

# RPC News & Notes

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## Pease to Establish Transportation Management Association

Traffic on the Spaulding Turnpike getting you down? Looking for an alternative? Help is on the way. On September 26, the Pease Development Authority (PDA) selected TransAction Associates as contractor to develop the Pease Tradeport Transportation Management Association (TMA). The TMA will work with employers at the Tradeport and the surrounding area to develop incentives for employees to try alternatives to commuting alone - like riding the bus, ride-sharing in a vanpool or carpool, or riding a bicycle when it is nice. For emergencies when you can't make your transportation, a guaranteed ride home program will get you where you need to

The TMA idea is not a new one - there are 13 in Massachusetts alone, and many others throughout the country. They are an effective approach to reducing traffic congestion and air pollution, and improving commuting options for employees. As congestion worsens in many parts of the country, transit has become more appealing to many commuters. With the advent of the federal Commuter program, employers or employees can now use pre-arranged for up to \$100/month in expenses to commute via transit or vanpool.

Two years of startup funding for the TMA will be provided out of an \$80,000 Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) grant secured by the PDA. Beyond the two year start-up period, the organization will be funded by employer membership fees as well as additional outside grants and contracts as needed.

While the Pease TMA was originally envisioned to focus on businesses at the Tradeport, the Greater Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce and the City of Portsmouth have worked closely with PDA to bring the project to fruition, and are interested in expanding the organization to include other Portsmouth businesses. In addition to these partners, the TMA will work closely with the Seacoast MPO, the Pease Tenants Association, the NH Department of Transportation, and other surrounding communities. Questions about the TMA should be directed to Maria Stowell at PDA at 433-

## Route 125 Corridor Improvement Project

The Planning Commission has been involved in planning for the future expansion of the NH Route 125 Corridor for several years. Working closely with the NH Department of Transportation and the corridor feasibility study was prepared in 1998 that suggested a number of improvements along the corridor. Since



from the corridor project study area (Plaistow and Kingston) as well as RPC, NHDOT and VHB staff, and serves as the primary conduit of information about the project between the NHDOT and the gen-

There are two aspects to this corridor improvement program. The first involves specific improvements aimed at integrating the corridor into the future. These improvements include the construction of additional travel lanes, traffic signalization at certain intersections, condemnation and purchase of specific property and other intersection improvements aimed at improving safety along the corridor. The second aspect of the project sets this corridor apart from any other corridor projects in the state. For the first time the NHDOT is incorporating access management concept into the corridor improvement project. For NH Route 125 this means a program of shared access points between businesses, a raised median for the length of the corridor and the incorporation of other traffic-management techniques such as signal synchronization, a fairly intense informational signing program and future planning cooperation by the involved communities to insure that the local land use

planning process mandates access management practices such as shared driveways and interconnection of abutting parcels.

Several public informational workshops have been held to familiarize affected landowners with the project design and to show how these landowners will be impacted by the proposed improvements. Surprisingly, the plan for a raised median has caused the most controversy. Such an improvement has an immediate impact upon property access to the corridor and the ATF Committee has quite a task ahead in educating those affected of the safety benefits to be gained at the expense of unfettered access. Construction is not anticipated to begin for over a year on the first phase of the project, which will be the alignment of Hunt Road and Newton Junction in Kingston. This will give the ATF Committee the opportunity to continue to educate the local constituency about the changes to the corridor. For more information about the proposed project or the meeting schedule of the NH Route 125 Advisory Task Force please contact Glenn Greenwood or David Walker at the RPC.

## Conservation Commission Roundtable to Begin in November

At the request of Conservation Commission members in several towns, the RPC has begun organizing a Conservation Commission Roundtable to meet every other month starting in November. These sessions will provide Conservation Commission members with an informal opportunity to discuss issues of common concern, areas for cooperation and local projects. Meeting announcements will be in the mail shortly. For more information, please contact Theresa

## RPC to Begin a Pilot Circuit Rider Program for Conservation Commissions

With funding from the NH Estuaries Project, the RPC is developing a Pilot Program of three Conservation Commissions in the Exeter River Watershed. The purpose of the project is to improve a Commission's ability to protect critical natural resources from development. The three towns being asked to participate in the pilot program are Kingston, Kensington and Sandown.

Theresa Walker will be working with these three communities to adapt the Planning Board Circuit Rider program to meet the specific needs of each Conservation Commission. Walker will be attending meetings each month to provide organizational and technical assistance to improve efficiency and effectiveness. In addition, Walker will assist each Conservation Commission with developing and implementing natural resource protection projects of their choosing. These projects could include prioritizing land for protection, drafting LCHIP applications, or incorporating recommendations from the Regional Open Space Plan and other relevant documents into each Commission's annual work plan.

At the end of the pilot program next summer, the RPC and the participating Conservation Commissions will evaluate the usefulness and gauge interest in continuing or expanding the program. For more information, please contact Theresa Walker at the RPC.

## Municipal Forum on Workforce Housing

The RPC and REDC will hold our quarterly regional forum on Thursday November 7th at the Holiday Inn in Salem, beginning at 5:30 PM (with a light refreshment buffet). The topic will be



—*Threats to the Regional Economy*. Speakers will include Bill Ray from the NH Housing Finance Authority, Lisa Henderson from the Seacoast Workforce Housing Coalition and Maura Carriel from the RPC. For more information, or to reserve your place, please call (603) 772-0885 or Kim at REDC (772-0885). The forum will be held at the Holiday Inn in Salem, beginning at 5:30 PM (with a light refreshment buffet). The topic will be

# Draft Environmental Impact Statement -93

primarily on GIS and transportation related data collection with David

(DEIS) for widening of I-93 from Salem to Manchester. The Draft calls for widening the existing highway from 2 lanes in each direction to 4 lanes. As expected, a number of issues associated with the project have proven controversial, most notably the defer consideration of a rail alternative and the nature and extent of the environmental mitigation package proposed. several weeks the RPC, within our role as the Salem-Windham Metropolitan Planning Organization, will be developing a comprehensive set of comments on the DEIS. Two public hearings have been scheduled on November 12th Salem and Manchester respectively. A copy of the DEIS is available

[www.state.nh.us/dot/10418c/deis.htm](http://www.state.nh.us/dot/10418c/deis.htm).

**Intern News:** RPC happily welcomes Robert Pruyne as our new GIS and Transportation Intern. experienced in GIS, having worked for four years at the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission in Pittsfield, MA. Robe



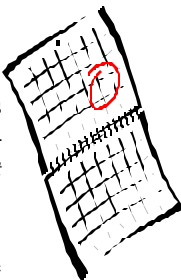
## Rye Build-Out Study

The RPC is currently finalizing a GIS Build-out analysis for the Town of Rye. The Rye Open Space Committee, a subcommittee Conservation Commission, asked the RPC to perform a build-out analysis in order to assist the committee in prioritizing properties for conservation. The objective of the analysis is to determine how many building lots could be developed from existing given the current zoning requirements. The results of the analysis were presented to the Town at a Septe Rye Library. One of the most important products of the project is a tax map, color coded by number of potential building lots at 'build-out'. The map also shows overlays of existing conservation lands and government owned parcels. The map essentially summarizes which lots are already protected and eater development. Another product is a computer program that allows the user to input zoning districts, mum buildable area and minimum frontage requirements. It then outputs a file that lists the number of 'build-out' lots per existing parcel, based on those inputs. For more information contact David Wickliffe at 778-0885 or email at

### Important Zoning Deadlines!

The time has again arrived to prepare amendments to your ordinances. To help you with this important task the RPC has prepared a handout detailing the important deadlines which must be met satisfy the statutory requirements for amending zoning ordinances, historic district ordinances, and building codes. Additi have developed a calendar to assist you in preparing your own schedules. This information has been sent to Planning Boards of Selectmen, Zoning Boards of Adjustment, Building Inspectors, Historic District Commissions and RPC Commissioners.

While many of the dates outlined in the schedule ed to correspond with your own meeting dates, it is important that the applicable statutory deadlines are met. For additional copies of the handout and calendar please visit our web- [www.rpc-nh.org](http://www.rpc-nh.org) and click on **Important Dates for Zoning Amendments**.



If you have any questions or would like assistance ividual schedules to meet your needs, please contact Mike Garrepy at the RPC.

### Dates to Remember

- October 16 - NHMA Law Lecture #2 - 7:00pm - Newmarket Town Hall
- October 23 - NHMA Law Lecture #3 - 7:00pm - Newmarket Town Hall
- October 23rd - SPW MPO Policy - Atkinson Town Hall - 7:00pm
- October 24th - Seacoast MPO Policy - Exeter Public Library - 6:30pm
- October 30 - NHMA Law Lecture #1 - 7:00pm - Newmarket Town Hall
- November 7 - Municipal Forum on Planning - Economic Development: *Workforce Housing* - Holiday Inn, Salem, NH - 5:30pm.
- November 12 - I-93 DEIS Hearing - Salem High School Gym - 3:30-5:30 (Open House); 6:00pm (Hearing)
- November 14 - I-93 DEIS Hearing - McLaughlin Middle School, Manchester - 3:30-5:30 (Open House); 6:00pm (Hearing)

**For more information on any of these meetings contact the RP**

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