

October 2023



Southern NH Planning Commission Media Blast

Visit our Website



SNHPC designated a Silver Level Bicycle Friendly Business!

SNHPC is happy to announce we have earned a Silver Level designation for our efforts in being a bicycle friendly business from [the League of American Bicyclists](https://bikeleague.org/bfa/business/).

We're proud to join the NH Department of Transportation, Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission, and over 1,400 other businesses in the movement to build a more Bicycle Friendly America for everyone.



SNHPC embraces walkable and bikeable planning practices not only for our member communities, but for our workplace and our employees. Interested in learning more about creating bike-friendly businesses? Check out <https://bikeleague.org/bfa/business/>!

We hope you'll join us. Happy Cycling!

--Sylvia

October is National Pedestrian Safety Month



For Trick-or-Treaters and other pedestrians, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has put together [a resource guide and materials](#). Stay safe!

NH Celebrates Community Transportation

The New Hampshire Transit Association (NHTA), along with support and cooperation from the State Coordinating Council for Community Transportation (SCC), New Hampshire Mobility Managers Network, and Transport NH have announced that this October they will be celebrating the first annual **Community Transportation Month** in and across New Hampshire.



In New Hampshire, Community Transportation, also known as public transit or local transportation, refers to a system of publicly or charitably subsidized services and infrastructure designed to provide convenient and affordable transportation options within a specific community or region. This typically includes buses, volunteer drivers, shuttles, vanpools, bicycle & pedestrian networks, and other specialized, on-demand services such as paratransit and non-emergency medical transportation. The goal of community transportation is to ensure that residents have affordable access to essential services, employment opportunities, education, and recreational activities

while reducing congestion, pollution, and the reliance on private cars.

NHTA Chair and Cooperative Alliance for Seacoast Transportation (COAST) Executive Director Rad Nichols stated, "Community transportation plays a vital role in economic development, educational opportunity, independent living, and healthy, vibrant communities. It is long past time we celebrate the important role community transportation plays in our state."

New Hampshire has a robust system of community transportation that the public is often unaware of; especially when they need it most. NHTA seeks to use this month of celebration to shine a light on all types of community transportation that exists in NH. Each week in October will highlight a different type of community transportation.

More information about how to participate in the celebration and who is participating can be found online at www.commutesmartnh.org/nhcelebratetransit.



Buses, Bikes & Brooms CommuteSmart NH Challenge

October 1 - 31, 2023 - Log any sustainable trip you take using a mode other than driving in a vehicle alone. Contestants can log trips walking, biking, transit, carpool, telecommuting (working from home), or any combination of these options. Compressed workweeks can also be counted as you're still reducing the number of trips driving alone to work.

In contrast to our Spring Statewide Challenge, the Buses, Bikes & Brooms Challenge is individually based – so you can earn all the bragging rights in your office! You'll still be able to track your progress against other commuters on the leaderboard. Even though teams will not be used for this challenge, you should still encourage your coworkers and friends to participate and track how you match up against each other.

Check out the CommuteSmart NH website to learn how to join:
commutesmartnh.org/buses-bikes-brooms-challenge/

NH Week Without Driving Challenge

October 2-8, 2023 - Join SNHPC staff and leaders and decision makers from around NH and beyond as we learn about the barriers that non-drivers face in our



communities. Click [here](#) to learn more and sign up for the challenge (note: you can commit to the entire week or just a day or two!).

National Walk & Roll to School Day

October 4, 2023 - Take extra caution if driving today- you will likely see more students walking, biking, and scooting to school! Click [here](#) to learn more or find an event near you.

Community EV Charging Grant Program

NHDES wants your input on the development of a new electric vehicle charging grant program. To participate:

Register for the October 4, 2023 public listening sessions:

- [12pm session](#)
- [7pm session](#)



NHDES is especially interested in hearing from residents of and businesses located in disadvantaged communities, including rural and low-income areas, to learn how we can structure a program that results in those communities benefiting from this investment.

The listening sessions will be recorded and posted to the NHDES webpage. We will also consolidate comments and post them in a document for reference, including our responses if applicable. We invite community organizations to help get input to us from your community members and businesses on how to design a program to enable and support their participation.

Another opportunity to comment:

This is your chance to help shape the program and our chance to learn from you! [We welcome comments and input submitted via this form](#). Comments received by **October 2nd** will be prioritized and may be directly addressed during the **October 4th** listening sessions. If time allows, there may also be an opportunity for new comments during the sessions. **This form will close on October 6th at 11pm.**

Do **not** suggest a specific site. We will **not** entertain suggestions of particular places, towns, or businesses. **Do not** list places we should or shouldn't consider.

Additionally, please do **not** ask questions about the program. We will not be answering questions about our program or our priorities, as the program is still in development and contingent upon NHDES receiving an award.

Before you comment:

- Please familiarize yourself with [NHDES' VW-funded RFP for EV charging](#). This may inform development of this RFP.
- Please familiarize yourself with the basics of the [NEVI CFI Community program](#) and [NEVI Standards and Requirements](#), including:
 - All sites must be able to charge 4 vehicles simultaneously using Level 2, Direct Current Fast Charging (DCFC), or a mix of both;
 - DCFC ports must deliver ≥150 kW of charging;
 - DCFC ports must have *at least* a CCS1 connector (can include others too);
 - The goal is to serve downtown communities, multi-unit dwellings, rural locations, transit hubs, and tourist attractions.

About the funding:

NHDES has applied to the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) discretionary Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) program for community-based electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE). If awarded, NHDES plans to release a funding opportunity **aimed at installing EV charging stations within communities.**

Thank you for your interest in developing New Hampshire's EV infrastructure.

Mobile Sources Section
Air Resources Division
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95
Concord, NH 03302-0095
(603) 271-8330
Ms-grants@des.nh.gov

Executive Committee Meetings

- **October 5, 2023** - 7:30 AM, the meeting will take place in person, in the William G. Herman Conference Room, with an option to attend virtually. The Zoom link will be available on the SNHPC website approximately 1 week before the meeting.
- **November 2, 2023** - 7:30 AM, the meeting will take place in person, in the William G. Herman Conference Room, with an option to attend virtually. The Zoom link will be available on the SNHPC website approximately 1 week before the meeting.

Transit to Trails

October 7, 2023 - Join MTA and The Nature Conservancy for a fun day at Pawtuckaway State Park.

Click [here](#) to see the bus schedule, special events, and park amenities.



Indigenous Peoples' / Columbus Day

October 9, 2023 - In observance of the holiday, the SNHPC office will be closed.

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meetings

- **October 19, 2023** - 9:30 AM, the meeting will take place in-person, in the William G. Herman Conference Room, with an option to attend virtually. The Zoom link will be available on the SNHPC website approximately 1 week before the meeting.
- **November 16, 2023** - 9:30 AM, the meeting will take place in-person, in the William G. Herman Conference Room, with an option to attend virtually. The Zoom link will be available on the SNHPC website approximately 1 week before the meeting.

NH Lower Merrimack Valley Stormwater Coalition Meetings

- **October 19, 2023** - 1:00 PM, the meeting will take place virtually.
- **November 16, 2023** - 1:00 PM, the meeting will take place virtually.

MPO/SNHPC Monthly Meeting

- **October 24, 2023** - 11:30 AM, the meeting will take place in-person, in the William G. Herman Conference Room, with an option to attend virtually. The Zoom link will be available on the SNHPC website approximately 1 week before the meeting.
- **November 28, 2023** - 11:30 AM, the meeting will take place in-person, in the William G. Herman Conference Room, with an option to attend virtually. The Zoom link will be available on the SNHPC website approximately 1 week before the meeting.



GACIT Public Hearings

Two Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) Public Hearings will take place in the SNHPC region. This is your chance to provide input and learn more about the draft 2025-2034 Ten-Year Transportation Improvement Plan as recommended by NHDOT to GACIT.

October 25, 2023 - 7:00 PM, Goffstown Fire Station #18

For more information, visit <https://www.dot.nh.gov/projects-plans-and-programs/ten-year-plan>

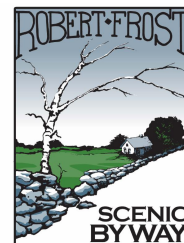
2023 Statewide Rail Trails Conference

October 27, 2023 - Come to meet NH rail trail organizations' leaders and state officials to learn more about recent developments and exciting plans for the future of NH rail trails! More information [here](#).



Frost-Stagecoach Scenic Byway Meeting

October 30, 2023 - 7:00 PM, Atkinson (exact location TBD).



Regional Coordinating Council Meeting

October 31, 2023 - 12:30 PM, William G. Herman Conference Room, with an option to attend virtually. The Zoom link will be available on the SNHPC website approximately 1 week before the meeting.

Funding Available: EV Charger Reliability & Accessibility Accelerator

DEADLINE: November 13, 2023 - Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to repair and replace existing but non-operational, electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure.

For more information, visit [FHWA's BIL website](#).



Digital Equity in NH

Digital access and skill have become increasingly important for so many aspects of everyday life for people of all ages and all circumstances, and especially for those who are English learners, elders, persons of color, veterans, disabled, low income, rural inhabitants, and incarcerated populations. New Hampshire's digital equity funding can be used to address digital divide challenges relating to access to affordable broadband, computers, digital skills and cyber safety skill development, technical support, multilingual tech support, etc.

SNHPC is working with New Hampshire's digital equity experts in guiding the development of NH's plan, and encouraging all interested parties in the region to help shape the plan. Over the next few months, a team will be seeking public comment on vital elements including identification of digital divide barriers to improve economic and educational opportunity, healthcare access, and civic engagement.

You can learn about the many ways to become involved, share your insights and concerns, and help craft NH's digital future. Visit <https://www.nhdigitalequity.org/> for many upcoming opportunities – from an online survey and online forums to in-person meetings across the state.

New Commissioners Needed

Our volunteers often come from Planning Boards, Conservation Commissions, or other land use boards.

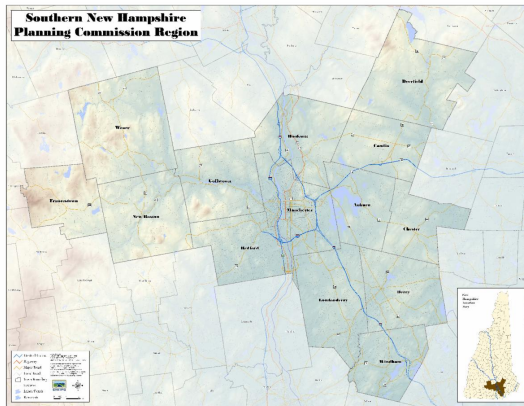
We have openings from the following communities:

- Auburn
- Candia
- Deerfield
- Hooksett
- Weare
- Windham

Need information on what a Commissioner/MPO representative does?
We have a Commissioner factsheet available: [click here!](#)



Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission



The SNHPC region includes the City of Manchester and the Towns of Auburn, Bedford, Candia, Chester, Deerfield, Derry, Franconia, Goffstown, Hooksett, Londonderry, New Boston, Weare and Windham.

The main functions of SNHPC are to increase communication; promote intergovernmental cooperation and coordination between planning boards and local officials; promote coordinated development of the region; prepare and adopt regional plans, including policies and strategies for the region; and perform other acts or functions as deemed appropriate to fulfill its duties.

SNHPC is governed by a Board of Commissioners, 48 local representatives from our 14 member communities. The Commissioners are appointed by the governing bodies of the member municipalities upon the recommendation of their respective planning boards, as outlined in RSA 36:46. An Executive Committee, consisting of 14 commissioners, is elected from the membership of the full Board of Commissioners to provide overall policy direction and guidance, and to administer the Commission's financial and operational affairs. An Executive Director is appointed by the Commission to manage and supervise the day-to-day operations of the Commission and its staff under the general direction provided by the Executive Committee and the Board of Commissioners.

www.snhpc.org

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

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