



Program Highlights

September 21, 2011

We have spent much of the summer writing grants and in developing our next big planning efforts.

In partnership with Northern Middlesex Council of Governments, the City of Nashua and the Town of Tyngsboro, NRPC was successful in obtaining a grant to study the feasibility of a southbound exit on Route 3. We have also cleared the first hurdle in reapplying to HUD for a Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant, which is due in October. Thank you to the many communities who supplied letters of support. There is still an opportunity to submit one if you have not done so already. If awarded this grant, we will embark on a intensive and comprehensive planning effort which will look at how the region can integrate economic development, transportation, land use, housing, environment and other issues and grow in a manner that will meet the needs of the present and future.

The update of our Metropolitan Transportation Plan will be our main long range planning effort over the next year and will involve the talents of all of the NRPC staff. You will be hearing a lot more about this project in coming months, and we encourage you to participate and be a conduit of information between NRPC and your community.

Kerrie Diers, Executive Director

ADMINISTRATION

Kerrie Diers, Executive Director
424-2240 x12 kerried@nashuarpc.org

Karen Baker, Program Assistant
424-2240 x11 karenb@nashuarpc.org

Transportation Programs

Metropolitan Transportation Plan
The Nashua Regional Planning Commission is completing a full update to the NRPC Long Range Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) in conformance with all planning requirements outlined in the current federal transportation planning regulations.

Tim Roache, Assistant Director/MPO Coordinator
424-2240 x28 timr@nashuarpc.org

Julie Chizmas, Transportation Planner
424-2240 x19 juliec@nashuarpc.org

What is the MTP?

The Metropolitan Transportation Plan examines travel and transportation issues and needs in metropolitan areas. It includes a demographic analysis of the region, as well as an examination of travel patterns and trends. The planning process includes an analysis of alternatives to meet projected future demands, and for providing a safe and efficient transportation system that meets mobility while not creating adverse impacts to the environment. In metropolitan areas with a population exceeding 50,000, the responsibility for transportation planning lies with designated Metropolitan

Transportation Programs

Planning Organizations (MPO). The purpose of the NRPC MTP is to present project specific improvements to promote inter-modal connectivity and efficiency in the movement of people and goods and promote a vision of the region that will enhance the quality of life in the NRPC communities.



Why do we need a MTP?

1. Federal transportation planning regulations require that urbanized areas with a population greater than 50,000 develop and maintain a MTP.
2. It makes sense. The MTP analyzes the long term transportation needs and goals of the region and lists strategies and projects designed to meet those needs and goals. Projects should be listed in the MTP and further developed to be considered for implementation and construction.

Why should (I) my community care?

1. In NRPC region we use the MTP as an analysis tool designed to develop projects for inclusion in the NHDOT Ten Year Transportation Plan. Defining the needs of the region and in individual communities as well as proposed projects and strategies to meet those needs builds a strong and defensible case to advance projects into the NHDOT Ten Year Transportation Plan.
2. Building consensus on the long term transportation needs as a region improves the chances of getting major infrastructure improvements funded. The MTP is the ideal tool for the 13 NRPC communities to use as a platform to set priorities, develop projects and seek funds for project implementation.

Why an update?

1. Federal transportation planning regulations mandate the MTP be updated at a minimum every 4 years. Over the last several years NRPC has made minor updates to the MTP; primarily addressing projects lists and fiscal constraint requirements.
2. The goal of this update is to revise and reformat the document to be a more concise and useful reference for decision makers in the region.

How will the update process work?

NRPC will conduct the required analysis based on the latest available travel demand model and census information. Based on the results of the analysis NRPC will conduct a review of the anticipated transportation needs of the region. Working through the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) and member community staff NRPC will develop updated draft goals, objectives and strategies to meet those needs. NRPC will update the project list and associated financial information to include new projects and needs identified through the recently completed 2011 project solicitation process. Development of the fiscally constrained MTP will include the required Air Quality Conformity Analysis in cooperation with NHDOT and NHDES. An important element of this task will be to identify which long range projects in the plan are the top priorities for MPO endorsement. During the MTP development process, NRPC will hold a series of public information sessions designed to capture input from residents and community decision makers. The process will conclude with a public hearing on the draft MTP, followed by the endorsement of the MPO.

Land Use & Environmental Programs

Camille Pattison, Principal Planner

424-2240 x14

camillep@nashuarpc.org

Jill Longval, Environmental Planner

424-2240 x27

jilll@nashuarpc.org

Steve Wagner, Senior Regional Planner

424-2240 x25

steve@nashuarpc.org



Town of Milford — West Elm Street Gateway District Design Guidelines

In 2008, the Town of Milford adopted the Town of Milford Corridor Design Guidelines for a portion of NH 101A between Ponemah Hill Road and Granite Town Plaza. The project was intended to guide future development along these portions of Elm and Nashua Streets to ensure that the community character and sense of place in Milford was maintained or enhanced as the town continued to grow and change. Last year, the Community Development staff requested NRPC's assistance in the development of additional guidelines to address future mixed use, commercial, industrial and campus style development along West Elm Street near the intersection of routes 101 and 101a. The draft West Elm Street Gateway District Design Guidelines have been developed and will be presented to local boards and the general public for input during the fall. The draft guidelines are anticipated to be voted on at Town Meeting in March of 2012. For additional information contact Camille Pattison, 424-2240 x14 or camillep@nashuarpc.org.

Hazard Mitigation

This summer we completed updates to the Hazard Mitigation Plans for the Towns of Hollis and Wilton. Both plans are currently in the final review process with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Staff is currently in the process of completing the update for the Town of Brookline Hazard Mitigation Plan and anticipates submitting a draft plan to FEMA in October. Every town in the region now has a hazard mitigation plan which must be updated every five years. Over the next two years efforts will begin to update these plans in the City of Nashua and Town of Litchfield. For additional information contact Camille Pattison at 424-2240 x14.

Energy Technical Assistance

In March, NRPC organized a meeting to discuss opportunities for regional energy cooperation. In addition to identifying regional renewable energy projects, the group discussed the idea of cooperatively purchasing electricity. By taking a cooperative approach, participating communities would have greater negotiating power and could receive a better rate than if they went to bid on their own. Peregrine Energy Group has partnered with NRPC on this project, which is currently underway. They will be lending their expertise to participating municipalities free of charge through the Energy Technical Assistance and Planning program. For additional information contact Jill Longval at 424-2240 x27 or jilll@nashuarpc.org.

2011 Remaining Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics Collection

Saturday October 1, 8:00AM-12:00PM, 6 Riverside St, Nashua

Saturday November 5, 8:00AM-12:00PM, 6 Riverside St, Nashua

There is a \$10 user fee, which covers up to 10 gallons or 20 pounds of waste. Additional charges apply for electronics. For more information visit www.nashuarpc.org/hhw. We are always looking for volunteers to help with the collections. If you are interested, please contact Jill Longval at jilll@nashuarpc.org.

GIS Programs

**Ryan Friedman, Senior GIS Planner**

424-2240 x20

ryanf@nashuarpc.org

Matt Waitkins, Field Data Manager/Transportation Planner

424-2240 x18

mattw@nashuarpc.org

Joe Taranto, GIS Technician

424-2240 x19

joet@nashuarpc.org

Patrick Blaisdell, Planning Technician

424-2240 x21

patrickb@nashuarpc.org

Merrimack Village District GIS Implementation

In July, NRPC entered the final year of a multi-step project to help the Merrimack Village District implement a complete GIS at their offices and in the field. Recent developments in the project include the implementation of GIS software on one MVD field computer, allowing staff to view data in the field and collect new data with an active GPS link. Over the summer, NRPC staff focused their efforts on collecting service valve locations using GPS. To date, over 4,500 of these valves—about 50% of the system-wide total. This data, along with main valves and main lines, hydrants, and other associated information, will be handed over to MVD at the conclusion of the project for use on a desktop GIS located at their central offices.

Census 2010 Information

Core 2010 Census data for New Hampshire at the community level was released over the Summer, and NRPC began downloading and synthesizing data for various projects. In addition, staff began producing a series of community-specific data sheets, featuring both decennial data regarding total population, age, sex, language, race, and ethnicity, and the American Community Survey 5-year estimates for more specific data related to housing, income, and employment. To date, fact sheets for Pelham, Lyndeborough, and Amherst have been released with the rest scheduled to be released shortly.

Finally, NRPC also put together a short video tutorial for accessing demographic data using the Census's American FactFinder website. The video can be found at www.nashuarpc.org/census2010

Travel Time Runs

In support of NRPC's Congestion Management Plan process, GIS staff developed a methodology for conducting travel time runs along major corridors of the region using GPS. By collecting a point every 3 seconds and segmenting the corridor at key intersections, NRPC is able to calculate travel times to sub-second accuracy without using a stopwatch, eliminating the need for 2 people to conduct the runs. The GPS data is then being analyzed and mapped using GIS with the end result being a clear picture of where the most congested areas of each corridor can be found.

Nashua Regional Planning Commission

9 Executive Park Drive, Suite 201
Merrimack, NH 03054

Phone ~ 603-424-2240

Fax ~ 603-424-2230

#201P-233

Website ~ www.nashuarpc.orgOnline Newsletter ~ nashuarpc.blogspot.com