



Program Highlights

Letter from the Executive Director

“A regional planning commission’s powers shall be advisory, and shall generally pertain to the development of the region within its jurisdiction as a whole. Nothing in this subdivision shall be deemed to reduce or limit any of the powers, duties or obligations of planning boards in individual municipalities.”; NH RSA 36:47. This specific statute influences our mission and bears significant weight in how effectively we serve the needs of our members.

To be an effective advisor you need to understand the needs, goals and objectives of your constituents. In the case of Regional Planning Commissions, important issues that transcend municipal boundaries and influence the development of the region need to be conveyed to NRPC and discussed at the regional level. The proposed Northeast Energy Direct (NED)/Kinder Morgan pipeline is an excellent example of a regional issue where NRPC played an advisory role to support our members.

NRPC set out to conduct fact findings regarding how construction and operation of the proposed pipeline would impact the region’s local land use, environment, economy and employment, and orderly development of the region; and to report findings and recommendations to the full NRPC Commission. Thanks to the hard work of the staff and volunteers on the Energy Facilities Advisory Committee (EFAC), NRPC has been very effective in providing factual information to our communities impacted by the project. This information has been used to guide decision making at the local level and position NRPC to make a statement in support of its member communities.

As we move forward and continue to address regional issues I ask each of you, our commissioners to work closely with your elected officials and planning boards to ensure the communication is bidirectional and effective in meeting the needs of NRPC and the town you represent. Get to know your representative on the NRPC Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) and EFAC. Talk with your planning board and elected officials. Taking these steps will improve communication and ensure NRPC is a robust forum where regional issues can be discussed and make NRPC a more effective advisor to our members and add value to each of your communities.

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Regional Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan

NRPC was pleased to complete work on its [Regional Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan](#) this year. Development of the plan, which lays out a vision for a more bicycle and pedestrian friendly region, was guided by a 21-member Work Group made up of local representatives and stakeholders. Additional guidance was provided by NRPC's Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC). The plan was designed to increase its value as a regional resource. Chief among changes from the 2005 plan is a reorientation of NRPC's role to be most supportive of local implementation projects and incremental improvements. The plan also includes a comprehensive existing conditions section, 'Success Stories' from communities across the region, an analysis of how bicycle and pedestrian travel can save money at the household level, a description of the many benefits associated with bicycle & pedestrian improvements, as well as guidance to improve walkability and bike-ability at the most grassroots levels. Implementation steps are oriented around seven main goals.

The [Plan](#) was recommended for adoption by the Pedestrian and Bicycle Work Group in April and by TTAC in August 2015. NRPC will request adoption of the plan by the full commission at its December meeting.

NRPC Upcoming Transportation Activities:

- RSMS SADES Pilot Program
- North Bridge Summit—Northern Crossing of the Merrimack River

NRPC Ongoing Transportation Activities:

- Travel Demand Modeling
- Congestion Management

Traffic Counting Program

NRPC staff has conducted nearly 150 traffic counts at locations throughout the region in 2015. The type of data collected has included traffic volume and intersection turning movement information. The data is used by NRPC and New Hampshire DOT to generate reports that assist in decision making by local, state and federal officials. NRPC maintains historical records for many of these locations so that growth trends can be examined. Included are yearly counts requested by NHDOT, as well as any count performed at the request of NRPC's member communities or for the purpose of NRPC traffic studies.

Ten Year Plan Update

In April 2015, the NRPC submitted Federal Aid Highway project priorities to the NH Department of Transportation or consideration in the draft 2017-2026 Ten Year Transportation Plan. The projects priorities were established by the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee and Executive Committee members. In August, NHDOT distributed a draft 2017 - 2026 Ten Year Plan project listing. GACIT (Governor's Advisory Council on Intermodal Transportation) meetings on the plan are scheduled in September and October. Hearings being held by District 3 Councilor Sununu, representing Pelham, and District 5 Councilor Wheeler, representing all other NRPC communities include:

- Monday 9/21/15, 7 PM, Bedford Cable TV Meeting Room
- Thursday 10/8/15, 7 PM, Londonderry Town Office
- Tuesday 10/13/15, 6:30 PM Merrimack Town Hall

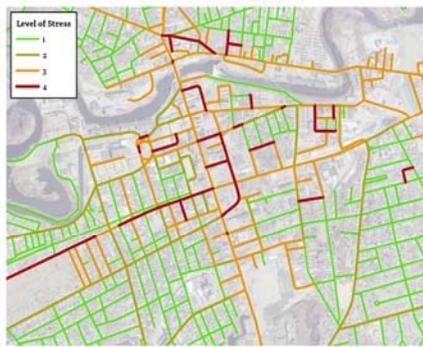
For more information visit: www.nh.gov/dot/org/projectdevelopment/planning/typ/ or contact Jen Cysz at jenc@nashuarpc.org, 424-2240 x31.

Transit Capital Investment Plan

During public outreach efforts associated with the development of the regional plan, NRPC consistently heard input from residents and local officials regarding the need for a more expansive and regionally-oriented public transportation system. The completion of a transit capital investment plan represents a critical and essential initial step towards realizing this important goal highlighted in the Regional Plan. NRPC is pleased to partner with the Nashua Transit System (NTS) to complete a 10-year transit capital investment plan. In addition to an inventory of existing capital, assets, routes and services, the plan will evaluate the feasibility of expanding the public transit system to serve additional communities in the region as well as other destinations including the Manchester Airport and the Lowell MBTA commuter rail station, and the capital investments needed to implement service expansions. The plan will rely heavily on public input, both from current NTS riders as well as from residents who don't currently utilize public transit. This information will be supplemented with regional demographic and travel data as well as outputs from innovative scenario planning models, including NRPC's own Transit Ridership Prediction Model, to help provide transit planners a comprehensive understanding of what forms of investment will impart the broadest benefits at the regional level. For more information on the Transit Capital Investment Plan or to offer your input, contact Mark Connors at marke@nashuarpc.org or (603) 424-2240, ext. 17.

Mapping Biking Suitability in Nashua

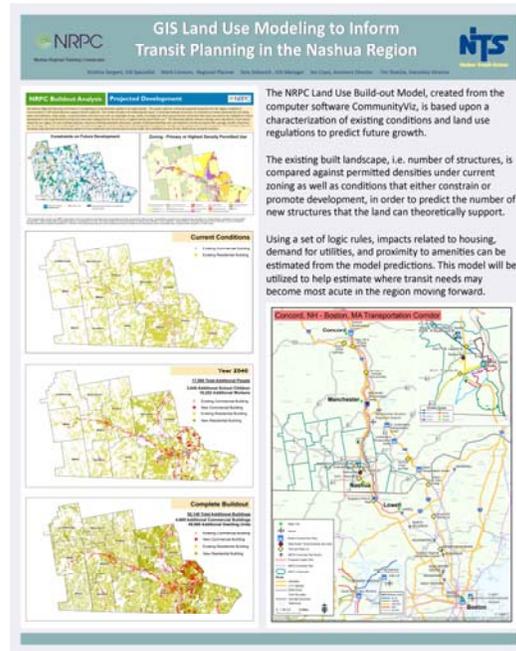
In support of the Plan 4 Health Nashua project, GIS analysis was used to assign a Level of Stress (LTS) score to every segment (i.e., street or road), approach, and intersection in Nashua to help determine how easy or difficult it is for bicyclists to get around the City. LTS scores range from 1 to 4, with 4 being the most “stressful” – or least suitable for bicyclists. Several criteria are taken into consideration when calculating the LTS score, including the presence of a bike lane, street and shoulder width, traffic signals, presence of a median or pedestrian island in a cross street, speed limit, and on-street parking. The analysis identified five areas within the City – including the Tree Streets and French Hill neighborhoods – which show high LTS scores, indicating they are less bicycle-friendly. These five neighborhoods represent 50% of the Nashua population, and include areas with the greatest social, economic, and environmental disparities according to U.S. Census Bureau data. NRPC is reaching out to the community to help make adjustments to the LTS data based on comfort factors such as lighting, sense of safety, and traffic volumes. NRPC will be conducting a similar study for walkability in the future.



NRPC Implements ArcGIS for Server NRPC has implemented a multi-user geodatabase on the MS SQL Server/ArcGIS for Server stack. This is the most significant upgrade to NRPC’s GIS architecture since GIS was initially implemented at the Commission. The system supports multiple, concurrent editors, enables advanced data integrity management, and more tightly integrates with ESRI’s online cloud solutions.

NRPC Upcoming GIS Activities:	NRPC Ongoing GIS Services:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued GIS trails and conserved lands data compilation MapGeo Update Support for Transportation and Land Use Programs Robust Metadata Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional GIS Data Development GIS Brownbag Series Interactive Online Mapping Travel Demand Modelling Downloadable Maps Custom Mapping

NRPC GIS Poster Selected for Display at NEURISA Conference



The New England Chapter of the Urban & Regional Information Systems Association (NEURISA) conference will include a keynote session, exhibitors and presentations from professionals across the GIS community. NRPC will be presenting a poster on land use modeling that will be used to support the NTS transit plan.

Tax Mapping for Lyndeborough, NH NRPC maintains up-to-date, comprehensive parcel data for each of our member communities. GIS parcels are a cost-effective way to create high quality tax maps. Now, Lyndeborough is working with NRPC to create GIS-based tax maps. With this contract, NRPC is now proudly providing tax map services to six of our communities including also Hollis, Mont Vernon, Amherst, Hudson and Litchfield.



Plan4Health Nashua



This project aims to facilitate increased bicycle and pedestrian transportation in the City of Nashua through the education and promotion of complete streets. Complete streets are designed for everyone. They are safer for people walking and bicycling, better fit the local neighborhood, reflect resident cultures, and support economic growth by making local businesses more accessible and attractive to residents and visitors alike.

NRPC staff is working to develop the following three products:

1. Traffic Stress Map - Will identify areas of low and high stress from a biking and walking perspective.
2. A Regulatory Audit - A detailed audit tool with over 50 criteria focused on walking, biking and access to food that we will use to analyze the City of Nashua's land use documents.
3. Complete Streets Guide - An Engaging guide to educate the public, board members and elected officials on the benefits of complete streets and an array of techniques to achieve them.

Water Resiliency Kickoff

Nashua Regional Planning Commission received a grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency to conduct a vulnerability assessment with a focus on community and water infrastructure resiliency in areas at risk for climate change impacts in the Nashua Region. These areas are defined as FEMA designated 500 and 100 year flood zones as well as locations that have been identified at risk of flooding in each municipality's FEMA approved Hazard Mitigation Plan. 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. Over the summer, NRPC held a kickoff meeting with stakeholders across the region to provide them with an opportunity to give guidance and feedback as the project gets underway. Emergency management personnel, municipal staff, and representatives from water utilities, EPA, and Granite State Rural Water Association were in attendance. Input from this meeting will be incorporated into the regional vulnerability assessment.

Household Hazardous Waste Collections

To-date, participation in the 2015 Household Hazardous Waste season has been at its highest level since 2007. There are two remaining collections in 2015--Saturday October 3 and Saturday November 7, both from 8:00AM-12:00PM at the Nashua Public Works Garage. For more information, including a list of accepted items, visit www.nashuarpc.org/hhw.

COMMITTEES

AMHERST

Martin Michaelis
Michael Dell Orfano
Susan Ruch

BROOKLINE

Karl Dowling

HOLLIS

Robert Larmouth

HUDSON

Richard Maddox
James Battis
George Hall
Jeff Rider (alt)

LITCHFIELD

Thomas Young
Michael Croteau

LYNDEBOROUGH

Steve Brown
Bret Mader

MASON

Louise Lavoie

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Karin Elmer (Treasurer)
Thomas Mahon
Anant Panwalkar
Daniel Del Greco
Margaret Morris

MONT VERNON

Michael Fimbel (Vice Chair)

MILFORD

Janet Langdell
Chris Costantino

NASHUA

Daniel Moriarty
Dan Kelly
Jim Donchess
Roger Houston (A)
Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja (A)
Sarah Marchant

PELHAM

David Hennessey (Chair)
Hal Lynde

WILTON

Kermit Williams

NRPC Upcoming Land Use & Environmental Activities:

- Complete Streets Guide

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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