

Town of Chester

Review of Recent Planning Services

by Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission



The Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission (SNHPC) has provided the Town of Chester with a wide range of services and resources to help the town address its planning and transportation needs.

The SNHPC appreciates the partnerships with town staff including the Building and Planning Departments and staff in the fire, police, and highway departments. The SNHPC also appreciates the dedication of Town of Chester's devoted Commissioners, including Deborah Munson, presently Chester's Executive Committee member, as well as Town Planner Andrew Hadik, and alternate representative Dana Theokas.

Despite nationwide inflation and cost increases across the vast spectrum of goods and services, the SNHPC has kept its municipal membership dues rate flat at \$0.676 per capita for the past four years by leveraging federal and other funding sources to benefit our member communities.

Highlights of the SNHPC's recent services to the Town of Chester included:

- Finalizing the Chester Source Water Protection Plan update, and assisting with the Halls Village Road Reconstruction Project submittal for inclusion into the REDC Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.
- Conducting traffic counts at 19 locations on Chester roadways.
- Performing regional freight planning, facilitating freight stakeholder meeting, truck route congestion planning and strategies and other freight research work.
- Providing mobility management services to connect Town residents to free and affordable transportation options.
- Promoting New Hampshire Bike Month and regional bicycle-related events, including the Chester Police Department's Bike Rodeo.
- Assisting the Robert Frost/Old Stagecoach Scenic Byway Council, including assistance with updating the Byway Corridor Management Plan.
- Updating the SNHPC Complete Streets Toolkit to include guidance on the most recent best practices and projects from New Hampshire and beyond.
- Completing a comprehensive update of the Regional Housing Needs Assessment to analyze historical trends, project future needs, and identify strategies to meet the region's housing needs.
- Launching implementation of a \$500K U.S. EPA Brownfields Assessment grant, which will assess sites to provide new opportunities for cleanup and economic development.
- Identifying high-priority Electric Vehicle (EV) corridors and analyzing feasibility of DC Fast-Charging stations along transportation corridors.
- Working with Town staff and stakeholders to complete a grant-funded "Pathways to Play" project to enhance recreation access in SNHPC communities, including fielding a regional survey to assess recreation needs and opportunities, and developing an interactive map of recreation facilities.
- Coordinating regional climate action planning efforts, developing a climate action toolkit focused on roadway adaptations, and supporting federally-funded climate action planning efforts.

Town of Chester Representatives to the Commission
Andrew Hadik, Deb Munson (Exec. Committee), Dana Theokas (Alt)