



**SNHPC**

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### Upcoming Meetings and Deadlines

#### Follow Us On Twitter

[www.twitter.com/SNHPC](http://www.twitter.com/SNHPC)

#### Regional Economic Development Plan Steering Committee

March 29, 2010 @ 3:00 PM at the PSNH Energy Park

#### Establishing an Agricultural Commission Workshop

April 7, 2010 @ 7:00 PM in the SNHPC Conference Room

#### Deadlines:

#### General John Stark Scenic Byway Logo Contest

#### 5th Annual Student Art Competition

Both Due by: 3/31/2010, for more information visit our website!

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**SNHPC**

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# Visions

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Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission

March 2010

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## New Hampshire Capitol Corridor Project

The push to bring passenger rail and improved freight rail to Southern New Hampshire continues. Restoration of passenger rail to New Hampshire is and has been one of SNHPC's strategic goals since 2007. The New Hampshire Capitol Corridor Project will run train service from Boston, MA to Concord, NH with stops in Downtown Manchester, the Manchester-Boston Regional Airport, and Nashua.



Rail is essential to Manchester and Southern New Hampshire's economic development future. Despite the breakdown of talks with Pan Am Railways, this is not the end of discussion on bringing rail to our state. NH DOT and NH Rail Transit Authority have been in discussions with Amtrak and the U.S. Department of Transportation to make the NH Capitol Corridor Project a reality.

In addition to providing safe and efficient alternative transportation, the economic benefits of this project cannot be overstated. Passenger rail service and expanded rail freight operations will spur new development, attract new businesses and site selectors to the region, and bring jobs to the entire state. The preliminary results of the NH Capitol Corridor Economic Impact Study are:

- Cumulative Economic Impact: First 20 Years (2008 Dollars): \$2.0 Billion in New Business; 19,150 new Jobs Created
- Construction Impacts (2 Years-2008 Dollars): \$258M added in New Business Sales/Year; \$97M added in New Wages/Year The present values of rail service were also analyzed. The value of rail service as presented results in a Benefit Cost Ratio of 1.28 (each dollar invested into the NH Capitol Corridor results in a 28 percent return on investment). Benefits are estimated at \$557 M; and costs estimated at \$435 M.

The draft report does not include the positive development impacts that will occur within a half mile of each rail station. With the Amtrak Downeaster, there are very impressive development impacts around the Biddeford/Saco, Freeport and Brunswick, ME stations, which would greatly benefit New Hampshire. Also, Dover, NH has recently received inquiries from development firms regarding downtown sites adjacent to the station.

SNHPC will continue to support this process, advocating for New Hampshire to stay on track and apply for funding this summer as part of the second round of federal infrastructure funding. SNHPC remains optimistic that passenger rail will return within the near future.

For more information, contact David Preece at 669-4664 or [dpreece@snhpc.org](mailto:dpreece@snhpc.org).

## 2010 STUDENT COMPETITION

### Reducing Threats to Our Natural Environment



Since 2005, the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission (SNHPC) has sponsored an annual student competition to challenge students and increase their awareness of the planning process. The competition invites students from grades K-12 to consider their individual neighborhood, community, and region to share their thoughts on issues that could change their community's future. Each student is asked to create a poster and/or brief essay depicting their ideas on a challenging planning issue. Since the competition's inception, SNHPC has received hundreds of entries covering a wide range of predictions and outlooks on what students thought the future may hold for their area.

Again SNHPC is asking the region's students to get involved with planning by participating in the 2009/2010 Student Competition. SNHPC wants to give students an opportunity to explore options for their communities and generate new ideas for future plans. This year's theme focuses on threats to our natural resources and actions to reduce them. Students are asked to consider natural resource issues and how to implement future conservation in relation to Earth Day on April 21, 2010.

For more information, please contact Derek Serach or Linda Moore at 669-4664.

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## CMAQ Projects Considered

The Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) provides assistance for air quality improvement and congestion mitigation projects in urbanized areas which have been identified as non-attainment. Eligible project types include a range of programs that can produce demonstrable results in improving air quality and reducing traffic congestion within federally designated Air Quality Non-Attainment Areas. The program provides up to an 80 percent federal funding share for projects on a cost reimbursement basis, with a minimum 20 percent non-federal match required.



Seven Letters of Interest were submitted for CMAQ projects in the SNHPC region for the current round of funding. The projects included:

- Town of Hooksett – College Park Drive – Sidewalk
- City of Manchester – Manchester/Lawrence Railroad Multi-Use Trail
- NHDOT – Portsmouth-Manchester Bus Service
- Town of Chester – NH 102/North Pond Road Intersection Improvements
- City of Manchester – Campbell Street Improvements
- Town of Derry – Bike Loop Path
- Town of Goffstown – NH 114 Improvements

The deadline for submission of full applications is April 1, 2010. For more information on the CMAQ program, contact Tim White at 669-4664 or [twhite@snhpc.org](mailto:twhite@snhpc.org).

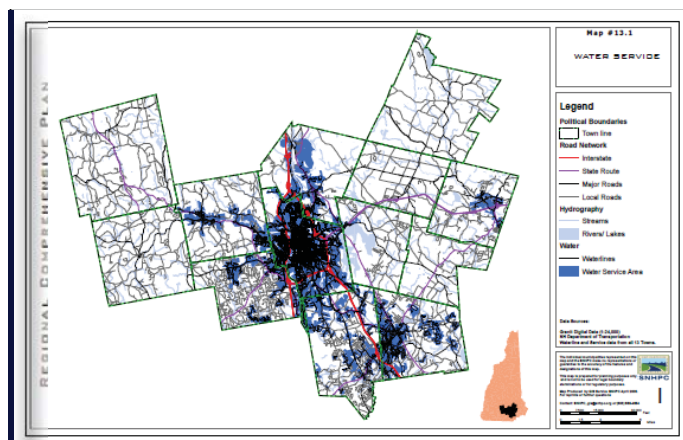
## Regional Economic Development Plan – Public Utilities Inventory

As a part of the ongoing Regional Economic Development Plan, SNHPC staff is conducting an inventory of all public utilities in the region. This includes: public water and sewer systems, solid waste disposal, wastewater treatment, storm water management, and utilities such as electricity and natural gas. Other aspects that will be addressed are communication mediums such as phone, cable television, and internet service (which will benefit from the Broadband Mapping Program that is currently being conducted throughout New Hampshire).

The inventory will build upon the “Public Utilities and Communication” section of the 2005 Regional Comprehensive Plan prepared by SNHPC and will follow a similar format to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) prepared annually by the Rockingham Economic Development Corporation.

The main goals of the inventory are to:

- Identify existing conditions of all the public utilities from regional and individual town levels (such as service area, population served, improvements, future plans, etc.)
- Create up-to-date maps, tables, and figures depicting the current status of utilities
- Address needs and concerns regarding access to these important resources
- Provide new perspectives and guidelines for dealing with regional/town issues



Upon completion in the early spring, the information collected in this report will be presented to the Regional Economic Development Plan Steering Committee and Metro Center-NH, the two committees dedicated to providing economic solutions for the Greater Manchester area. Afterwards, it will be distributed to each town individually. With this information, it will be possible for decision makers in the SNHPC region to become aware of opportunities and threats regarding utility infrastructure and what can be done in terms of economic development.

For more information on the Regional Economic Development Plan, contact Alex Kammler at 669-4664 or [Intern2@snhpc.org](mailto:Intern2@snhpc.org) or you can also reach our Chief Planner, Jack Munn at [jmunn@snhpc.org](mailto:jmunn@snhpc.org).

## General John Stark Scenic Byway Council Update



On January 21, 2010 the General John Stark Scenic Byway Council held its first Annual Meeting at the historic Weare Town Hall. The meeting began with a panel discussion “Putting the Welcome Mat Out”. On the panel was Kate Bartlet from Heniker House Bed & Breakfast; Judi Window from the Granite State Ambassadors; and Robbie Grady from the Goffstown Main Street Program. Many new ideas and suggestions on how to promote the Byway came out of this discussion.

Some of key points addressed included using social media outlets such as Facebook and Twitter, engaging the core community, promoting locally before expanding the potential visitor base, and offering attractions that are unique.

About 40 people made their way through the first snowstorm of the season to attend The Holiday House Tour on December 4, 2009, making this event a great success. The tour was held at the Molly Stark House in Dunbarton. The house was decked out for the holidays and docents in period costumes explained what life was like back in the days when John and Molly Stark lived there. Even General John Stark himself made an appearance! All proceeds from this event will help further marketing efforts for the General John Stark Scenic Byway. The SNHPC and the Byway Council want to thank the many volunteers who helped make this event a success, and give a special thanks to Lorraine and Herb Allen for opening up their home for this wonderful event.

The Council has initiated a logo contest, seeking a design that will encompass the spirit of the General John Stark while placing emphasis on the built environment and historical aspects of the Byway. The winning design will become the Official General John Stark Scenic Byway logo. For more details, refer to the link on our website: <http://www.snhpc.org/pdf/Logocontest.pdf>

For more information about the General John Stark Scenic Byway, contact Mary Brundage at 669-4664 or [mbrundage@snhpc.org](mailto:mbrundage@snhpc.org).

## Deerfield Master Plan Summary

Over the past few months the SNHPC and the Deerfield Planning Board have put together an all encompassing summary of the recently updated town master plan which was adopted on September 9, 2009. This master plan summary provides readers with a brief overview of all the main chapters and key objectives in the master plan. The four-page pamphlet contains each major chapter's goal, providing the reader with an overview and basic summary of that chapter. The key objectives also summarize long term goals and solutions. The master plan's vision statement is on the front page of the summary along with an introduction, written by the planning board, which credits the partners involved with writing the master plan, the reason for its update and where readers can obtain more information. Color copies of the master plan summary will be available to residents at the town's public buildings such as the town offices and library. The summary will provide residents with a better knowledge of the newly updated master plan and how it will benefit Deerfield.



## Regional Trails Alliance

On January 25, 2010 the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission hosted the first meeting of the Regional Trails Alliance. Three regional planning commissions, NHDOT and numerous regional trail organizations were among those in attendance. The Regional Trails Alliance hopes to build on the accomplishments of the Manchester Regional Trails Alliance and expand to include other communities in Southern New Hampshire.

Discussion at the Regional Trails Alliance meeting focused on the need for a forum for trail organizations to discuss and develop a comprehensive plan to complete many of the north/south and east/west trail corridors. Currently, many portions of regional trail systems in various stages of completion require funding to expand these networks. The Regional Trails Alliance hopes to identify and pursue funding through fundraising programs, bike tours, grant writing, and prioritization for completion of segments of trails.

Currently, the SNHPC is working on the next steps for the Regional Trails Alliance based on the first meeting. SNHPC hopes that organizing trail groups in the region will facilitate development of a prioritized program of projects with a funding plan to complete north/south and east/west corridors. For further information, please contact Matt Caron at 669-4664 or [mcaron@snhpc.org](mailto:mcaron@snhpc.org).



## NH DOT - Community Technical Assistance Program

The Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission (SNHPC) transportation staff are currently working on two projects funded through the Community Technical Assistance Program (CTAP). CTAP is a New Hampshire Department of Transportation five-year initiative to assist the 26 communities that will be affected by the rebuilding of Interstate 93. The work currently being conducted is intended to 1) help local governments address issues of immediate concern to their communities and 2) to achieve the broad goals of CTAP.



The Pettengill Road/Airport Access Road Transportation/Land Use Plan project is designed to 1) identify the transportation and land-use related impacts of increased access to a study area in the vicinity of the Bedford-Manchester-Londonderry Airport Access Road (MAAR) and 2) determine if additional planned/proposed development resulting from the MAAR will generate levels of traffic in excess of the anticipated capacity of selected principal elements of the study area roadway network. This study includes the participation of the City of Manchester and the Towns of Bedford and Londonderry in the SNHPC region.

The NH 3A Access Management Plan is designed to assist in the development of a balance between the mobility and access requirements of the NH 3A corridor to improve the efficient movement of through vehicles and enhance safe and efficient access. The Access Management Plan for NH 3A will involve measures designed to increase the efficiency of the corridor through the separation of local and through traffic such as 1) controls on the use and frequency of existing driveways; 2) modification of/continuation of streets from adjacent development, and 3) provision of driveway connections to adjoining lots. The town of Hooksett and the City of Manchester are participating in this study.

Both projects are scheduled for completion on June 30, 2010. For more information, please contact Tim White at 669-4664 or [twhite@snhpc.org](mailto:twhite@snhpc.org).

## Broadband Data and Development

The State of New Hampshire is undertaking a coordinated, multi-agency project to inventory and map current and planned statewide broadband coverage available to the state's businesses, educators, and citizens. Conducted by the GRANIT (Geographically Referenced Analysis and Information Transfer) System (hosted at UNH), the project is in collaboration with SNHPC and the other eight regional planning commissions. Partnerships include state agencies such as the Department of Resources and Economic Development, Public Utilities Commission, and the Office of Energy and Planning. Regional and local stakeholders will also be an important component of the five-year effort.

The mapping relies on data collected from New Hampshire broadband service providers, as well as broadband availability data from schools, libraries, medical/health-care locations, public safety offices, and state/county/municipal buildings. The information will help develop state-level broadband availability maps and identify areas well-served by current technologies as well as those unserved or underserved.

This information will provide an important baseline assessment for New Hampshire, facilitate dialog about use and demand for broadband services, and assist the state as it seeks to prioritize infrastructure projects and build a sustainable broadband framework for the future. Data given to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration and the FCC will help create a national broadband map.

SNHPC proposes a planning component to develop broadband stakeholder groups in each region of the State. These groups will identify barriers to broadband services; collect and analyze information on the use and demand for broadband services, and promote information sharing between the public and private sectors regarding broadband services. For more information, contact Amy Kizak at [akizak@snhpc.org](mailto:akizak@snhpc.org) or 669-4664.

