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# Visions

## SNHPC

SERVING OUR REGION'S COMMUNITIES SINCE 1966

**Vol. 44, No. 12 Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission Winter 2019/2020**

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## In Memoriam: Pamela H. Garrity SNHPC: 2001-2019



During Pam's tenure with the SNHPC, one of her key responsibilities was coordinating the collection of traffic volume data on the region's roadways. Pam conducted nearly 6,000 traffic counts during her career and forged strong working relationships with the municipalities and State Agencies that rely on the SNHPC's traffic data. Her efficiency, attention to detail, and commitment to safety was widely respected throughout the state.

A U.S. Army veteran and the second woman to be accepted by West Point, Pam will be remembered for her sense of humor and kindheartedness as well as her independent, genuine nature. She brought a certain zest to every conversation. When out in the field, Pam was reliable and always had your back.

Pam will be greatly missed by SNHPC staff and the many community and agency colleagues with whom she worked over the years.

## SNHPC Collaborates on First-Ever NH Volunteer Driver Program Map

SNHPC is collaborating with the State Coordinating Council (SCC) and the NH Alliance for Healthy Aging's (AHA)

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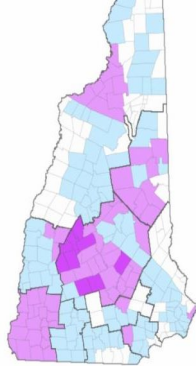
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Transportation Work Group to create a map of the publicly accessible volunteer driver programs in the state.

Volunteer driver programs (VDPs) are organizations that coordinate the scheduling of volunteer drivers with folks in need of transportation. Those in need of transportation include seniors and disabled among others. While the New Hampshire programs vary greatly on how they operate, all VDPs help those who would otherwise be homebound.



Together the programs provide thousands of rides to residents in need across the state every year. Yet every VDP needs additional volunteer drivers and there are many who would benefit from the service but are unaware of its existence. Although some communities are served by more than one VDP, there are 47 NH communities that have no public VDP. SNHPC staff, along with the SCC and AHA, are

interested in promoting the existing VDPs and assisting unserved communities initiate them.

Also, to help services assisting seniors such as Service Link and 211 programs, SNHPC staff created a statewide mapping tool that provides basic information about VDPs. The coordination of this Statewide effort has started a dialogue about what resources these programs need and how they can collaborate to serve those in need. Please view the map at <https://arcg.is/1q1mmq>.

Supporting this facet of our transportation network is imperative. For more information contact Adam Hlasny, [ahlasny@snhpc.org](mailto:ahlasny@snhpc.org) or Monique Duchesne, [mduchesne@snhpc.org](mailto:mduchesne@snhpc.org).

## Updating the SNHPC MPO's Regional Transportation Plan: Looking for 20-20 Vision

Wondering how your community can streamline travel for its residents and how wise transportation investments can attract economic growth over the next 20+ years? Perhaps your transportation concerns revolve around safety and creating user-friendly transportation systems for all types of users (walkers, bicyclists, drivers, etc.) and abilities. Do you see opportunities locally but unsure how to get ideas "up the chain" to decisionmakers in Concord and Washington?

SNHPC is here to listen and get the conversation started. We encourage your participation in SNHPC's Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) update, beginning in early 2020!



Last adopted in 2017, the RTP is the first step in the local-regional-state and federal process to envision transportation improvements. Join SNHPC in understanding the impact connected and autonomous vehicles (CAVs) will have on the future of transportation. Other changes in shared mobility services such as car sharing, bike sharing, ride sharing as well as the changes in micro-mobility (scooters and e-bikes) and transit will also change the way we travel in NH.

Not sure what this is all about or if it's likely to impact the SNHPC region and beyond? SNHPC staff will help get you "up to speed". We welcome your questions and are here to help plan for future transportation needs. How are you and your community planning for these innovations, and how does your community fit into the bigger picture?

Staff welcomes your input as they review project concepts, including plans and previous applications for projects that have yet to be included in the 10-Year Plan. Any new transportation needs or ideas are welcome. All needs, concept ideas, and plans will be considered and shared with the regional membership at TAC and MPO meetings. Planning for the future is now and we invite your involvement!

In 2020, SNHPC will be looking for opportunities to "plan where you are" and bring an RTP update public process to your community. For example, this may mean having a booth at local or regional events in your "neck of the woods" when permitted. We also will be developing an online and traditional survey that asks residents what is needed in the coming years and decades. All ideas will be documented and vetted.

If you have any ideas about events or other opportunities for public engagement that attract people from within and outside your municipality, please contact Carl Eppich at [ceppich@snhpc.org](mailto:ceppich@snhpc.org) or 669-4664.

### SNHPC Hosts Age-Friendly Housing Forum

The Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission, through its Becoming Age-Friendly Program, has spent the last four years on understanding how our communities are planning for the needs of all ages. Recently, SNHPC put a spotlight on housing challenges in our region, inviting stakeholders from around our region to unite through a public forum to develop recommendations on how to better solve housing needs for the growing senior population as well as for younger generations.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, there are about 102,223 housing units in the SNHPC Region. Including the City of Manchester, single-family homes make up 61.5% of the total units in the region,



while structures with 2 to 4 units make up about 16%, structures with 5 or more units make up 20.7%, and mobile homes and other structures make up 1.8% of the total number of units in the region. It should be noted that Manchester makes up for 74.8% of multi-family units in the region. While the majority of housing units in the SNHPC region are owner-occupied, 35% are renter-occupied. Of those renter-occupied units, over 40% of residents spend 35% or more of their income on rent.

According to the New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority's (NHHFA) Rental Cost Survey, between 2013 and 2018 there was a 15.6% increase in rents across New Hampshire, while renter income has only increased 5%. Additionally, the state-wide median sales price for single-family homes have increased 7.3% in the past year, while the rate of new building permits has decreased by over 50% in the past ten years. Residents in the SNHPC region and across New Hampshire continue to face rising housing costs and limited housing choice, especially for younger adults looking to stay, or move to the state, and for older populations looking to downsize and age-in-place.



As a part of the SNHPC Becoming Age-Friendly Initiative, SNHPC's goal was to assemble stakeholders to discuss these housing needs and continue the conversation in hopes of identifying barriers and creating practical solutions to meet the housing needs of the SNHPC Region.

On November 21st, with support from AARP New Hampshire and Tufts Health Plan Foundation, the SNHPC held an Age-Friendly Housing Forum at the Institute of Politics at Saint Anselm College. The Forum provided an opportunity for dialogue on the Region's general lack of age-friendly, affordable, and diverse housing options. The event included a lightning-round of speakers presenting on various topics related to housing in New Hampshire, providing context, data, stories, and questions for group discussions. The following is a summary of speakers and topics discussed at the Forum:

- **Sarah Jacobs**, Director for the Center for Ethics in Business and Governance (CEBG) at Saint Anselm College presented on CEBG's Housing We Need Initiative and discussed ways to encourage a variety of housing



development.

- **George Reagan**, Community Engagement Manager for New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority (NHHFA) gave an overview of New Hampshire's Housing market and discussed the relationship between local Master Plan housing goals and barriers to building new housing.
- **Cam Prolman**, Regional Planner at SNHPC spoke about the Town of Chester's Age-Friendly Open Space Subdivision and discussed how communities want to retain their rural character yet provide housing that meets the needs of their residents.
- **Robin Leblanc**, Executive Director of Plan NH, reviewed Plan NH's Municipal Technical Assistance Grant program and discussed the need to understand how and when a community is ready for more housing choices.
- **James Vayo**, Project Manager at SNHPC presented on innovations in housing and discussed which innovations have the potential to benefit our region's communities and beyond.
- **Robert Tardif**, Administrator of the Subsurface Systems Bureau at NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES), reported on the Subsurface Systems Bureau lot sizing requirements and discussed how local lot size requirements can impact development in communities.
- **Kir Harris**, Vice President of Development for Elm Grove Companies gave a presentation on the importance of density from a developer's perspective, and how increasing density can lead to more housing options, while acknowledging the infrastructure limitations in rural communities.
- **Todd Fahey**, State Director of AARP New Hampshire presented on AARP's Eight Domains of Livability and discussed how housing (or lack thereof) impacts the other domains of livability.

Attendees broke into groups where each focused on the discussion topics of a particular speaker. By the end of the Forum, each group's discussion results were shared with the larger audience.

SNHPC continues to work with communities and stakeholders to address the housing needs of the SNHPC region, and welcomes residents, municipalities, agencies, and organizations to continue the conversation.

For a full summary of the SNHPC Age-Friendly Forum, see [http://www.snhpc.org/pdf/Housing\\_Forum\\_SNHPC\\_Meeting.pdf](http://www.snhpc.org/pdf/Housing_Forum_SNHPC_Meeting.pdf). For more information, please contact Cam Prolman at [cprolman@snhpc.org](mailto:cprolman@snhpc.org) or 669-4664.

**Collaboration with SNHU School of Business:  
Expanding Age-Friendly Transit Outreach**

### Building a Relationship with SNHU

In September, Southern New Hampshire University's (SNHU's) School of Business contacted SNHPC regarding their Corporate Consulting Preparation course offered to on-campus graduate students. The School of Business sought to work with SNHPC on a real-world project where students could perform work in a professional consultant-to-client relationship. SNHPC staff were eager to work with School of Business on the request and initiated work with the class by identifying a regional need for outreach and communication, especially senior citizens, regarding available transit options.



### Process and Next Steps

In working with the students in a professional client-to-consultant relationship, SNHPC assisted the student group in producing a Scope of Work. The scope of work identified tasks the students would complete in the coming months and acted as an informal contract between the students and SNHPC. The students established five work tasks they would complete over two semesters. The student group did a great job conducting research on transit systems and developing a survey which they managed to complete just before the end of their semester.

During semester two, the students will be conducting and analyzing the results of survey responses and creating a plan for outreach in select communities within the region. At the end of semester two, SNHPC will receive a final presentation and report from the students detailing the activities, findings, and recommendations for expanding age-friendly transit outreach.

We are excited by the direction of this collaboration and will be sure to provide updates as the students complete their work and achieve milestones. If you are interested in becoming involved in the collaboration or have your own idea for a project you would like to work on with SNHPC, please reach out to James Vayo, Project Manager at SNHPC: 669-4664 or [jvayo@snhpc.org](mailto:jvayo@snhpc.org).



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