

Featured Speakers

Southern NH Regional Climate Workshop

APRIL 11, 2023 DERRY MUNICIPAL CENTER



Eva Birk

Eva Birk is a member of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Sustainable Transportation & Resilience Team. FHWA's Resilience team provides technical assistance to State DOTs & MPOs on climate and resilience topics, and delivers the PROTECT formula and grant programs. Prior to FHWA, Eva worked for 10 years in environmental policy for both private industry and State and Local governments. Eva received a BS in Environmental Studies from Tufts University and a Masters in City and Regional Planning from Cornell University. She serves as an adjunct professor in Environmental Policy at Tufts University.



Meghan Butts

Meghan Butts is the Executive Director of the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (UVLSRPC). She is also the Vice Chair of the Upper Valley Adaptation Workgroup (UVAW). Her work focuses on the relationship between climate and transportation and taking a regional perspective in planning for the future with a significant focus on cross-sectoral relationships. She has a BA in Sociology and in Geography from SUNY New Paltz, a Masters Degree in Energy Policy and Climate from Johns Hopkins University and holds a Certificate of Science, Technology, and International Security. Meghan is also member of the Lebanon Energy Advisory Committee.



Dr. Jo Sias

Dr. Jo Sias is a professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of New Hampshire. Her research interests include performance evaluation of asphalt pavements and materials, particularly with respect to resilience and sustainability and the impact of climate change on transportation infrastructure. She is the director of the UNH Center for Infrastructure Resilience to Climate (UCIRC) and co-director of the Infrastructure and Climate Network (ICNet). She currently serves on the AAPT Board of Directors as past-president and is an Associate Editor for the International Journal of Road Materials and Pavement Design.



Matthew Thorne

Matthew Thorne is the Climate Adaptation Manager at The Nature Conservancy NH chapter. His background in restoration ecology, outdoor education and art brings a creative, intuitive perspective to his project management approach. Before joining TNC, Matthew served as the Executive Director of the Merrimack River Watershed Council, based in Lawrence, MA and previously oversaw farm and food access programming at the Organization for Refugee and Immigrant Success in Manchester, NH. Matthew holds a BA from American University in International Development and an MS in Restoration Ecology from University of Washington.



Dave Walker

Dave Walker is the Assistant Director and Transportation Program Manager for the Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC). He has over 25 years of experience leading short and long-range transportation planning efforts with most of that at RPC. Dave participated as a subject matter expert in a USDOT effort to develop guidance on integrating resilience into transportation planning, was the project lead and transportation planner for the Seacoast Transportation Corridors Vulnerability Assessment, and is currently working with New Hampshire DOT on the development of their Coastal Flood Risk Tolerance Framework.

Agenda

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Remote participants can access the event via DerryCam:

<https://derrycam.org/rcw23/>



8:30 AM

Participant arrival and warm-up

Sign-in, coffee, and networking. Check out our climate resource corner and take a short pre-workshop survey.

Virtual attendees can take the pre-workshop survey and explore suggested resources online. The formal program will begin promptly at 9:00.

9:00 AM

Welcome and orientation to the day

Opening presentation: A national perspective on climate adaptation and transportation

- **Eva Birk**, Environmental Protection Specialist, Federal Highway Administration

9:30 AM

Panel Discussion: Climate leadership and collaboration in New Hampshire

- **Meghan Butts**, Executive Director, Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission / Vice Chair, Upper Valley Adaptation Workgroup
- **Jo Sias**, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of New Hampshire / Director, UNH Center for Infrastructure Resilience to Climate
- **Matthew Thorne**, Climate Adaptation Manager, The Nature Conservancy NH
- **Dave Walker**, Assistant Director and Transportation Program Manager, Rockingham Planning Commission
- **Moderator: Suzanne Nienaber**, Senior Planner, SNHPC

10:15 AM

Collaborative working session: Review draft menu of roadway adaptation strategies

SNHPC will facilitate an interactive, small group work session to garner feedback on a DRAFT menu of roadway adaptation strategies.

Virtual attendees will receive an electronic file and will be encouraged to offer online feedback.

10:55 AM

Closing thoughts and next steps

SNHPC will share next steps for regional climate collaboration. Participants will complete an exit questionnaire and recommend priorities for future climate planning efforts.

Virtual attendees will receive a link to an online questionnaire.
