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The TIP includes transportation improvements identified for

advancement during the program period. The TIP is reviewed and endorsed by NRPC every two years. The endorsed TIP is submitted to the NHDOT for inclusion in their statewide TIP (STIP). The Draft TIP is available on the NRPC website for public comment and will be acted upon by NRPC at the December 17th Commission meeting.



Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update

Staff is in the final stages of updating the NRPC Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. The Regional Plan provides guidance for the planning, development, and implementation of safe, usable facilities for non-motorized transportation in the Nashua

region. The purpose of the update is to provide local decision makers and regional partners with resources to implement the recommendations from the updated plan. NRPC is developing tools and data to support the expansion of active transportation

throughout the region. The update process will be completed this winter and incorporated into the MTP and as part of the NRPC Regional Plan.



2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)



The MTP provides a basic blueprint for long-term transportation investment in the Nashua Region to the horizon year 2040. The plan is structured around four major goals: Mobility and Accessibility, Quality of Life, and System Sustainability and

Implementation. The plan was developed through public outreach and coordination with advisory committees. It is a policy level document that includes a list of recommended projects to be constructed through the planning Horizon year of 2040. The MTP also serves as the Transportation Chapter of the Nashua Regional Plan. Following a public hearing on December 17th, the NRPC Commission will consider the plan for adoption.

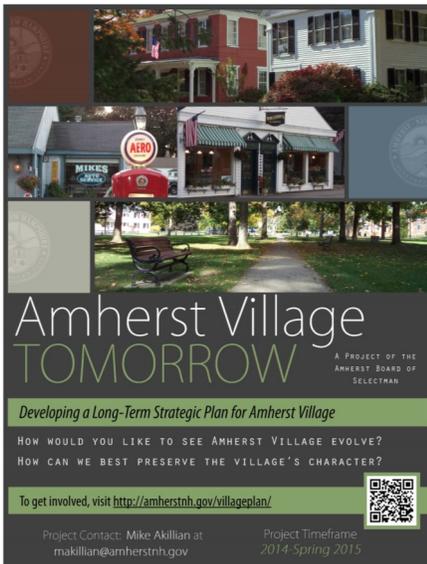
NRPC UPCOMING TRANSPORTATION ACTIVITIES:

- Project solicitation and prioritization process – NRPC will be evaluating and prioritizing projects for advancement into the Ten Year Plan and TIP
- North Bridge Summit—northern crossing of the Merrimack River to develop a pathway towards east/west travel concerns

NRPC ONGOING TRANSPORTATION ACTIVITIES:

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

Amherst Village Strategic Plan



The Village Strategic Planning process will build upon the recent efforts of the Board of Selectmen to do strategic planning across town departments. This new focused effort is aimed at inviting other boards, commissions, committees as well as residents to help shape the future of Amherst. There have been lots of separate conversations about various aspects of the Village, which is a prized and valuable resource for everyone in town. The town aims to address these topics in an

integrated fashion, as a change in one aspect of the Village can have major implication for others.

NRPC staff has begun assisting project committees with outreach efforts. To date over 400 survey responses have been received and a number of smaller input events have been held. For additional information contact Camille Pattison at CamilleP@nashuarpc.org or view the project webpage at <http://amherstnh.gov/villageplan>.

Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Planning

Climate change in southern NH will impact the environment, ecosystem services, economy, public health, and quality of life. Southern NH is expected to become warmer and wetter over the next century with more extreme precipitation events. This weather pattern puts significant stress on the region's already

aging water infrastructure. Furthermore, climate change is likely to cause a number of public health impacts on NH residents and particularly the most vulnerable populations. NRPC received funding from US EPA's Healthy Communities grant program to complete a Water

Resiliency Planning Project over the next two years. The goal of this project is to help municipalities become more resilient to the impacts that climate change has on their water infrastructure and vulnerable populations. This project will integrate adaptation and social vulnerability planning into the existing hazard mitigation planning model. Work on the project will begin this month.

NRPC UPCOMING LAND USE & ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES:

- Completion of Hazard Mitigation Plan Updates with Fluvial Erosion data
- Amherst Village Strategic Plan

NRPC ONGOING LAND USE & ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES:

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

Fluvial Erosion and Hazard Mitigation

NRPC was awarded funding from NH DES to engage in outreach and planning activities in Amherst, Lyndeborough, Merrimack, Milford, Mont Vernon, and Wilton in support of the State's Fluvial Erosion Hazard program. NRPC's primary task was to complete updates of hazard mitigation plans within these communities, incorporating fluvial erosion hazard data into the updates. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires that municipalities update their hazard mitigation plans every 5 years in order to maintain

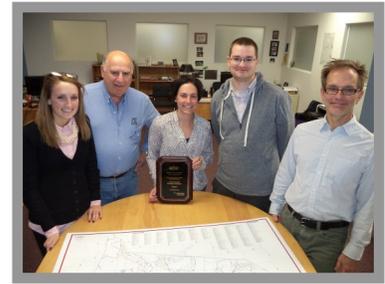
eligibility for federal mitigation grants. NRPC worked directly with hazard mitigation teams in each town in order to prepare the plans. NRPC also utilized data collected by NH DES to develop fluvial erosion hazard zone maps, which were incorporated into each municipality's hazard mitigation plan.

The draft Hazard Mitigation Plans are currently being reviewed by FEMA and are available at:

<http://www.nashuarpc.org/energy-environmental-planning/hazard-mitigation-planning/>.

GIS Team Receives URISA Recognition

URISA recently recognized the GIS Team at NRPC with an Exemplary Systems in Government award in the category of Distinguished Single Process Systems. The award recognizes NRPC's implementation of MapGeo, our Live Maps App, as an example of using GIS technology to improve the delivery and quality of government services. NRPC wishes to thank URISA for the recognition and to congratulate the other winners.



NRPC UPCOMING GIS ACTIVITIES:

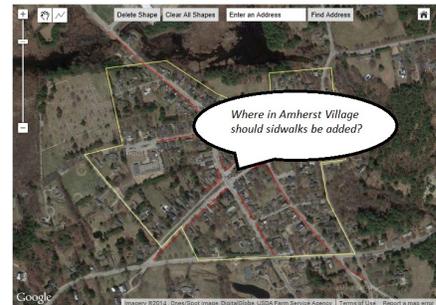
- Finalization of NH Rural Addressing
- Finalization of Planning Metrics Gateway
- Data Update for Live Maps
- Continued GIS Trail, conserved lands data compilation

NRPC ONGOING GIS SERVICES:

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

NRPC Completes Development on "Answer Map"

In the process of planning it's common for NRPC to solicit stakeholder feedback by printing out a hard-copy, large format map of current conditions and having the audience of stakeholders contribute feedback in the form of written markup on the map. NRPC can now set up interactive, online "Answer Maps," whereby individuals can supply their individual responses online use sketch tools to add point, lines, and polygons to a Google map. Unlike current commercial alternatives, users do not need login and password accounts to gain access to NRPC Answer Maps. In the new year, NRPC will be marketing this new tool to our communities to see how it may be used and enhanced to facilitate local planning efforts..



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