

SEPTEMBER 20, 2017



NRPC

NASHUA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Program Highlights

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Regional Cooperation

NRPC has a long history of leading collaborative processes and initiatives, bringing together the region’s communities to increase our collective impact. For more than 30 years NRPC has worked with the Nashua Region Solid Waste Management District (NRSWMD) to sponsor Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection events. The program has grown significantly over that time, preventing toxic materials from entering the municipal waste stream or being disposed directly into the environment. Over the coming months NRPC will be reaching out to participating communities to present an updated HHW Cooperative Agreement that unites the District’s 11 members and formalizes the program.

On the transportation side, at our last Commission meeting we discussed the importance of planned improvements to NH Route 101A. Given the history of repeated delays, Commissioners asked NRPC staff to work directly with NH DOT to obtain regular status reports and identify opportunities to advance these projects without further delay. NH DOT’s Project Manager met with NRPC’s TTAC members to discuss progress on the 101A projects as well as receive feedback on those planned on NH Route 101. DOT staff will join NRPC at the December Commission meeting to continue this important conversation.

As we move forward and continue to address these regional issues I ask each of you, our commissioners to work closely with your local officials to ensure the communication is bidirectional and effective in meeting the needs of NRPC and the town you represent. Taking these steps will ensure NRPC is a robust forum where regional issues can be discussed and effective outcomes can be achieved for our communities.

Jennifer Czysz, Interim Executive Director

CHAP Final Report Out

On June 28th, NRPC led an education outreach presentation to emergency managers throughout the region on the risk factors of heat-related illness and other ways to prevent heat stress among low income populations. This was one of the intervention strategies that was recommended as part of the recently published Nashua Region Climate and Health Adaptation Plan (CHAP). This project was designed to examine the impact a changing climate has on health in the Nashua Region, where heat-related illness was identified as the primary health impact affecting the region. Through this process, the Greater Nashua Regional Public Health Network is now well positioned to address heat-related illnesses and continue outreach to vulnerable populations. The CHAP will also become a chapter of the 2017 Nashua Community Health Assessment to help guide policy and decision-making for the future. Staff contact: Stephen Meno-stephenm@nashuarpc.org.

Wilton Charrette

On July 21st and 22nd, NRPC staff from past and present joined Plan NH in assisting with a design charrette for the Town of Wilton. The charrette brought together diverse professionals to brainstorm ideas to help promote economic vitality in Wilton's town center. After getting input from community leaders and members, the team developed recommendations to encourage walkability, attract and market businesses, and amend land use regulations to facilitate business startups. NRPC will take the charrette results to the next level by working with Wilton to create a strategic implementation plan



prioritizing and scoping these recommendations. This plan will provide the Town with a road map to achieve their desired goals and foster a vibrant town center. Staff contact: Stephen Meno stephenm@nashuarpc.org.

Draft Renewable Energy Tool Belt Makes Its Debut

Over the past 2 years, NRPC has been working in partnership with the Local Energy Solutions Work Group to develop the Renewable Energy Tool Belt. Community leaders representing municipalities and school districts across NH want to incorporate renewable energy into their operations for various reasons. Some wish to save money, others want more reliable energy, and others have goals of reducing their environmental impact. Yet while communities know they don't want fossil fuels, they are less clear about what type of renewable energy they do want. The Renewable Energy Tool Belt is designed to help community leaders evaluate potential renewable energy systems. While the Tool Belt will not replace the work of an outside professional, it will give communities a starting point to compare renewable energy options. Communities will then enter into discussions with energy professionals having a better understanding of the benefits and drawbacks of each renewable energy type and will be able to make more informed decisions about which option is best for them. In addition, the Renewable Energy Tool Belt will help communities to move renewable energy projects forward by providing guidance on how to develop a comprehensive public outreach strategy.

NRPC recently completed a draft of the Renewable Energy Tool Belt and is now moving to the outreach phase of the project. During the remainder of 2017, NRPC and its partners will seek input from communities across the state on the draft document using a variety of outreach methods. These include meeting with individual communities who are interested in utilizing the Tool Belt, presenting the Tool Belt at the Local Energy Solutions Conference on October 28, and conducting a webinar in December (exact date to-be-determined). For more information, please contact Jill Longval, jillL@nashuarpc.org.

Congestion Management Program

NRPC staff collected peak-period travel time data along nine travel corridors during the third quarter of 2017. Each designated corridor was travelled during the morning and afternoon peak periods and on two separate dates. For example, data was collected from 7-9am on Tuesdays and Thursdays and from 4-6pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Each corridor was driven using two NRPC staff in NRPC van and using GPS technology to gather information about how long it took to drive the corridor. The data was then post-processed in a Geographic Information System (GIS) environment in order to produce maps that symbolize the level of congestion along each corridor. The data collected will be used to develop reports for each of the corridors. Reports for corridors previously assessed, including the FE Everett Turnpike and NH 101A in Nashua, are posted on the NRPC website at: <http://www.nashuarpc.org/mpo-transportation-planning>. Staff contacts: Matt Waitkins-mattw@nashuarpc.org or Julie Chizmas-juliec@nashuarpc.org.

Traffic Counting Safety

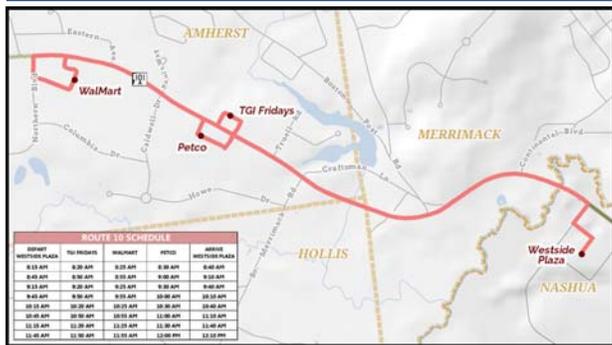
Gathering traffic count data is dangerous because it involves staff being in close proximity to moving traffic. Staff conducted an assessment to mitigate this risk by initiating a cooperative effort with the insurance company that provides liability insurance for NRPC. A representative from the company made an onsite visit to observe how staff operates in the field. The representative provided written guidelines, most of which have been adopted by NRPC. Other agencies have consulted with NRPC regarding this risk assessment have begun implementing their own safety improvements. Staff contact: Matt Waitkins-mattw@nashuarpc.org.



New Conservation and Recreation Maps

NRPC has completed a comprehensive re-design of our environmentally-themed standard maps. Each of 13 community-specific posters now emphasize conservation, recreation, and natural resource data such as conserved lands, public trails, parks and associated recreation facilities, along with the traditional insets displaying updated watersheds, important wild-life habitats, aquifers, and soils. These maps are available as free pdf downloads from the NRPC online Map Gallery at <http://www.nashuarpc.org/gis-mapping/map-gallery/>. Staff contact: [Sara Siskavich-saras@nashuarpc.org](mailto:Sara.Siskavich-saras@nashuarpc.org).

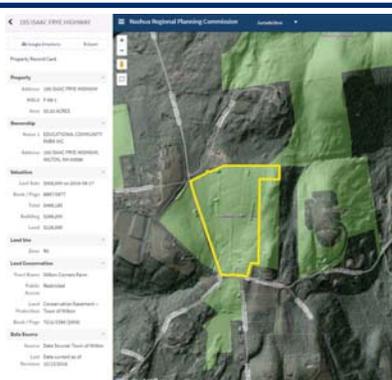
Mapping for NTS Pilot Service Expansion



NRPC has been providing mapping support to the Nashua Transit System for their [new pilot program providing limited service to Walmart](#) in Amherst. This service, which is based on community response gathered during the development of the NTS Comprehensive Plan, connects to existing routes 2 and 2A at Westside Plaza and runs Tuesdays and Fridays from 8:15am to 11:45am. Staff contact: [Ryan Friedman-ryanf@nashuarpc.org](mailto:Ryan.Friedman-ryanf@nashuarpc.org).

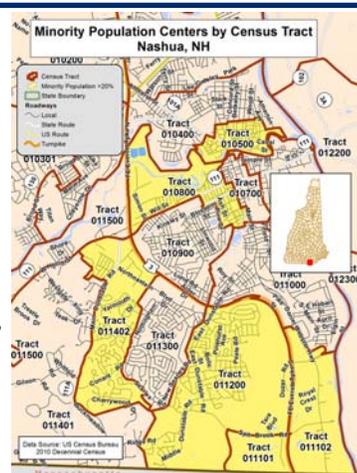
MapGeo Update

For many years NRPC has maintained a robust GIS database of land protection information for parcels in the region. Now, clicking on a property in MapGeo, our Live Maps app, will reveal associated land protection information including tract name, tract protection mechanism and managing agency, instrument book and page (if applicable), and whether or not public access is allowed. Staff contact: [Sara Siskavich-saras@nashuarpc.org](mailto:Sara.Siskavich-saras@nashuarpc.org).



GIS Support for NH Housing

NRPC is now providing hourly on-call GIS assistance to New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority. These services include mapping, demographics, and analysis to support their day-to-day business, future planning, and external reporting requirements. Staff contact: [Andrew Smeltz-andrews@nashuarpc.org](mailto:Andrew.Smeltz-andrews@nashuarpc.org).



Trail Mapping for Merrimack, NH



NRPC is proud to have partnered with the Merrimack Conservation Commission on map products to promote public enjoyment of four key properties in town. Visit www.merrimackoutdoors.org to access trail brochures, gps files, and links to interactive maps for Hill Nature Preserve, Wildcat Falls Conservation Area, Grater Woods, and Wasserman Conservation Area. These maps are also displayed prominently in kiosks at the system trailheads, or visit <http://nashuarpc.maps.arcgis.com>. Staff contact: [Ryan Friedman-ryanf@nashuarpc.org](mailto:Ryan.Friedman-ryanf@nashuarpc.org).

Motor Vehicle, Bicycle and Pedestrian Counting Program

NRPC staff has conducted nearly 130 motor vehicle traffic counts at locations throughout the region in 2017. The type of data collected 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.



NASHUA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

9 Executive Park Drive
Suite 201
Merrimack, NH 03054
Phone: 603-424-2240
Fax: 603-424-2230
E-mail: karenb@nashuarpc.org

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Visit our Website!

www.nashuarpc.org

For a complete staff listing, go to:

<http://www.nashuarpc.org/about/contact-us/>

Our Mission

NRPC's mission is to provide leadership, facilitation and coordination for member communities in implementing the regional vision.

NRPC serves as a resource to support and enhance local planning, provides a forum for communities to share information, and coordinate land use, environmental and transportation planning at the regional level, and provides a clear voice for the region at the State and Federal levels.

NRPC provides its member communities with comprehensive planning services addressing environmental, land use, transportation, and regional planning issues as well as offering mapping and data services that utilize the latest technologies.

In addition to traditional pneumatic (tube) counters, NRPC has added radar technology to its traffic counting capabilities. Radar counters eliminate the need to run tubes across the roadway which saves time and increases safety.

Traffic count data is available through the NRPC's online Transportation Data Viewer at <http://www.nashuarpc.org/transview/>. Contact Matt Waitkins to request traffic counts for your community.

NRPC has also begun a bicycle and pedestrian counting program. Staff monitors bicycle and pedestrian volumes on the Nashua River Rail Trail near the Massachusetts border. The counting equipment at this location was installed as part of a public-private partnership between the City of Nashua and NRPC. Staff also uses portable equipment to monitor non-motorized traffic at other locations throughout the region. Locations are determined in part by using Strava data that is supplied by NHDOT. Strava is a website and mobile app used to track athletic activity via GPS. Staff contact: [Matt Waitkins-mattw@nashuarpc.org](mailto:Matt.Waitkins-mattw@nashuarpc.org)

Our Commissioners

AMHERST: Michael Dell Orfano | Martin Michaelis | Susan Ruch (Chair)

BROOKLINE: Jill Adams | Tom Rogers

HOLLIS: Robert Larmouth | Venu Rao

HUDSON: James Battis (Treasurer) | Roger Coutu | Ted Luszey | Ethan Meinhold

LITCHFIELD: Kimberly Queenan | Thomas Young

LYNDEBOROUGH: Bret Mader

MASON: Louise Lavoie

MERRIMACK: William W. Boyd III | Karin Elmer (Vice Chair) | Margaret Morris | Anant Panwalkar

MILFORD: Chris Costantino | Janet Langdell | George Skuse

MONT VERNON: Michael Fimbel

NASHUA: Mark Cookson | Roger Houston | Dan Kelly | Sarah Marchant | Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja | Daniel Moriarty (A) | David Schoneman

PELHAM: David Hennessey | Hal Lynde

WILTON: Jim Kofalt | Kermit Williams