

# 2018 Town of Chester Report

## By Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission

The Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission (SNHPC) has a wide range of services and resources available to help member communities deal with a variety of municipal issues. Technical assistance is provided by a professional staff whose expertise is, when necessary, supplemented by consultants selected for their specialized skills or services. Each year, with the approval of appointed representatives, the Commission's staff designs and carries out programs of regional significance mandated by New Hampshire and federal laws or regulations, as well as local projects which pertain more exclusively to a specific community.



Technical assistance is provided in a professional and timely manner by staff at the request of the Town Departments, Land Use Boards, and/or Board of Selectmen. The Commission conducts planning studies and carries out projects of common interest and benefit to all member communities; keeps officials apprised of changes in planning and land use regulation; and in conjunction with the New Hampshire Municipal Association, offers annual training workshops for Planning Board and Zoning Board members.

In the past year, it has been the Commission's pleasure to assist the Town of Chester with conducting traffic counts as well as turning movement counts, identifying fatal and incapacitating crash locations, providing staff support for the Robert Frost/Old Stagecoach Scenic Byway, updating land use maps, providing technical assistance in the review of a development of regional impact as determined by the Chester Planning Board, and working with town stakeholders on an Age-Friendly Community pilot program focused on housing.

The following table details services performed for the Town of Chester during the past year, and includes both hours worked specifically for the Town and for projects involving multiple municipalities. . In the latter case, the total hours spent by SNHPC staff are divided equally by the number of communities, resulting in time allotment attributed to each of the communities. Examples of a regional project are the development of the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) Ten- Year Transportation Improvement Plan and the organization of a legislative event for NH Legislators and local officials in the SNHPC region.

| Number | Hours | Column3   |
|--------|-------|---|
| 1      | 91    | Gathered pavement condition data in the Town for the New Hampshire Statewide Asset Data Exchange System Road Surface Management System (SADES/RSMS) program, initiated pavement condition mapping for town roads as part of the NHDOT/RPC Collaborative Data Collection project;  |
| 2      | 70    | Implemented the Becoming Age Friendly Pilot Program Phase II: SNHPC worked with community leaders in the Town of Chester in gathering resident opinions on housing options that might steer future zoning amendments. A local charrette was organized to discuss whether or not residents could envision various housing types in Chester. This feedback would direct planning staff and the Planning Board on the types of housing that might be supported for future zoning amendments;   |
| 3      | 52.25 | Coordinated with Town officials to complete the RSA application, conducted a field survey and collected crash data as well as signatures of responsible parties. Completed applications were submitted to NHDOT for project selections;   |
| 4      | 49    | Provided staff support to Robert Frost/Old Stagecoach Scenic Byway, including meeting preparation, communication, and follow-up activities;   |
| 5      | 42.72 | Performed traffic counts at 14 sites in town;   |
| 6      | 31    | Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Update: assisted the Planning Administrator and Planning Board with completing an annual update of the town's CIP.   |
| 7      | 27.4  | Conducted research and attended meetings on up-and-coming transportation technology, such as Electric Vehicle charging stations and autonomous vehicles. Conducted public outreach in the region, especially regarding transit availability and the need for coordinating trail systems;  |
| 8      | 23.3  | Began updating the SNHPC Long Range Transportation Plan;  |
| 9      | 23    | Becoming Age Friendly Pilot Program Phase II: SNHPC invited communities and businesses to create pilot programs in which the Commission worked with the Pilot Community/Business to could tackle various community identified issues related to the one of the elements within the Age-Friendly assessment (transportation, housing, recreation, or economic development).  |
| 10     | 22.7  | Vulnerability Assessment Program: As part of SNHPC's work program, staff is providing assistance to municipalities through documentation of transportation network vulnerability. This work identifies climate related risk to culverts and small bridges. In 2018 staff engaged local Road Agents and Engineering Departments to identify the risk factors. Data from SNHPC meetings with local managers was catalogued based on potential future actions and past incidents to be utilized for prioritizing risk among all documented assets. A vulnerability assessment will be provided to each municipality in the SNHPC region in 2019. |
| 11     | 21.6  | Continued updating the regional travel demand model, which is used to forecast traffic volumes on roads in throughout the region;   |
| 12     | 19    | Identified and mapped fatal and incapacitating crash locations in Chester to support the development of Road Safety Audit (RSA) and Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funding applications to the NHDOT;  |
| 13     | 16.4  | Represented the interests of the Town on the Region 8 Regional Coordinating Council for the Statewide Coordination of Community Transportation Services Project;  |
| 14     | 14.1  | Statewide Assistance – Initiated and managed a Statewide Scenic Byway Marketing committee and its efforts to plan a statewide forums;   |
| 15     | 13.7  | Continued work with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Region-wide Assessment Grant for environmental studies and investigations to help move contaminated sites to clean up, redevelopment and reuse;   |

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| 16 | 12.6 | Coordinated the establishment of regional transportation performance measures through Partnering for Performance NH (PFPNH) workgroup;  |
| 17 | 12.6 | Represented the interests of the Town on the Region 9 Regional Coordinating Council for the Statewide Coordination of Community Transportation Services Project;  |
| 20 | 12.6 | Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4): Staffed the Nashua/Manchester StormWater Coalition meetings and participated in regional planning commission coordination of MS4 Efforts;  |
| 18 | 12.5 | Continued to update the 2012 Regional Trails (RT) Plan, including collaboration with Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission (CNHRPC) staff and outreach to local trail groups. Planned and staffed RTCC meetings in March, June, and November;  |
| 19 | 10.5 | Participated in NH Complete Streets Conference Subcommittee, organizing and carrying out a statewide conference attended by 150 individuals on October 19, 2018;  |
| 21 | 7.5  | Coordinated with regional municipalities and the NHDOT to develop the 2019-2028 Ten-Year Transportation Improvement Plan;   |
| 22 | 5.9  | The FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program was developed and approved updated;   |
| 23 | 5.6  | Coordinated with regional partners and the NHDOT on NH Rail Transit Authority Advisory and Governance Boards projects;  |
| 24 | 5.5  | Conducted a town requested traffic speed count on Hill Dr;  |
| 25 | 5.2  | Provided monthly information to the Planning Board regarding upcoming meetings, project and grant updates, webinars and other training opportunities through the planning commission's quarterly Newsletters, monthly Media Blasts and periodic E-Bulletins;  |
| 26 | 3.8  | Provided assistance to Statewide Coordinating Council for Community Transportation (SCC);   |
| 27 | 2.5  | Conducted research and attended meetings on bicycle/pedestrian events and technology, worked with Bike Manchester in coordinating children's bicycling events, conducted bike/ped outreach throughout the region and stayed up to date on bike/ped initiatives taking place in New Hampshire and New England; |
| 28 | 2.3  | Provided technical assistance to the towns of Chester and Candia on the review and analysis of Crowley Woods Subdivision;   |
| 29 | 2    | Identified possible signal warrant study locations in Chester;  |
| 30 | 1.2  | Participated in discussions with the Nashua MPO to cooperatively develop and adjust Transportation Management Area (TMA)-related plans, programs, and schedules to ensure consistency;  |
| 31 | 1    | Organized and facilitated the 2018 Legislative Event "Creating a Healthy Response to NH's Substance Abuse Crisis" for NH Legislators and local officials in the SNHPC region.   |

Town of Chester Representatives to the Commission

Andrew Hadik  
Deborah Munson

**Executive Committee Member:** Deborah Munson

