

# Regional Vision and Goal

## Vision for 2040

The vision for the Rockingham Planning Commission region in 2040 is the following:

**The southeastern New Hampshire region enjoys a high quality of life represented by a strong regional economy, distinct community character, and outstanding natural and recreational resources. This has been achieved through careful planning, wise stewardship of natural resources, infrastructure investment, and increasing regional cooperation on shared issues. This vision is supported when:**

1. Communities are working together to ensure that long-term economic, social and environmental factors are balanced in the planning and decision-making process.
2. Development and redevelopment are enhancing and strengthening community centers, preserving rural character, and maintaining traditional landscapes. This provides open space for agriculture, recreation and wildlife areas, and protection of natural resources, while providing residents with a variety of choices for places to live, work, and play.
3. Communities are allowing a variety of housing choices for residents of all income levels to strengthen our communities and economic vitality.
4. We are investing in the infrastructure systems that support our communities and businesses.
5. The region is promoting economic opportunities that result in more high quality jobs, stable property tax rates, enhanced educational opportunities, and improved services for residents and businesses.
6. We are striving to protect our natural environment so residents can benefit from its resources without diminishing its quality for other living creatures and future generations.
7. Our sense of community is being preserved by protecting and actively using the region's historical resources and cultural heritage.
8. Communities are acknowledging and planning for the effects of a changing climate. Anticipated changes include sea-level rise, increasing flood events, more erosion, periods of drought and other natural hazards.
9. Residents, businesses, and communities are adapting to the high cost of energy by implementing efficiency measures for building, increasing public transportation options, and developing local renewable energy resources.
10. Communities are respectful of property rights in their efforts to manage growth and development.

## Regional Goal

**Promote efficient use of land, resources and infrastructure in southeastern New Hampshire that:**

- Creates a high quality built environment while protecting important natural and cultural resources.
- Promotes positive effects of development and minimizes adverse impacts.
- Promotes economic opportunities and community vitality.
- Enhances the coordination of planning between land use, transportation, housing and natural resources.
- Considers and incorporates climate change into local and regional planning efforts.

## New Hampshire Livability Principles

### **Traditional Settlement Patterns and Development Design**

Keep the traditional New Hampshire landscape intact by focusing development in town centers and village areas, while leaving open and rural areas for agriculture, recreation, and other suitable uses.

### **Housing Choices**

Ensure that everyone, no matter what their income level, has convenient and affordable choices in where they live. This includes a variety of housing options and ownership types that appeal to people at any stage of life and is convenient to where they work, shop, and play.

### **Transportation Choices**

Provide a number of options that help people safely and efficiently get where they need to go, whether it is by walking, driving, biking, public transportation, carpooling, or taking a train or plane. Transportation networks should make it easy to get from one place to another, and should also allow the efficient movement of goods to support the economy (commercial freight, rail, and air transport).

### **Natural Resource Functions and Quality**

Make sure that we protect New Hampshire's beautiful natural landscape, which is home to all of us as well as a wide range of wildlife species. This includes protecting and improving the water we drink, the air we breathe, the forests we love, and the farmland that sustains us.

### **Community and Economic Vitality**

Continue to make New Hampshire a great place in which to do business, raise a family, recreate, visit, and retire. Our neighborhoods and communities offer opportunities for an excellent education, good health, cultural happenings, and social connections.

### **Climate Change and Energy Efficiency**

Identify opportunities to save energy and costs and reduce risks to our communities, businesses and citizens. In recent decades, New Hampshire has seen an increase in extreme storms and flooding coupled with steadily rising fuel and energy prices. How can we reduce dependence on outside sources of energy, construct homes and buildings that are more efficient, and reduce impacts to our communities and infrastructure from extreme storms and flooding?