

Visions

SERVING OUR REGION'S COMMUNITIES SINCE 1966



Spring 2023

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Join Our 2023 Regional Climate Workshop!

Are you concerned about climate impacts in Southern New Hampshire? If so, SNHPC invites you to join us for a workshop on **Tuesday, April 11, from 8:30 – 11:00 AM at the Derry Municipal Center**. This inaugural event will convene a growing network of stakeholders to advance climate action in Southern New Hampshire and beyond.



The most pressing climate risk in our region is inland flooding due to extreme precipitation. Roadway stream crossings such as culverts and bridges are particularly vulnerable to flooding -- and the failure of this critical transportation infrastructure has the potential to negatively impact our region's economy, ecology, and quality of life.



Using roadway adaptations as an entry point, we'll exchange ideas with a diverse cross-section

- **Arthur Rugg, Secretary**
- Suzanne Brunelle
- Brian Battaglia
- Lynn Wiles, Alt.
- Jeff Penta, Alt.

Manchester

- Peter Capano
- Raymond Clement
- Daniel O'Neil
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of professionals, preview funding opportunities and practical resources in development, and begin developing a shared vision to guide our collaborative climate planning efforts.

[Click here to reserve your spot](#) at the workshop and read about our impressive roster of featured speakers. A virtual link will be provided for those who cannot attend in person.



For details, contact SNHPC Senior Planner **Suzanne Nienaber** at 603-669-4664 or snienaber@snhpc.org.



It's Traffic Counting Season!

As you drive, do you ever ask yourself, "How many vehicles are traveling on the road?", "What types of vehicles are using the road?", or "How fast is everyone going?" SNHPC's traffic counting team can set up their equipment to tell you all those details. Our traffic counting program resumes in April with 380 sites at which our crew will collect traffic data. Locally, the data

supports safety and transportation programs, including grant applications. Regionally and for the NHDOT, triennial monitoring of sites provides needed data for travel demand models.

To view both DOT and SNHPC counts visit our [Traffic Count Map](#), or visit our website to view [PDF summaries by municipality](#) (through 2019). We are now accepting special count requests from municipalities for 2023. To view historic statewide data reports, visit the NHDOT's website: <https://www.nh.gov/dot/org/operations/traffic/tvr/locations/index.htm>

This program is covered by Federal Highway dollars as well as community dues. Keep an eye out for our crew – clad in neon orange – on Mondays and Tuesdays this season, and please slow down to ensure the safety of all.

For more information about SNHPC's Traffic Counting program, contact Adam Hlasny, SNHPC Senior Transportation Planner, at 603-669-4664 or ahlasny@snhpc.org.

May is New Hampshire Bike Month

- **May 3 Bike & Roll to School Day**

- **May 15** Bike to Work Week
- **May 19** Bike to Work Day

- Covered bicycle parking will be available (free) at the **Londonderry Exit 5 Park and Ride** lot all month long, thanks to the Friends of the Concord-Lake Sunapee Rail Trail, Central NH Bicycle Coalition, and NHDOT Bureau of Rail and Transit.



- Shift gears and leave your car at home for the [CommuteSmart NH](#) annual **Spring Challenge**. Bike, walk, scooter, carpool, take public transportation or telecommute during the month of May and be entered to win prizes.



Regional Housing Needs Assessment: Addressing Challenges

SNHPC's Regional Housing Needs Assessment and Appendices can be found on the [SNHPC website](#). Still, if you're crunched for time and you just want ideas on how to move forward with addressing the many challenges associated with housing, consider the following ideas:

1. Begin with community goals in mind: start with an update of your community master plan as it is the foundation of all planning efforts. Next, as community needs change, zoning and land use regulations need to mirror the changing needs. Assess zoning and land use regulations to identify roadblocks. Track needed regulations changes and corresponding master plan goals. Finally, set up a schedule to evaluate proposed changes and make modifications.
2. Allow for flexibility within the regulations: Zoning, site and subdivision regulations are typically rigid and work under the premise of one size fits all. Flexibility within zoning can be established through a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) process that can include specific criteria. Flexibility is also critical in supporting repurposing of existing buildings or creating infill projects.
3. Support community businesses: Vibrant communities support vibrant businesses, and vice-versa. NH businesses have indicated that the lack of housing supply has become a prohibiting factor to attract, retain and even afford staffing. What to do? Allow businesses to build housing for staff on the same site as their business. Read an inspirational example at: <https://read.nhbr.com/nh-business-review/2022/09/09/#?article=4018605>
4. Consider community needs: People of all ages have shared their stories about wanting smaller, low-maintenance and affordable housing. Listen to those in your own community: young working couples, parents with kids, transient/visiting workers, larger families, recent retirees, and older adults needing assistance. Ask, "what is your ideal type of housing?", then create allowances for it.
5. DIY and Housing: New Hampshire understands the *do it yourself* mentality. An integral part of meeting our housing needs is for current homeowners to adapt their home to their needs. This housing niche is sometimes filled with a variety of housing types, such as smaller, accessory dwelling units (ADUs); conversions of older and larger single-family homes to multiple units without changing the footprint; allowing tiny homes and tiny home harbors (existing properties that can be the parent lot to a tiny home). These types of allowances offer both rural and urban homeowners a means to age in place, in the comfort of their community.
6. Density is not a four-letter word: Whether it's one additional unit, 20, or 100, density can be a sticking point. Consider a scientific approach to density by the quality of soils and availability of groundwater. The science, balanced with community vision and housing need, would result in additional housing and perhaps more diversity in housing types. For example, soils suitable to support duplexes on the same lot size as single-family homes would double the density without much additional cost in building or infrastructure.
7. Communicate the type of growth wanted: We all have opinions, and when it comes to growth and development, developers often are open to input from the community. One simple tool to

help developers is to create a visual guide. The planning board or historic district commission can develop a visual guide by showing examples of buildings and building details they feel fits their community character. By incorporating public input, the visual guide can become a useful tool to assure the community that new development will take into account their recommendations.



Forging new Pathways to Play with SNHPC

Are you looking for new and improved places to play? Do you love your local park and want to spread the word about how great it is? SNHPC is here to help! With funding from the New Hampshire Children's Health Foundation, SNHPC is leading Pathways to Play, an initiative to enhance connections to recreation opportunities throughout the region.

Over the coming months we'll be engaging with stakeholders and residents to learn about favorite play spaces, understand barriers and opportunities for accessing recreation, develop a user-friendly interactive map, and undertake a pilot project to

help make one park or playground the best it can be.

Want to get involved? Visit tinyurl.com/pathwaystoplaySNH to learn more and share your ideas!

Here are five things you can do on the project website:

1. Download results from our 2022 Pathways to Play community survey
2. Check out our calendar of upcoming outreach events
3. Request a mini-workshop for your own community group
4. Nominate a local play space for our Pathways to Play pilot project
5. View our Play Space Showcase, and recommend other parks and playgrounds to celebrate in our region!

For more information, contact Suzanne Nienaber, SNHPC Senior Planner, at 603-669-4664 or snienaber@snhpc.org.

Welcome SNHPC Regional Planner David Tilton

David joined the SNHPC staff in March 2023. A graduate of Westfield State University, David earned a B.S. in Environmental Planning in 1999. He began his planning career with the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG) Regional Planning Agency serving Greater Lowell Massachusetts. David worked for 19 years as a Transportation Planner and the Sealer of Weights and Measures for seven communities.



His main responsibilities at SNHPC include transportation data collection and analysis, CMAQ application development, and development of the TIP and other transportation planning documents.

In his free time, David enjoys spending time with his family, traveling, hiking and fishing around New England.

SNHPC Commissioner Spotlight

Marcus Ponce de Leon, Manchester



I made efforts for several years to fill vacancies for the Manchester Planning Board in service to my community, and two years ago I was made aware of the SNHPC and the work the Commission takes on for the region. There's a lot more going on at the commission than just Manchester, but in the end it's a larger community that we're very much a part of. I'm happy to work with all of our members to discuss initiatives and ideas that unilaterally benefit us all through regional planning and development.

I love real world tech implementations, and electric vehicles are playing a bigger role in how we live and commute every day! I spent 21 years in business management, and currently I work as a realtor and a commercial and residential property inspector while advocating and organizing in my community.

I enjoy being outdoors, cars and all things film related. I live in Manchester with my dog Macho.

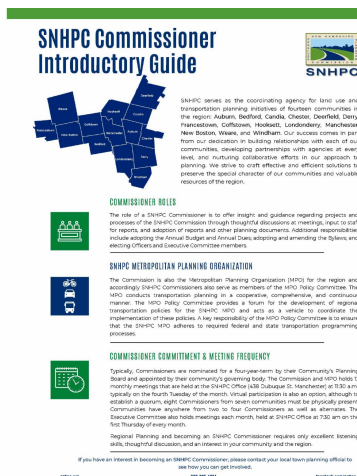
Latest Content from Region 8's Mobility Manager

Not being able to drive to a medical appointment or grocery store is a reality many Granite Staters face. Our Regional Mobility Manager, Ben Herbert, has done lots of work to provide resources that connect disadvantaged individuals to transportation services. One resource is the "I Need a Ride!" program, which allows individuals in need of transportation to fill out a quick two-minute form. Once submitted, Ben will directly respond with transportation resources for the individual. The program can be found [here](#), or on the [main page of SNHPC's website](#).



More content has been added to the website as well; information on community transportation can be found [here](#). A dedicated section for [Mobility Management](#) has also been added. This includes the "I Need a Ride" program, information on the [NH Mobility Management Network](#), as well as other resources under the [Outreach](#) section. This section includes past issues of the Mobility Management Newsletter, survey work, and informational documents on funding and transportation.

For more information, contact **Ben Herbert** at bherbert@snhpc.org.



Have you thought of becoming a Commissioner?

Our volunteers often come from Planning Boards, Conservation Commissions, or other land use boards. We currently need regular members and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) representatives.

Need information on what a Commissioner/MPO representative does? Look no further! We have a Commissioner factsheet available to anyone wanting more information: [click here!](#)

SNHPC is currently seeking Commissioners from **Auburn, Bedford, Candia, Chester, Deerfield, Derry, Hooksett, New Boston, Weare and Windham**.

To learn more, visit <https://www.snhpc.org/about-snhpc/pages/commission>, and if you want to volunteer, contact your local community planning office or governing officials.

**Southern New Hampshire
Planning Commission**
snhpc.org



The Southern NH Planning Commission | 438 Dubuque Street, Manchester, NH 03102

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