



Program Highlights

March 16, 2011

One of the highlights of the first quarter of 2011 was NRPC's Annual Legislative Forum. Returning to the traditional location of the Anheuser Busch Facility in Merrimack, NRPC hosted a robust gathering of local officials and board members, Commissioners, staff and legislators from the Nashua Region. The event began with introductions of NRPC Commissioners and staff, and a brief overview of NRPC's programs. Legislators then had the opportunity to introduce themselves and summarize their priorities for the legislative session.

Members of the New Hampshire Rail Transit Authority were also on hand to present an update of the NH Capital Corridor Project, and to announce the results of the recent UNH Granite State Poll. The poll, held in late January 2011, showed strong statewide support for the expansion of passenger rail in New Hampshire, and in the Capitol Corridor. The poll showed uniform, bipartisan support in every region of the state. After the presentation, a healthy discussion took place regarding HB218 which proposes to repeal the NHRTA. The overwhelming sense from the Commissioners in the room was that the NHRTA should be permitted to continue its work with the NHDOT to conduct the necessary economic and environmental studies to answer the outstanding questions regarding the feasibility of the project. We will keep you updated on the resolution of this bill.

Aside from the legislative forum, this first quarter has been a busy one for NRPC as we have been concentrating our efforts on updating our Metropolitan Transportation Plan concurrently with the update to the State's Ten Year Plan. We have been meeting with officials in each community to discuss both processes, better understand the priority issues in each community, and determine the needs to address the issues. We look forward to hearing from you about this process as well.

We encourage you to share the enclosed program highlights with your community to keep your boards informed about NRPC's programs and resources, and please let us know how we can best continue to serve your communities.

Sincerely,

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Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Ten Year Plan

NRPC has initiated the two year Transportation Planning process to update the regions 2013—2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and develop the 2013—2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This process runs in parallel with the NHDOT Ten Year Plan update. For the first time in six years NRPC is seeking new transportation projects for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The purpose of the project solicitation is to begin to develop solutions to transportation problems that can be developed over time and considered for inclusion in future revisions to the NHDOT Ten Year Plan.

The current transportation planning cycle began in January with a review of the existing long range projects. Through February and March the NRPC staff continued to work with the Technical Advisory Committee and community staff to evaluate short to mid-range transportation needs. Once again, NRPC has acknowledged the budget constraints at the state and federal level and does not anticipate new projects will be added to the NHDOT Ten Year Plan. NRPC will continue to work with member communities to develop a set of recommendations for submission to NHDOT in April. These recommendations will be considered by NHDOT as the Draft 2013—2022 Ten Year Plan is developed.

Looking ahead to the fall, NRPC staff will work cooperatively with NHDOT and the Governors Advisory Council on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) and participate in hearings on the draft Ten Year Plan. The two year transportation planning process will continue through the end of 2012 and result in updated 2013– 2040 MTP, 2013-2016 TIP as well as a completed air quality conformity analysis in support of these documents.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Operations

The NRPC staff has completed work on updating several documents related to the operation of the MPO. The MPO Prospectus which provides a framework and guidelines for the administration of the Transportation Planning Process in the region was updated to reflect current practices and regulations. In addition NRPC completed an update to the project solicitation process and selection criteria. The MPO Public Participation Plan is currently under review and may be updated to reflect changes to the TIP amendment process currently being considered at the state level.

Finally, NRPC has submitted a draft 2012—2013 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to NHDOT and FHWA for review and approval. The UPWP outlines the transportation planning activities that NRPC could undertake in the next two years. It is expected that final approval of the UPWP will occur in late spring and will take effect July of 2011.

Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Program

NRPC is pleased to announce the communities of Hudson and Milford were successful in acquiring funding for intersection related improvements. In Hudson, funds will be used to improve 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. In Milford the intersection at Route 13 with Emerson and Armory Road will be improved. Funds are expected to be available for construction as early as June 2011.

Land Use & Environmental Programs

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Nashua Tree Streets Neighborhood Plan

The Tree Streets Neighborhood of Nashua has historically been a destination for immigrants and mill workers. This neighborhood has a rich cultural history, is home to a diverse group of residents and has some of the oldest housing stock in the city. Compared with the greater City, the Tree Streets area faces unique issues in regards to density, social issues, access to services, parking and green space. This plan will make specific recommendations to address these issues and improve the quality of life for neighborhood residents. For additional information contact Camille Pattison at 424-2240 x14 or camillep@nashuarpc.org.

Local Technical Assistance

Litchfield, Mason and Wilton Circuit Rider contracts for 2012 were renewed and staff will continue to provide professional planning services to these Planning Boards. NRPC continues to assist with design review, assisting with procedure and regulation changes, and local training for new members. NRPC staff continues to work with the Town of Brookline on updating the Master Plan. Following a town-wide survey and Master Plan (MP) public forum, NRPC staff has begun drafting new chapters for review and comments by the MP Committee and Planning Board. The Towns of Wilton, Hudson and Pelham are in the final stages of updating their Hazard Mitigation Plans. NRPC staff will soon begin updating Hazard Mitigation Plans in Brookline and Hollis. For additional information contact Steve Wagner at 424-2240 x25 or steve@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 projects are currently underway in Brookline, Hollis, Hudson, Nashua, and Pelham. Projects in Amherst, Lyndeborough, and Merrimack are scheduled to begin shortly. For additional information contact Jill Longval at 424-2240 x27 or jilll@nashuarpc.org.

2011 Household Hazardous Waste Schedule

Saturday April 23, 8:00AM-12:00PM, 6 Riverside St, Nashua
Saturday May 7, 8:00AM-12:00PM, 289 South St, Milford
Thursday June 2, 3:30PM-7:30PM, 6 Riverside St, Nashua
Saturday August 6, 8:00AM-12:00PM, 6 Riverside St, Nashua
Saturday October 1, 8:00AM-12:00PM, 6 Riverside St, Nashua
Saturday November 5, 8:00AM-12:00PM, 6 Riverside St, Nashua

For additional information visit www.nashuarpc.org/hhw or contact Jill Longval at jilll@nashuarpc.org.

GIS Programs



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Community Zoning Map Updates

This winter, NRPC began the process of updating and standardizing GIS zoning layers for all its member communities. As many zoning boundaries correspond to property and street lines, these layers become misaligned over time as parcels and streets are edited for accuracy. Currently, NRPC staff is editing these layers in-house by referring to local ordinances and will be providing draft maps to community staff members for review. When complete, these layers will be featured on NRPC's standard maps which are available on our website.

Hazard Mitigation Data Support

GIS staff has been heavily involved with Hazard Mitigation planning efforts in the towns of Hudson, Pelham, and Wilton, creating new maps and data tables featured in community plan updates. An important element of these plans is the critical facilities map, showing the location of many important buildings and gathering places in each community, as well as past hazards, and structures in the floodplain. Improved datasets and GIS technology has allowed NRPC to provide more accurate data in these and other areas.

Census 2010 Preparations

NRPC is gearing up to provide information and analysis relating to the release of the 2010 Census data to the public through a series of factsheets and web graphics. In recent months, staff has familiarized themselves with the Census process and data release schedule, as Census 2010 brings a new way of collecting and distributing this important information. The first of our factsheets will be released shortly and several more will follow in the coming months, as datasets specific to the communities in the region are made available.

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