



2022 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; and keeps officials apprised of changes in planning and land use regulations.

In 2022, the Commission provided the Town of Chester with assistance on a number of local planning efforts, including:

- Continuing to assist the Chester Planning Board with updating the Town's Impact fees
- Working with Chester Town staff and other stakeholders on updating the Chester Source Water Protection Plan
- Conducting traffic counts and providing pedestrian counts
- Assisting the Robert Frost/Old Stagecoach Scenic Byway Council

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 regional 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 the development of the Regional Housing Needs Assessment.

Hours	Description
135.5	Continued assisting the Chester Planning Board with reviewing and updating the Town's Impact fees.
120	Worked with NHDES and Chester Town Staff to update the Chester Source Water Protection Plan.
112	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.
80	Continued to update the Regional Housing Needs Assessment in collaboration with other Regional Planning Commissions. Provided multiple outreach opportunities including surveys, virtual community conversations, and social media options. Conducted data analysis and research on various elements that impact housing. Developed a draft report scheduled to be released in early 2023.

Hours	Description
	Hosted a virtual technical session on New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority's Housing Opportunity Planning Grant application.
39	Per town request, conducted traffic counts at 8 locations in Chester, including Webster Lane east of NH 102 which reported approximately 700 Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT).
34	Participated on Regional Transportation Coordinating Council (RCC) to better coordinate public and human service transportation options locally and regionally. Tasks included scoping and developing budgets for transit-related projects, serving as lead agency for FTA 5310 funds for combined Manchester-Derry-Salem region, and coordinating with stakeholders to finalize and implement a regional Mobility Manager position. Additionally, staff oversaw a comprehensive update of the 2016 Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation plan by updating figures, garnering RCC and RPC input, and collating into a finished document which was approved in September.
31	Coordinated an update of the FY 2025-2034 Ten-Year Transportation Improvement Plan which highlights transportation system improvements for the region. The process included guidance to communities, review of projects, and presentations to the TAC and MPO Policy Committees. Provided ongoing updates and revisions to maintain project funding and scheduling.
27	Assisted the Robert Frost/Old Stagecoach Scenic Byway Council with various activities including participating in regular meetings, preparing a Corridor Management Plan update, updating the sign location map, and collecting images for marketing and archival purposes.
25	Provided technical assistance to Manchester Transit Authority including outreach, CART advisory committee, mapping and updating the Short Range Transit Plan.
20	Worked with Chester's building department to obtain building permit data on new housing units and commercial developments in order to determine roadway network and travel pattern changes for input in the SNHPC regional travel demand model.
19	Performed a trail user count at Spring Hill Farm for the Chester Conservation Commission.
19	Reviewed the Town of Chester's existing components for the regional Intelligent Transportation System Architecture for a required update. Verified architecture for compliance for federal funding.
19	Developed a methodology for determining equity analysis areas within the region. Began investigating possible transportation related disparate impacts and adverse effects on Title VI/Environmental Justice classes and other vulnerable groups.
17.5	Conducted feasibility analysis of potential sites for public Electric Vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure for inclusion in a regional charging plan. Viable sites for DC Fast Charging and Level 2 charging were identified by analyzing traffic volumes and various site features and amenities including availability of Phase 3 power required at potential sites along state routes.
13	Facilitated a "Pathways to Play" project to assess access to recreational facilities in each of the 14 communities in the SNHPC region with a goal of reducing childhood obesity. Mapped recreation facilities, conducted a region-wide survey, and continued to engage community stakeholders.
11	Participated in the efforts of the Alliance for Healthy Aging (AHA) Transportation Committee to provide Age-Friendly Community Assistance. Worked with multiple agencies and stakeholders across the state to ensure a coordinated effort to improve transportation awareness and options for older and disabled adults, immigrants, veterans, minority, low-income, and other vulnerable populations. Worked toward a statewide transportation needs assessment (ongoing). Assisted with a statewide volunteer driver recruitment initiative that culminated with a website and multi-media outreach campaign. For more information: https://nhaha.info/volunteer-driver-initiative/
7	Represented RPCs on the State Coordinating Council for Community Transportation (SCC) to better coordinate transportation options throughout New Hampshire; participated in monthly meetings, provided insight regarding volunteer driver program initiatives and transportation needs for older

Hours	Description
	adults, and contributed to a statewide proposal to assess the transportation needs of older adults.
5	Completed an updated long-range plan for transit services available in the town, a prerequisite for eligibility for formula transit operating and capital funds. This also allows transit providers to plan and apply for competitive discretionary funds for expanded transit services for residents.
5	Hired a regional Mobility Manager, a new position working to better understand transportation needs and coordinate transportation services in the region. Work focused on assisting homebound individuals to utilize existing transportation services for medical appointments and essential errands, identifying needs and barriers to transportation, understanding needs of community transportation and human service providers, and improving coordination between different services to meet the needs of all individuals.
4	Began updating the region's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (ongoing project).
2	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.
1.5	Provided traffic data information and updated town map of anticipated roadway improvements to Town of Chester staff upon request.
1	Coordinated with Rockingham Planning Commission, Strafford Regional Planning Commission, and Nashua Regional Planning Commission on a joint Safe Streets for All grant application to identify potential transportation safety improvements in the region.

Town of Chester Representatives to the Commission

Andrew Hadik
Deborah Munson

Executive Committee Member: Deborah Munson

