



## 2021 Town of Chester Report by Southern NH Planning Commission

The Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission (SNHPC) provides a wide range of services and resources to help member communities with a variety of land use planning and transportation challenges. Each year, with the approval of appointed representatives, the Commission's skilled staff designs and carries out programs of regional significance mandated by New Hampshire and federal laws or regulations. The Commission also works with Community staff, land use board volunteers, and governing boards on a variety of local projects.

Often, community stakeholders request assistance from SNHPC for traffic, pedestrian, and bicycle counts, grant assistance, specific studies, mapping, and facilitation services. Technical assistance is provided in a professional and timely manner as SNHPC carries out projects of common interest and benefit to all member communities; keeps officials apprised of changes in planning and land use regulations; and in conjunction with the New Hampshire Municipal Association, offers annual land use training workshops.

In 2021, the Commission provided the Town of Chester with assistance on a number of local planning efforts including:

- Worked with Chester Town staff and other stakeholders on updating the Chester Source Water Protection Plan
- Conducted traffic counts and providing pedestrian counts
- Performed stream crossing assessments
- Assisted the Robert Frost/Old Stagecoach Scenic Byway Council
- Provided assistance with reviewing and updating Chester's Impact Fees
- Assisted with the Halls Village Road Reconstruction Project submittal for inclusion into the REDC Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

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 community. Examples of regional projects are the development of the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) Ten-Year Transportation Improvement Plan and a regional Congestion Management Plan update.

| Hours | Description   |
|-------|---|
| 95    | Worked with NHDES and Chester Town Staff to Update the Chester Source Water Protection Plan (ongoing project).  |
| 80    | Continued assisting the Chester Planning Board with reviewing and updating the Town's Impact fees (ongoing project).  |
| 61.5  | Conducted traffic counts at 13 sites in town, including NH 102 (Derry Rd) at Derry Town Line (9,476 raw Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT)) – 19% increase from last count.  |
| 35    | Worked with NHDES Geological Survey to conduct assessments of existing town culverts and small bridges to determine overall condition and storm capacity.   |
| 32.7  | Participated in state and regional transportation councils to better coordinate transportation options locally, regionally, and statewide. Tasks included scoping and developing budgets for transit-related projects and |

| Hours | Description   |
|-------|---|
|       | coordinating with stakeholders to develop a regional Mobility Manager position. Anticipated to be filled in 2022, this position will help ensure Greater Manchester residents get accurate information and are able to book convenient demand-responsive transportation options.  |
| 32    | Assisted the Robert Frost/Old Stagecoach Scenic Byway Council with various activities including updating the Point of Interest (POI) story map, participating in regular meetings, drafting meeting agendas and reserving meeting venues, reviewing potential grant opportunities, downloading/analyzing website analytics data, updating maps for the Corridor Management Plan update and analyzing crash data on the byway. |
| 29    | Provided oversight and administration for FTA 5310 transportation service. This federal funding stream is locally matched, and supports CART and other community transportation projects that benefit Chester.  |
| 26.8  | Reviewed Chester's existing components for the regional Intelligent Transportation System Architecture for a required update. Verified architecture for compliance for federal funding (ongoing).   |
| 21.4  | Developed a framework for a regional freight bottleneck analysis along NHDOT priority routes with associated strategies and compiled a Freight Bottlenecks Report.  |
| 18.6  | Completed necessary reviews of Chester's portfolio of planned and funded projects for the federal and state required Transportation Improvement Plan. Process included presentations and reviews by staff and the TAC and MPO Policy Committees. Provided ongoing updates and revisions to maintain project status funding and scheduling.  |
| 16    | Worked with Chester Town Staff and the Regional Economic Development Center (REDC) to submit an application to include the Halls Village Road Reconstruction Project into the REDC Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.   |
| 16    | Hosted CommuteSmart NH challenge to encourage multi-modal trips (transit, carpooling, bicycle, etc.) to help residents save money, reduce wear and tear on their vehicle, help relieve congested roads, and live a healthier, less stressful lifestyle.   |
| 13.6  | Updated the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and regional Travel Demand Model. The regional Travel Demand Model is used to understand existing and projected future year (2045) trips by private automobiles throughout the region for transportation project planning.   |
| 10.2  | Conducted a pedestrian/ bicyclist count on Wason Pond Trail east of the pedestrian bridge (per request).  |
| 8.25  | Began working on a Regional Housing Needs Assessment in collaboration with other Regional Planning Commissions (ongoing through 2022).  |
| 7.5   | Hosted a free virtual workshop: "How-to-Do an ADU" with support from AARP. The workshop addressed zoning allowances, design/ construction challenges, local examples, tips for becoming a landlord and a review of recent legislation introduced to address aging in place and housing shortages.   |
| 7.3   | Participated in CART Advisory Committee meetings and assisted with outreach to increase awareness of transit options and to increase ridership.   |
| 6     | Coordinated a comprehensive update to SNHPC's Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). In partnership with NHDOT, solicited, evaluated, and prioritized project proposals for the TIP update.   |
| 6     | Developed a regional Rail Trail Passport program in celebration of Bike to Work Month. Worked with community representatives to provide outreach and education on local trails throughout the region.   |
| 4     | Assisted with Chester Trails Documentation and data collection as part of the Regional Trails Plan update process.  |
| 3     | Provided technical assistance, including updated tables, for Chester Capital Improvement Plan update.   |

Town of Chester Representatives to the Commission

Andrew Hadik  
Deborah Munson

**Executive Committee Member:** Deborah Munson

