

RPC News & Notes

Newsletter of the Rockingham Planning Commission

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Region Receives Over \$2.5 Million in TE & CMAQ Funding

Funding decisions have been made for Round 6 of the Transportation Enhancement (TE) and Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funding programs, and the RPC region has done very well, with eight projects totaling over \$2.56 Million. Both CMAQ and TE are matching grant programs providing federal funds for up to 80% of a project's cost, with the remaining 20% coming from local or state sources.

Congestion Mitigation Air Quality

- Town of Exeter - Train Station Parking Expansion (\$475k total/\$380k federal)
- Town of Greenland - NH Route 33 Signal Coordination (\$400k total/\$320k federal)
- City of Portsmouth - Maplewood Avenue Signal Coordination (\$230k total/\$184k federal)
- Town of Salem - Intelligent Transportation System Plan Development (\$285k total/\$185k federal)
- NHDOT - Bike shoulders on NH 108 from Newmarket town center to NH 85 (\$809k total/\$440k federal)
- NHDOT - Signal Coordination on NH 111 in Windham town center (\$110k total/\$88k federal)
- COAST - Express commuter bus service on the Spaulding Turnpike (\$1.1 million total/\$640k federal)
- COAST - Expanded marketing of transit service in the region (\$225k total/\$180k federal)

Transportation Enhancements

- Town of Hampton - Bike Shoulders on Winnacunnet Road between US 1 and NH 1A (\$751k total/\$600k)
- City of Portsmouth - Phase 1 of the Piscataqua Riverwalk, a 400' pedestrian facility and pier behind Bow Street (\$1.5 million total/\$500 federal)
- Town of Kensington - Town center enhancements and wayside on the American Independence Scenic Byway (\$90k total, \$45k federal)

Two other statewide projects submitted by the NH Department of Environmental Services will also benefit the region. One project will expand marketing of "Clean Air Action Days" - when COAST and other transit agencies offer free rides to get people out of their cars on high air pollution days. The project will also reimburse transit agencies for lost revenue on these days. The other project is a compliance assistance/education program for proper operation and maintenance of heavy duty diesel vehicles.

Traffic Counts Available On-Line

The RPC has made available on-line, a set of town maps which show traffic count locations throughout the region. This includes sites which have been counted over the last five years. There is a corresponding table below each map which lists the count location site code and the corresponding counts where available. The New Hampshire Department of Transportation (DOT) has posted their 2000 Annual Traffic Volume Report as a statewide document in PDF format. Both the RPC and the NH DOT are scheduled to update their traffic count data in June of this year. This will update the counts through 2001. To access traffic count data on the RPC web site, go to www.rpc-nh.org/data.htm and click on *Traffic Count Maps and Data by Town*. To access the data on the NH Department of Transportation web site, go to www.nhdot.com and look under *Business Center or Public Interest*. For more information about traffic counts in your community contact Tom Falk, Transportation Analyst at the RPC.

Transit Planning for Greater Derry/Salem

The Greater Derry/Salem area is the only urbanized area of the state lacking fixed route public transportation. The RPC, together with the Southern NH Planning Commission, the Nashua Planning Commission, and the Greater Derry Greater Salem Regional Transportation Council, are working to address this problem through development of a Coordinated Transit Services Plan for the region, funded by NHDOT.

During the winter of 2002, the project team surveyed seventeen providers of transit in the region to gain a profile of days and hours of operation; vehicle numbers and characteristics such as lift equipment and radios; numbers and types of clients served; annual trips and miles logged; size and training of staff; and agency funding levels and sources. Providers also gathered data on origins and destinations of all trips for a two week period in late March and early April.

Based on this data and demographic data on transit dependant populations in the region (elderly, disabled, low-income individuals, youth), staff are developing a model for coordination of transit service in the region. While the plan will address long term prospects for fixed route transit service in the region, the short term focus will be on coordinating existing paratransit services.

The project team is currently meeting individually with the providers in the region to get feedback on the service model options. At the same time, we are pursuing funding for start-up of a coordinated system. We expect to present a preferred alternative with funding recommendations to the Project Advisory Committee in late June. If you have questions about the project, contact Scott Bogle at 778-0885 or sbogle@rpc-nh.org.

Land Use and Zoning Coverage Updates

This summer RPC is updating its regional land use and zoning GIS layers. These layers are essential to the RPC Traffic Model for making traffic projections, necessary inputs for conducting regional and municipal build-out analyses and useful in general local and re-

More Census Data!

On May 16th, well ahead of schedule, the Census Bureau released detailed population and housing data for New Hampshire derived from the "long form" Census questionnaire – the one received by a sample (17%) of all households. This data release, known as Summary File 3 ("SF-3"), is available as standardized demographic profiles which are available at the county and town level in three standardized tables, containing the following types of information:



Selected Social Characteristics (Table DP-2)

Educational Attainment; School Enrollment
Marital, Veteran & Disability Status
Grandparents as caregivers
Place of residence in 1995; Place of Birth
Native language; Ancestry

Selected Economic Characteristics (Table DP-3)

Employment Status; Means of Commuting
Occupation, Industry and Class of Employment
Household, Family and Per capita Income
Poverty Status

Selected Housing Characteristics (Table DP-4)

No. of Housing Units and Rooms in Structure;
Occupants per room; No. Vehicles available
Year Built; Year moved into unit;
Home heating fuel; Housing deficiencies
Owner estimated value; Mortgage and rental costs;
Mortgage or Rent as % of Income

These tables are in addition to the DP-1 "General Characteristics" data which was released last year - at the following URL: <http://censtats.census.gov/pub/Profiles.shtml>. Over the next few months, the RPC will compile this data into tables for all towns in the region and make them available on our website.

...And speaking of data, town-by-town demographic summaries, including time series data, are now available from the NH Assoc. of Regional Planning Commission's website at <http://www.nharpc.org/datacenter.php>. The work involved in creating this datacenter was funded by the Community Development Finance Authority.

LCHIP Announces \$6 Million Grant Round

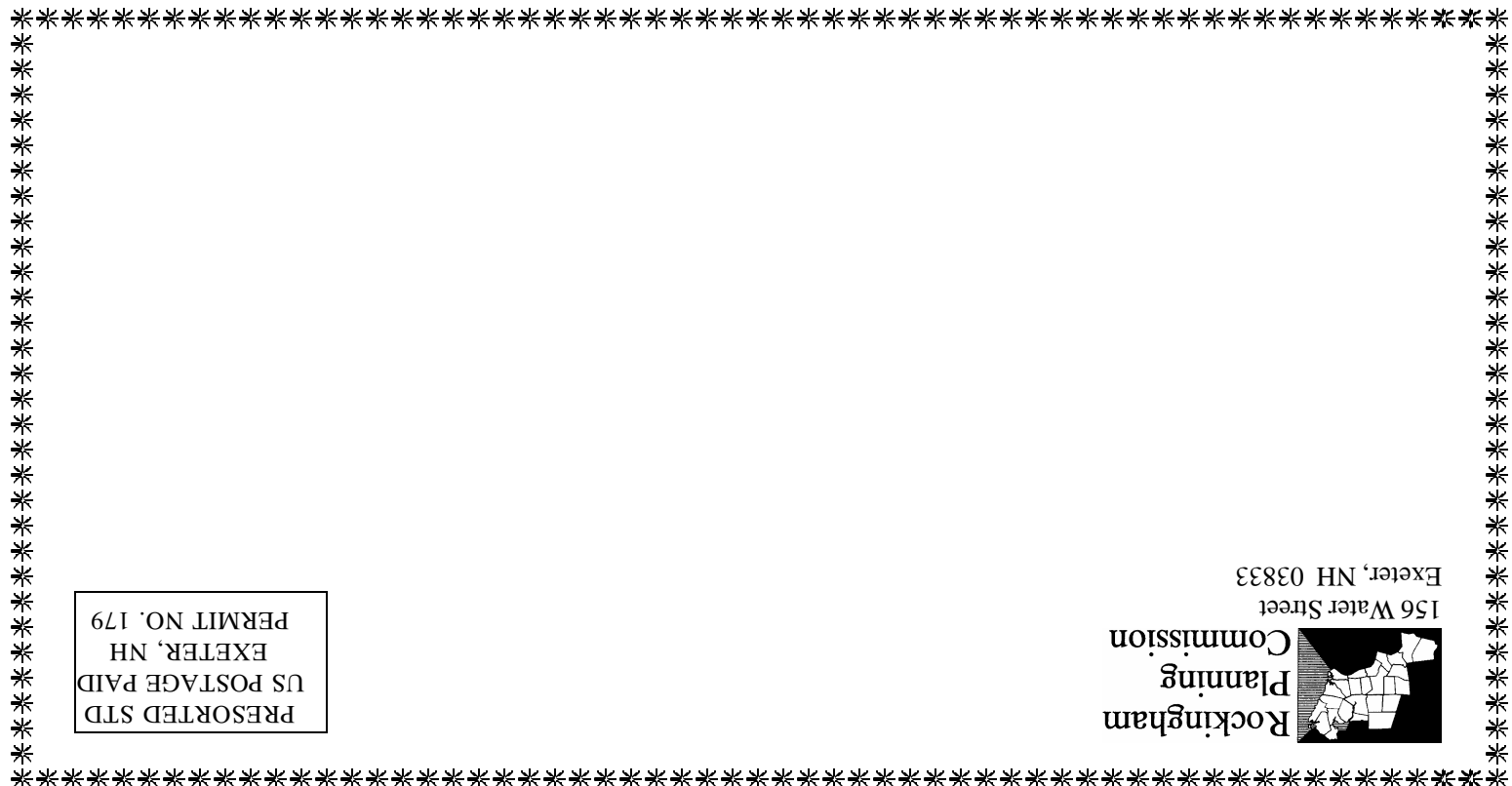
C DFA The NH Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) has announced a full grant round to open in September 2002. Six million dollars in funding is available for all eligible natural, cultural, and historic resource projects. Applicants in this grant round will have approximately six weeks from the opening date to submit proposals. All deadlines are to be announced at a later date.

For more information please contact Theresa Walker at the RPC or call the LCHIP office at 224-4113 or visit their website at www.lchip.org. Email info@lchip.org to be placed on their electronic mailing list.

Regional Transportation Survey Shows Strong Support for Alternatives

Results from the 2002 Regional Transportation Needs Survey suggest strong concern about traffic congestion, and support for more alternatives to driving alone, such as improved transit service and bicycle and pedestrian facilities – perhaps even a willingness to pay for them! Based on input from the survey and from a series of public meetings held in both MPO regions during the winter, RPC and SRPC staff are work-

Upcoming Meetings	
June 12th - RPC Annual Meeting - Casa Vecchia - Salem - 6:00 pm	
June 13th - Randall Arendt - Conservation Subdivision Design - Dover Middle School - 4-6pm - (dinner break) - 7-9pm	
June 20th - Seacoast Policy - Strafford Regional Planning Commission office - 5:30 pm	
June 20th - Little Bay Bridge Incident Management Plan - Dover City Hall - 7:00 pm	
June 27 - Public Information Meeting - Hunt Road/Newton Junction Intersection - Kingston Town Hall - 7:00 pm	
June 28 - SPW TAC - 9:30 am - Location TBA	
July 4th - RPC office closed in observance of Independence Day.	
For more information on any of these meetings contact the RPC office	



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