



Rockingham Planning Commission

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REGIONAL WORK PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005 July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005 ROCKINGHAM PLANNING COMMISSION

Land Use Planning

TARGETED BLOCK GRANT

(Funding Source: NH OSP; RPC)

1. Geographic Information System Support

- a) General support of GIS to include the following:
 - ESRI accredited ArcView, ArcGIS, Geodatabase or other GIS training for staff and/or attendance of staff at NEARC or other annual GIS conference;
 - maintenance contracts or software upgrades for ArcInfo and ArcView 8 software (one-half share);
 - continued representation of regional planning agencies on the GIS Advisory Committee;
 - attendance at NH GIS Conservation Coalition (NHGCC meetings)
 - attendance at RPA GIS Users meetings;
- b) Regional GIS Development:

This task will set aside staff time for testing Community Viz applications. RPC GIS staff attended a 2 day Community Viz training in 2004 supported by the NH Charitable Foundation and coordinated by OEP. Staff time will be used to test the use Community Viz to enhance GIS application such as GIS-based buildout analyses.
- c) Standard Planning Map Set

Continue production of standardized ArcView map sets for approximately 5 communities. These sets are meant to represent the most commonly requested GIS maps used in local planning applications; standard spatial data attributes and symbolization make the maps more easily reproducible from town to town. Completed maps sets will be provided on paper and CDROM (as PDF files).

2. Training for Local Land Use Boards

- a) Planning Board Training: Continue planning board lecture series to consist of at least six hours of training focusing on one or more of the following: planning board procedures, responsibilities, land use regulations, innovative zoning, enforcement, planning law, or development review techniques. One of the sessions will be specifically designed to provide training tailored to new planning board members.
- b) Brown Bag Lunch Series: Sponsor quarterly brown bag lunch meetings of professional planners in the region to foster informal sharing of planning issues, problems, solutions, etc. As planned, some of the meetings will focus on a presentation on a specific topic and others will be

peer-lead discussions of one or more topics of the leader=s choosing.

- c) Alternative Design Outreach: The RPC will contract with a consulting engineer to have a set of pro forma site design plans prepared to assist in illustrating the village plan, hamlet and conservation plan alternatives as developed previously under an OEP innovating planning grant. Outreach to communities, including local land use board meetings will continue.

3. **Matching Grant Planning Assistance Program for Non-Coastal Communities**

There are 13 communities in the non-coastal area of the RPC that are members of the agency. Similar to how the coastal communities have Coastal Program funds available to them, these funds would be made available to the non-coastal communities for a 50/50 matching program for planning projects. Specific projects will be solicited from the communities and judged based on the project description, demonstrated need, and availability of local match. Smaller grant amounts would be favored in order to allow more communities to participate.

4. **Development/Updating of Regional Master Plan Chapters**

Continue the development and updating of the RPC Regional Master Plan, per new content requirements of HB 712. Anticipated in FY 04 is the completion of the regional fair share analysis of the regional housing chapter, and the compilation and or updating of others in accordance with RSA 36:47 III, beginning with historic resources chapter.

NH COASTAL PROGRAM

(Funding Source: NH CZP; RPC, Communities)

1. **Planning Assistance For Coastal Communities**

The RPC will receive for technical planning assistance grant funds to provide matching grants to communities who wish to undertake local planning projects or activities that will benefit and/ or help protect coastal resources. For FY 02 these project include:

- Greenland: Technical Planning Assistance to the Planning Board; implementing land use and natural resource protection recommendations outlined in the new master plan
- Hampton: Master Plan update assistance and preparation of associated GIS maps.
- Hampton Falls: Technical Planning Assistance to the Planning Board; quarterly tax map updates
- North Hampton: Technical Assistance to the Planning Board; minor zoning and land use regulation amendments
- Exeter: Preparation of final Future Land Use Chapter, recommendation summary and implementation section
- Rye Beach District: Master Plan completion; development zoning amendment recommendations
- Rye: Master Plan Update assistance (tentative; pending grant amendment)

2. **Smartgrowth Audits**

Conduct Smartgrowth Audits in accordance established NHOEP standards for the communities of Rye, Hampton and Newfields. Staff will evaluate current zoning and land use regulations to identify areas where they do not support stated master plan goal and objectives.

3. **Groundwater Sustainability Study (USGS/NHDES/NH Coastal Program)**
(Funding: NH Coastal Program (proposed); Local Dues)
Continue staff participation in the implementation of the major groundwater sustainability study being carried out by the USGS and NHDES with funding from the NH Coastal Program and coastal communities.
4. **Regional Wastewater Management Study (SB-70) (NHDES)**
(Funding: NH Coastal Program (proposed); Local Dues)
Continue staff participation and monitoring of the major wastewater management study for the Great Bay Estuary and surrounding region being carried out by the NHDES and consultant Metcalf and Eddy under the direction of the SB-70 Study Commission.

Environmental Planning/Natural Resources/Water Resources

REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING PROGRAM (REPP)

(Funding: NH Department of Environmental Services)

STATEWIDE COMPONENT

Task 1 – Sprawl Indicators:

Continue to participate in the activities of the RPC/DES Sprawl Indicators Workgroup. Activities include: attending meetings, reviewing documents, developing cost estimates for specific tasks, reviewing draft land use data layers, and generating data to support the development of specific indicators of sprawl. Specifically, during FY 2005, the RPC will generate the following data:

- ? GIS data layer of areas zoned for development as a community or town center by municipalities, but that did not have sufficient development or sufficient characteristics of a community center to be included in the community centers data layer generated previously.
- ? Refinements to the Community Centers Data Layer, generated last year. Additions include: (1) GIS data layer of the core, dense downtown area within the broader community center area and (2) GIS data layer presenting post WWII development that represent additions to existing community center areas (i.e., areas of more recent, less dense development that occurred adjacent to an existing center area as defined and generated previously)

Task 2 – Source Water Protection Training

Participate in the annual Source Water Protection Training session for planners sponsored by DES. Topics for the training will include: basic groundwater information, regulations, water quality, emerging issues, and favorable gravel well analysis.

REGIONAL COMPONENT

Task 3 – Land Protection

- A. Local Resource Protection Priorities - Complete inventory and update data layer initiated in FY04 showing community conservation and cultural resource protection priorities.
- B. Natural Resources Chapter of the Regional Master Plan - A natural resources chapter of the RPC's Regional Master Plan will be prepared which will identify trends and needs in land protection, including the protection of open space and farm and forestland, per NH RSA 9-A:1, III. In addition, surface and groundwater resources, wetland, wildlife habitat, geologic

resources, historic resources, and un-fragmented lands will be identified. RPC staff and a committee comprised of RPC commissioners will analyze this information and draft recommended policies and actions necessary to protect those resources.

- C. Organize and Support a Regional Conservation Commission Roundtable – Continue this successful program initiated in FY 2004. The Roundtable will provide Conservation Commission members in the region with an opportunity to meet and discuss topics of mutual interest and concern. The Roundtable will meet quarterly; two meetings will have guest speakers/topic and two meetings will be peer-led discussions on topics picked by Roundtable participants. RPC staff will provide administrative support including meeting organizations, mailings, and arranging for guest speakers. Staff will attend and act as a resource at all meetings.

Task 3 – Smart Growth Projects

Application of CommunityViz Software – In FY 2004, the RPC successfully applied for a grant through the NH Charitable Foundation to purchase a copy of CommunityViz Software. Under this task, RPC staff will develop a prototype CommunityViz application to enable Planning Boards in the region to review, analyze and evaluate major development/subdivision proposals against existing conditions. This application will display, in an interactive form, information about the relationship of the proposed development, and its potential impact on various resources, including water, open space, impervious surface, etc. The objective is to quickly display and evaluate how changes in the development proposal could alter the impacts of the development, such as changes in amount of impervious surface, length of subdivision streets, sidewalks and other infrastructure required to serve the development, percentage of land left undisturbed, etc. We will ‘pilot’ the use of the application using one or more past or current development proposals in the region to test both its effectiveness as a development evaluation tool, and the practicality of applying Community Viz in this way on a routine basis. Due to software and hardware requirements, this service would be provided at RPC office with local officials from the pilot community invited to participate in the demonstration. Digital or hardcopy slides of the resultant maps, charts and reports will be provided to the community.

Exeter River Management Plan; Assistance to ERLAC (604B) (Funding: EPA 604B Program; Local Dues)

The RPC will continue to provide technical assistance to the Exeter River Local Advisory Committee (ERLAC) under the provisions of the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program. For over 5 years the RPC has provided organizational and technical planning assistance to ERLAC, which is responsible for developing and adopting a management plan for the river. Work task for Fiscal Year 2005, are proposed to include:

- Assist ERLAC, watershed conservation commissions, and other groups with the organization and implementation of the Annual Exeter River Alewife Festival; assist ERLAC with other public education and outreach projects
- Continue to provide technical and administrative support for monthly ERLAC meetings

Dearborn Brook Watershed Management Plan Implementation (Funding: NHDES, Exeter)

Assist the Towns of Exeter and Stratham in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Dearborn Brook Watershed Management Plan, a major water supply source for Exeter; project

involves establishing two-town advisory committee, inventorying major resources and potential source water pollution sources, identifying groundwater recharge and discharge zones, and preparing Draft Management Plan.

Conservation Commission Circuit Rider Program
(Funding: NH Coastal Program; RPC, Towns)

Continue circuit rider technical assistance program for Conservation Commissions begun in FY 2003 under an Estuaries Program (NHEP) grant for several communities in the region. Technical assistance tasks to include attending monthly meetings, providing general organizational assistance, and working on resource protection initiatives such as land and habitat protection, wetlands protection, shoreland protection, etc. The communities identified for assistance in FY 2005 are: Fremont, Kensington, Kingston and Sandown.

Reducing Impervious Surface through Better Site Design
(Funding: NH Estuaries Program; RPC)

Develop technical assistance program, including training workshop(s) and model regulations to assist estuary communities implement zoning, site plan and subdivision regulations that will result in reduced areas of impervious surface with new development.

NH Estuaries Program
(Funding: Local Dues)

Participate on the NH Estuaries Program Management Committee representing RPC Communities and regional interests.

Transportation Planning

(Funding Sources: FHWA; NHDOT; FTA; RPC)

The RPC is responsible for the organization and maintenance of the Salem-Plaistow-Windham MPO (metropolitan planning organization) and shares similar responsibilities with the Strafford Regional Planning Commission for the Seacoast MPO. As such the RPC is responsible, in coordination with other agencies for transportation planning in the region we serve. The major transportation planning tasks carried out in the Salem-Plaistow-Windham (S-P-W) and Seacoast Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Study Areas include the following and are further specified in the respective Unified Planning Work Programs:

- ? Establishing and maintaining the MPO ("3Cs") transportation planning process, involving local state and federal officials, ensuring that local and regional transportation needs are accounted for the prioritization of federally funded projects;
- ? Developing and maintaining MPO Planning Documents, including the Long Range Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- ? Coordination with NHDOT and local communities on the development and review of the State's Ten-Year Transportation Plan and 3 Year Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).
- ? Developing, maintaining and utilizing the travel demand model for the Seacoast and S-P-W MPO's, required for assessing the impacts of changes in the transportation system on regional air quality;
- ? Maintaining a traffic counting and turning movement count program and offering related services to communities;

- ? Assist NHDOT in update road inventory database for non-state roadways;
- ? Assisting communities to develop transportation project proposals for the CMAQ and Transportation Enhancement, and STP Programs.
- ? Assisting in the development and implementation of the statewide ridesharing program in the region, including conducting a major employer outreach program;
- ? Monitoring and promoting the establishment of improved commuter transportation services along major highway corridors in the region, including, I-93, I-95; Spaulding Tpk.; NH 125 and NH 33;
- ? Improving general awareness and understanding of transportation and air quality issues on the part of local officials; improving public awareness of alternative transportation options in the region;
- ? Identifying and coordinating with NHDOT on the development of park and ride lots in the region;
- ? Providing technical assistance to local highway safety committees and other local transportation committees on local transportation planning and problem solving;
- ? Working with COAST and private transit providers to improve and sustain public transit services in the region Pease Transportation Management Association (TMA);
- ? Continued Assistance to Route 1 Communities in coordinating improvements on US ; staffing Ad Hoc US 1 Committee;
- ? Monitor and assist in the implementation of transportation projects and studies in the region. In FY 2005, these will include:
 - o Newington-Dover Little Bay Bridges Expansion EIS and project monitoring and participation in Advisory Task Force;
 - o US 1 Bypass Project EIS monitoring and participation in Advisory Task Force;
 - o NH 125 Corridor Study Implementation (Kingston-Plaistow); Access Management
 - o Route 1A/1B and American Independent Scenic Byway Implementation
 - o COAST - Route Planning; System Analysis; Staff Assistance
 - o US Route 1 Corridor Study Update
 - o Pioneer Road Bicycle Shoulder Project;
 - o Pease TMA implementation;
 - o Bicycle Shoulder Improvement - various locations;
 - o Prepare *MIS/Alternatives Analysis* on preliminary feasibility study of restoring passenger service to the Hampton Branch Line from Salisbury MA to Portsmouth NH; assistance to Legislative Study Committee as requested;
 - o Continued participation in Lawrence-Manchester Rail Restoration Legislation Study Committee;
 - o Participation in Special Study Committee with DOT, FHWA, & FTA to review/revise TIP amendment process and procedures;
 - o Implementation of Transit Plan for the Greater Derry/Salem Regional Transportation Council;
 - o Participation in Bi-state Transit Alternative study to evaluate long term transit options for the I-93 corridor
 - o Complete decennial update of the travel demand model for the region, including documentation and automation of key procedures.
 - o Continue work with MVPC on NH 125 Study implementation and other cross-border transportation issues

Economic Development Planning

Community Development Finance Authority

(Funding: CDFA, RPC)

1. Capacity Building/PR/Coordination

- ? The RPC will publicize all CDFA-funded activities through newsletters, publications, RPC web site, and forum publicity.
- ? The RPC will maintain and seek to enhance its working relationships with affordable housing, economic development, Main Street and childcare organizations, as appropriate, and integrate regional planning information and expertise with community and economic development initiatives.
- ? Continue representation and support to REDC's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Steering Committee.
- ? Continue to have reports from RPC Commissioners/staff representatives on REDC Steering Committee at full Commission meetings.
- ? Coordinate with REDC to organize and conduct a minimum of two forums with speakers on selected economic development topics (goal is to offer quarterly forums).
- ? Identify regional economic development issue(s) and coordinate a guest speaker to provide a forum for discussion at a minimum of one RPC Commission meeting.

2. Regional Economic Indicators

- ? Regional data collection
- ? Regional mapping
- ? Continue to purchase real estate transaction data, track and map transaction data for the region. Staff will continue to coordinate with Nashua and Southern NH RPCs to ensure compatibility with their efforts, allowing for regional comparisons of data. This year's efforts will be expanded to include the development and release of a year-end summary for each preceding calendar year and comparison/analysis of data, development and release of quarterly summaries, and more extensive promotion and distribution of quarterly and year-end summaries. Year-end and quarterly summaries will be posted on the RPC's website, and made available to communities, other public agencies, non-profit organizations and the general public for a variety of applications, including local master planning and regional housing supply analyses.

3. Local Economic Development Project

- ? Update Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) – co-funded with REDC; see description below;
- ? Undertake research on the fiscal impact of multi-family housing on the local tax base. RPC staff will coordinate with Nashua RPC staff to the extent feasible to develop a methodology that is consistent with their proposal, as well as with the Workforce Housing Coalition in developing the study methodology and distributing of the results.

Rockingham Economic Development Corp.

(Funding: REDC, RPC)

1. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

Provide assistance to the REDC on the 2004 minor update and 2005 major rewrite the Rockingham County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), in support of on-going regional

economic development planning efforts. The RPC's responsibilities will include updating demographic and economic data and associated analyses, assisting with reviewing and updating goals, objectives and recommendations, including the priority project list, and providing support and input at Steering Committee and REDC Board meetings. The original CEDS was completed in 2000; a major update/rewrite is due by June 2005.

Other Regional Programs

1. **Hazard Mitigation Planning**

(Funding: NH Office of Emergency Management, RPC)

Continue development of All-Hazard Mitigation Plans for communities in the region. Plans will be completed in FY 2005 for Plaistow and Portsmouth; new Plans will be developed for Windham, Hampstead, Hampton Falls and Newfields.

2. **FEMA Flood Insurance Program Assistance**

(Funding Source: RPC; FEMA; NHOSP; NHOEM)

Provide technical assistance to the NH Office of Energy and Planning in administering the FEMA Flood Insurance Program. This work includes making 'community assistance visits' (CAVs) and 'community awareness contacts' (CACs) with communities selected by FEMA, and participating in regional NFIP training sessions. Communities slated to receive CAVs this year are Epping and North Hampton.

3. **Developments of Regional Impact Review**

(Funding: Local Dues)

Continue to staff the Developments of Regional Impact Review Committee which reviews and comments on proposed development in the region that may have regionwide impact. (RSA 35:54-58). Work on strengthening the regional impact review process and local awareness.

4. **Hazardous Waste Collection:** (Exeter, Stratham, Newfields)

(Funding: Local Dues)

Coordinate three town cooperative hazardous waste collection each year, including grant application, volunteer and other logistics coordination.

5. **Legislative Policy Development**

(Funding: Local Dues)

Develop and distribute RPC legislative policy priorities for the 2005-2006 Legislative Session

6. **Information Distribution**

(Funding Source: Local; NHDOT; FHWA; OSP)

Newsletters
Advisory Memos

Zoning Amendment Calendar
Law Lecture Series

Census Distribution
RPC Webster