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Visions

SNHPC

SERVING OUR REGION'S COMMUNITIES SINCE 1966

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Information is Key

As we work and live through the challenges of our present-day situation, I am reminded about work we've recently collaborated on with three of our local communities. What is the similarity between them? Information: having access to and knowing the information is reliable is vital.

Thankfully, the focus of SNHPC's work with Londonderry, New Boston, and Chester were not life-or-death issues, nor were they the focus of the daily news. Yet, when considering a basic need such as transportation and how people make connections, these are critical needs to helping people function. In the course of this work, each community was questioning if residents knew about existing transit services: if yes, did they use them; if no, why not. At present we are all staying home, but in a few months, when life goes back to a safer "normal", transportation services will once again be in need. At that point, people will go back to their doctors for appointments, shop with friends, visit family, and even travel. For most of us, we'll hop in our car and be off. Yet for some, taking a car may not be an option. Whether that someone is you, a family member, friend, or neighbor, do you know your transit options, and how would you go about finding the information for you or for your friend?



Town of

NEW BOSTON

NEW HAMPSHIRE



**WE INVITE YOU TO TAKE A
SURVEY ABOUT
TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS
IN YOUR TOWN!**

enter this link into any browser:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NewBostonSurvey>

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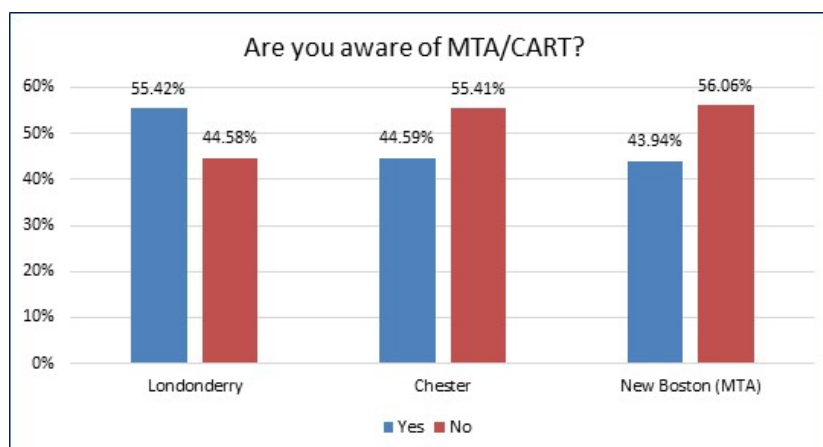
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Over several months, SNHPC has been working with all three communities and their town staff, transit representatives, residents and others to develop surveys to better understand what residents know about transportation options and where they get their information. SNHPC not only collaborated with community representatives, but in the case of New Boston, a fantastic group of students from SNHU's Business Program assisted the team in getting the word out to residents, analyzed the data, and developed outreach material.

As each community's options are different, questions were adapted to that community. For New Boston, survey participants were asked questions about how they get to where they need to go and if they knew about existing transit services in their community. In this rural town, options are limited and include a "Call/Demand" program through the Manchester Transit Authority (MTA). Interestingly, of the 110 + survey participants, approximately 63% did not know about the service. Similar results were found in Londonderry: roughly half of the 426 participants knew about the available transit services in their community. In Londonderry, transit services consist of Cooperative Alliance for Regional Transportation (better known as CART), which provides fixed-route and curb-to-curb demand-response transportation. CART also serves the towns of Chester, Derry, Hampstead, and Salem. (Londonderry is also served by volunteer driver programs such as Care Givers.)

Presently, a similar survey is underway in the Town of Chester (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Chester>). Preliminary results show that over 55% of residents don't know about the services CART provides, but even a greater number, 63%, didn't know CART was available specifically in Chester.



If half or more of the residents don't know what transportation services are available in their community, how are non-driving residents getting to where they need to go? We know from New Boston and Londonderry that approximately 21%-24% of

residents are getting rides primarily from their spouses, other family, or friends. If that's sustainable, great. But if it's not, information is the key to people utilizing services available to them.

The SNHPC, along with transit providers, town departments, service providers, senior centers and all those involved in assisting older adults, have their work cut out for them in getting the word out about transit services. The Commission is working to create key partnerships and finding new opportunities to invite residents to take a ride.

Comments or requests for more information can be sent to Sylvia: svonaulock@snhpc.org.

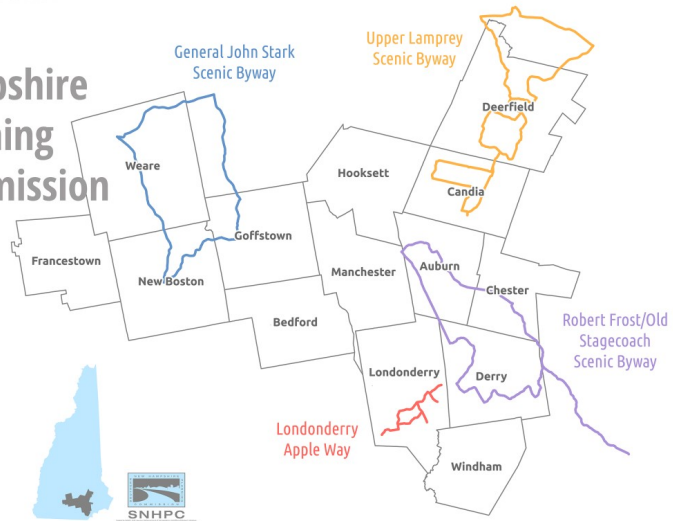
Notice Regarding CART: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CART has transitioned to essential travel only starting on Monday, March 30th. Essential travel will include medically necessary trips (dialysis, pharmacy, etc.) as well as trips to grocery stores. CART will keep one vehicle available during all normal operating hours to accommodate these essential trips and will work with passengers on timing flexibility in order to accommodate as many as possible.

Should you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to Mike Whitten, MTA Executive Director at 603-792-5151 or mwhitten@mtabus.org.

Scenic Byways in the Region

In these difficult times of social distancing and quarantining, sometimes you just crave a road trip. Rest assured there are some first-class routes one can enjoy within 30 minutes of Manchester. The SNHPC region is home to four state-designated scenic and cultural byways; these distinctive loops guide travelers through the region's diverse history and landscapes. From Londonderry's apple orchards to the settings of Robert Frost's poetry, and from the stomping grounds of American hero John Stark to the gently burbling Upper Lamprey River, history and scenic charm abound.

Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission



Upper Lamprey Candia, Deerfield, Northwood www.upperlampreybyway.org

Breathe in the spring-like scent of roadside daffodils. Listen in contemplative calm, letting an eloquent brook do the talking. Stumble upon a timeless treasure while browsing on Northwood's Antique Alley.

General John Stark Goffstown, New Boston, Weare, Dunbarton www.generalstarkbyway.org

Follow in the bold boot steps of a Revolutionary War hero and his family. Photograph field of fresh blooms next to 250-year old stonework. Make a splash into sparkling Everett Lake at Clough State Park. Live free.

Robert Frost/Old Stagecoach Auburn, Chester, Derry, Hampstead, Atkinson www.frost-stagecoach-byway.org

Absorb views along a 200+ year old stagecoach route that once clip-clopped from Boston to Concord. Immerse yourself in the landscapes of Robert Frost, who lived in Derry from 1900-1911. Amble betwixt unspoiled woodlands and tranquil Massabesic Lake, or reverence the reflections of a cool spring sunset on its placid waters.

Apple Way Londonderry www.londonderrynh.org

Stop and stretch your legs at one of five orchards in town. In late spring, enjoy the intoxicating scent of apple blossoms and imagine the sweet, crisp fruit to come. This is the agricultural heritage of this Southern NH town.

For more information contact Adam Hlasny at 669-4664 or ahlasny@snhpc.org.

Regional Trails Plan Update: Seeking Your Input!

Help make local trails even better...

In coordination with the Central NH Planning Commission, SNHPC is updating the Regional Trails Plan (last updated in 2012). The purpose of the Regional Trails Plan is to develop a framework for establishing an interconnected network of trails that provides safe, equitable active transportation and recreation opportunities for residents and visitors in New Hampshire.

The plan focuses on increasing connectivity of the existing regional trail network, improving safety and accessibility of existing corridors and working with communities and local trail advocacy groups to secure funding and resources for trail maintenance.

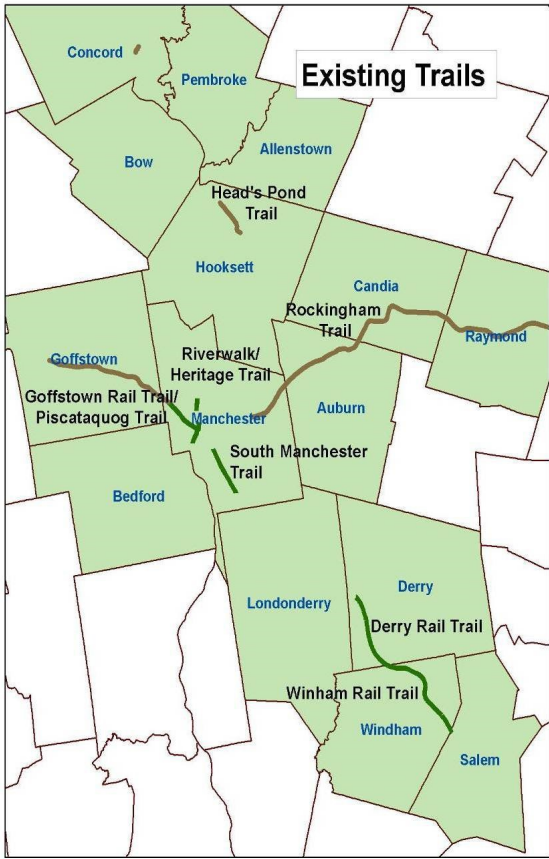
The plan also acts as a needs assessment - identifying gaps in corridors and proposing strategies and solutions for trail implementation. It will outline a comprehensive strategy that aims to strengthen and expand the regional trail network in New Hampshire, which will further encourage active transportation on the Granite State's trails. The focus area of Regional Trails Plan update extends from Concord to Salem with spurs to the east and west (see map).

To gather public input on the existing trail network and to learn more about what communities would like to see, SNHPC is conducting a survey. Your thoughts on trails and future trail priorities will help inform the plan and guide efforts of advocates and decision makers. A lot has changed in eight years, so it's time for a fresh look! Therefore, if you're interested in the development of trails in the Southern/Central NH region, please take a moment to fill out this brief survey. Your input is appreciated!

Take the Survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TrailsPlan>

For more information, please contact Madeleine DiIunno at mdionno@snhpc.org or 669-4664.



2020 U.S. Census

Conducting the decennial census is never an easy task even under perfect circumstances. The counting of every person residing in the United States every ten years is our largest peacetime mobilization. This requires years of planning, cooperation, and good bit of luck. For the 2020 census, conditions could hardly be less favorable. A new infectious disease, caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome COVID-19, emerged in central China around the start of the new year. On March 1 at the beginning of the census' self-response phase there were less than 100 confirmed cases in the United States. By April 1, Census Day, the number had ballooned to 200,000 active confirmed cases with the number set to double in a week.

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your future
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Like all aspects of life, the decennial census has been significantly disrupted. By mid-March field operations were suspended. The interruption has since been expanded through at least April 15. The self-response phase (when people answer the census online, by phone, or by mail) has been extended through mid-August. In-person

public outreach events have all had to be canceled. Many other operations have been delayed, such as the group quarters enumeration and the counting of homeless people. The final deadlines, however, of reporting counts to the president and the states for redistricting have not been altered. All of this is up in the air and subject to change based on the success of public health efforts to mitigate the virus outbreak.

The good news is about half of all the residents in the United States have already completed the census. As of April 7, 44% of residents in New Hampshire had responded to the Census, behind the national average of 46%. The counties in which the SNHPC is located all had response numbers at or above the national average. High self-response rates are important for two reasons. First, an accurate count is essential for fair democratic representation and a functioning economy. State and congressional legislative seats are apportioned based on the population numbers from the census. And census figures guide over half a trillion dollars every year. In 2016 in New Hampshire, about 5% of the state's gross domestic product was directly influenced by census statistics. Second, when people don't self-respond, census staff must be sent door-to-door to get people to answer. This is much more expensive and even more difficult during a pandemic.

Luckily, even now there's time to participate in the census if you haven't already. All homes should have received invitations in the mail, but you can complete the census without one. This can be done online by going to <https://2020census.gov/> or by calling 844-330-2020. You can also still get a job working on the census. The Census Bureau has achieved 71% of its staff recruiting goal and is hiring staff at \$20 an hour with very flexible schedules. With everything going on in the world, it's easy to forget about something like the 2020 census. Nonetheless, the decennial census is still as important as ever. Participating in the census is a civic and legal duty. And its consequences will be with us long after the current public health crisis has passed.

For a more information on the 2020 census and how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected it, please visit <https://2020census.gov/en/news-events/operational-adjustments-covid-19.html> or contact GIS Analyst Zach Swick at zswick@snhpc.org.

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