

# Nashua Regional Planning Commission



Transportation Programs



Land Use Programs



Mapping & GIS Programs



Environmental Programs

## Fiscal Year 2012 Budget and Work Program



Adopted - June 15, 2011

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# Budget Narrative

## Fiscal Year 2012 Budget and Work Program Overview

### **FY2012 NRPC Budget Narrative**

The FY2012 Budget reflects the trend of many local budgets as well as the State budget – an overall shrinking of resources and expenses. Many of you have asked me how the State budget cuts have affected NRPC's budget. The short answer is: not much.

Over the past decade, there has been a gradual erosion of our general planning support from the State. This is most evident in our environmental program, where we have seen the elimination of the Regional Environmental Planning Program and reductions in available grant funds for technical assistance to our two Local River Advisory Committees. In addition there have been significant reductions in funding from the Office of Energy and Planning which we traditionally have used to provide local land use board training and general technical assistance for land use questions. The only general fund contract we will have with the State in our FY12 budget is \$10,627 from the Office of Energy and Planning.

As a result of the gradual reduction of State funding, NRPC has increasingly turned to grants from federal sources, foundations and local contracts to replace revenues. So, in the short run, the recent state budget cuts will not dramatically affect us. It remains to be seen what the longer term impacts of smaller State agencies and fewer resources will be.

The FY12 Budget Revenue breakdown is:

Other	\$ 2,400.00	0%
Local Contracts	\$ 117,000.00	9%
Local Dues	\$ 163,000.00	13%
Grants	\$ 180,680.00	14%
State/Federal Contracts	\$ 826,279.00	64%
	\$ 1,289,359.00	100%

As we look forward to FY 2012, NRPC continues to enjoy the partnership that we have with each of our communities and we continue to look for creative ways to assist each individually and in shaping the quality of life in the region.

The pages that follow describe our budget in detail, as well as the work program that the budget supports. Our accomplishments in FY11 include work on the Capital Corridor Project, the Broad Street Parkway, broadband mapping, local iTRaC projects in Milford and Nashua, and energy planning, just to name a few.

Please take a careful look at the FY12 initiatives – there are many exciting programs that we will be working on in the coming year! Identify a couple of areas where you think your community might benefit and contact me or the project manager to learn more about how your community can participate.

As always, we appreciate your strong support and enthusiastic participation in NRPC. Please let me know if you have any questions or need further information.

Sincerely,



Kerrie Diers, Executive Director

# Budget ~ Resources

		Adopted FY 11 Budget	Estimated FY 11 Year End	Proposed FY 12 Budget
<b>RESOURCES</b>				
<b>Local Dues</b>				
	Local Dues	\$ 163,000.00	\$ 163,000.00	\$ 163,000.00
<b>Local Planning Contracts</b>				
2150	Mason CR	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,200.00	\$ 5,000.00
2250	Litchfield CR	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 23,000.00	\$ 23,000.00
2361	MVD	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 9,000.00
2365	Merrimack Land Use Study	\$ 10,330.00	\$ 10,338.00	
2610	Wilton CR	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 19,500.00	\$ 18,000.00
2120	Brookline Master Plan	\$ 30,070.00	\$ 30,070.00	\$ 22,000.00
2531	Nashua Tree Streets Plan	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
	Other Local	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
<b>Total Local Planning Contracts</b>		<b>\$ 142,400.00</b>	<b>\$ 144,108.00</b>	<b>\$ 117,000.00</b>
<b>State Contracts</b>				
1000	OEP TBG	\$ 20,028.00	\$ 20,028.00	\$ 10,627.00
3000	DOT Highway Planning	\$ 448,000.00	\$ 448,000.00	\$ 773,518.00
4010	DOT Transit Planning	\$ 134,688.00	\$ 134,688.00	
4200	DOT Passenger Rail Planning	\$ 65,566.00	\$ 65,566.00	
4300	DOT New Freedoms	\$ 19,630.00	\$ 19,636.00	
4420	DOT CTAP II	\$ 95,786.00	\$ 53,192.00	
	DOT CTAP III			
4424	DOT CTAP AG - (RPC)	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00	
3500	DOT 5310 SVTC			\$ 101,638.00
5263	2010 DES 604(b)	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 14,175.00	
	2011 DES 604 (b) -SNHPC Map	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	
5262	DES LID Guidebook	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 5,777.00	
6400	OEM Hazard Mit Updates FY 1	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
5000	DES Fluvial Erosion Planning			\$ 25,000.00
<b>Total State Contracts</b>		<b>\$ 812,958.00</b>	<b>\$ 782,022.00</b>	<b>\$ 920,783.00</b>
<b>Grants and Other Contracts</b>				
6500	Broadband Mapping - SWRPC	\$ 25,600.00	\$ 18,600.00	\$ 15,880.00
6501	Broadband Planning -SWRPC	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 20,000.00
6502	Broadband Rural Address	\$ 14,000.00	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00
3210	C of N 101A Management	\$ -	\$ -	
3220	C of N Broad Street Parkway	\$ 60,038.00	\$ 59,175.00	
3211	101A West Management	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 27,000.00
4050	NTS Transit Planning Svcs	\$ 48,574.00	\$ 48,574.00	
2173	Safe Routes - Hollis	\$ 10,142.00	\$ 10,142.00	
2532	SRTS - Dr. Crisp	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 500.00
	SRTS - Amherst			
6151	SWMD	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
7502	NHCF - Grant Writer	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,500.00	
7501	NHCF - Citizen Planner	\$ 22,500.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 12,500.00
7503	NHCF - Statewide Partnership		\$ 5,200.00	\$ 4,800.00
7504	NHCF - Sust. Comm. Coordinator		\$ -	\$ 15,000.00
6610	CLFV Energy planning	\$ 24,500.00	\$ 24,500.00	\$ 25,000.00
<b>Total Grants and Other Contracts</b>		<b>\$ 289,354.00</b>	<b>\$ 252,691.00</b>	<b>\$ 180,680.00</b>
<b>Federal Contracts</b>				
9010	EPA Brownfields II	\$ 86,449.00	\$ 75,932.00	\$ -
	EPA Brownfields III			
9020	EPA Healthy Communities	\$ 3,902.00	\$ 3,902.00	\$ -
<b>Total Federal Contracts</b>		<b>\$ 90,351.00</b>	<b>\$ 79,834.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Interest Income</b>		<b>\$ 1,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 250.00</b>	<b>\$ 200.00</b>
<b>Other Income</b>				
	Pubs/Map Sales	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 4,050.00	\$ 2,000.00
	SVTC Fiscal Agent Fees	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -
	Other Income - Other			
<b>Total Other Income</b>		<b>\$ 8,800.00</b>	<b>\$ 6,050.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,000.00</b>
	Vehicle	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 230.00	\$ 200.00
<b>Total RESOURCES</b>		<b>\$ 1,399,598.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,321,185.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,289,359.00</b>



## Budget ~ Expenses

<b>EXPENSES</b>				
	<b>Salaries</b>	<b>\$ 666,000.06</b>	<b>\$ 675,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 666,614.90</b>
	<b>Employee Benefits</b>			
	P/R Taxes	\$ 50,949.00	\$ 51,000.00	\$ 50,996.04
	C Dental Insurance	\$ 11,864.64	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 11,296.48
	C Health Ins Premium	\$ 121,000.00	\$ 110,000.00	\$ 136,664.53
	C Health Ins Deductible	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 20,500.00	\$ 15,600.00
	C LTD Insurance	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,700.00
	C Retirement 401	\$ 24,662.55	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 29,234.86
	C STD Insurance	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 3,784.56
	Employee Benefits - Other			
	<b>Total Employee Benefits</b>	<b>\$ 240,476.19</b>	<b>\$ 222,700.00</b>	<b>\$ 249,276.48</b>
	<b>Office Expenses</b>			
	Audit	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 9,750.00
	Capital Equipment	\$ 13,500.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
	Dues & Subscriptions	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
	Equipment Maintenance	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
	GIS	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 4,600.00	\$ 6,000.00
	Insurance	\$ 12,600.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
	Internet Access/Telephone	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 6,500.00
	Janitorial	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
	Legal	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 1,000.00
	Legal Notices	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,000.00
	Misc	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
	Office Expenses	\$ 13,500.00	\$ 13,500.00	\$ 13,500.00
	Postage	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 1,500.00
	Printing	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 8,000.00
	Professional Services	\$ 288,684.00	\$ 213,400.00	\$ 154,478.00
	IT Services		\$ 4,200.00	\$ 7,500.00
	Recruiting	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
	Rent	\$ 72,000.00	\$ 74,485.00	\$ 75,000.00
	Reserve Fund	\$ 2,337.75	\$ 7,900.00	\$ 11,740.00
	Seminars	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,000.00
	Travel	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
	Utilities	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
	<b>Total Office Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 493,121.75</b>	<b>\$ 423,485.00</b>	<b>\$ 373,468.00</b>
	<b>Total EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 1,399,598.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,321,185.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,289,359.37</b>
	Resources - Expenses	\$ 0.00	\$ -	\$ (0)

# Transportation Programs

## TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM ~ MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN FY 2011

### MPO Initiatives

NRPC in its role as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the region is responsible for developing and maintaining the region's transportation planning program. In FY11, NRPC transportation planning staff developed informational materials and updated operating documents and procedures. This included updates to the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) membership and prospectus, public participation plan, and Memorandums of Understanding with New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) and Nashua Transit System (NTS). The staff is in the final phase of developing an informational presentation to help commissioners and member communities better understand the transportation planning process and the role of NRPC as the MPO.

### Nashua Transit System Planning Initiatives

NRPC worked with Nashua Transit System (NTS) to complete three transit planning tasks. NRPC assisted NTS in developing a 5 year financial plan to meet the requirements of the Federal Transit Administration Triennial Review Process. Included in this effort was research to address the impacts of the 2010 census on transit operating funds. NRPC Staff developed a White Paper that analyzed the possible impacts of the 2010 Census on the region's transit service and described the experiences of similarly sized MPO's and transit systems that transitioned to large urbanized areas in the last census. NRPC developed a ridership prediction model that will help NTS assess future demand and likely ridership both in the City and throughout the region.

### Long Range Transportation Plan/Transportation Improvement Program

The first half of FY 2011 was focused on the completion of the transportation planning cycle. This two year process, timed to coincide with the State's update of the Ten Year Plan, involves updates to the NRPC Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and Transportation Improvement Program. It also requires that the NRPC demonstrate that the proposed projects listed in the LRTP and TIP meet the air quality requirement set forth in the Clean Air Act and State Implementation Plan. The NRPC staff worked diligently through the Summer and Fall of 2010 to complete the updates to the plan and completed the required air quality analysis. The successful completion of this effort ensures that federal funding for highway improvements in the region is not interrupted.

### SVTC 5310 Funding

NRPC was successful in securing federal funding in support of the Souhegan Valley Transportation Collaborative (SVTC). The Souhegan Valley Transportation Collaborative (SVTC) is a demand response, shared ride, door-to-door transportation service using handicap accessible, low-floor ramp 14 seat vans (including 2 wheelchair spaces) subcontracted from the Nashua Transit System (NTS).

SVTC currently provides rides 3 days per week (between 8:00AM and 4:00PM) for non-emergency medical transportation, including medical appointments, outpatient therapy, counseling, laboratory visits, pharmacy pick ups and dialysis as well as to social service agencies such as SHARE, DHHS, SSA and Employment Security within Amherst, Brookline, Hollis and Milford and to and from Nashua. Rides are also available one day per week for shopping at four local major shopping destinations.

The receipt of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5310 funds will allow the expansion of existing service to 5 days per week (Monday through Friday) and increase the available hours of operation per day to provide flexibility for a trial of 10 hours per day (8:00AM to 6:00PM) and/or additional buses depending on passenger demand and community needs. It will also allow a second day for shopping and the flexibility to increase the number of destinations served by the service and to potentially increase the number of member communities.

# Transportation Programs continued...

## CMAQ program

NRPC administered the regional planning process necessary to complete funding rounds for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) programs. The CMAQ process was completed in summer 2010 and resulted in the Towns of Milford and Hudson receiving funds for intersection improvement projects. In Hudson, funds will be used to improve the intersections of 1). Ferry St. and Library St., 2). Derry St., Ferry St. and Chase St., and 3). Derry St., Highland St. and Library St. In Milford the intersection at Route 13 with Emerson and Armory Road will be improved. Funds are expected to be available for construction as early as August 2011.



## Commute Green NH

This year, Commute Green New Hampshire challenged people living and working in NH to reduce 50,000 miles driven during Commute Green Week, from May 16-20, 2011. Given that the average American drives 10,500 miles annually, this is equivalent to taking more than four cars off the road for a year! By the end of the challenge, NH green commuters had logged over 62,000 miles.

After the results are tallied, top achievers in a variety of team and individual categories will be acknowledged. At the state-wide and regional level, recognition will be given to the individuals who logged the most miles during the challenge in the following categories: carpooling (including telecommuting), biking, walking, and using transit. People who participated all five days will also be recognized. In addition, NRPC will recognize the businesses that logged the most miles and that had the highest participation rates during Commute Green Week. For more information, visit [www.nashuarpc.org/commutegreen](http://www.nashuarpc.org/commutegreen) or contact Jill Longval at [jilll@nashuarpc.org](mailto:jilll@nashuarpc.org).

## Safe Routes to Schools Program

The Safe Routes to School program encourages children to bike or walk to school through education and incentives that remind children of how much fun biking and walking can be. The program also addresses the safety concerns of parents by encouraging greater enforcement of traffic laws; exploring ways to create safer streets; and educating the public about safe biking, walking, and driving practices. NRPC has used funding in the past from this program to complete travel plans for Birch Hill, Bicentennial, New Searles, and Ledge Street Elementary Schools in Nashua which resulted in nearly \$50,000 for educational and infrastructure improvements. During FY 2111, NRPC completed travel plans for Dr. Crisp Elementary School in Nashua and the Hollis Elementary Schools. These plans will be used to develop applications for additional Safe Routes to School funding. The funding will be used to encourage children to walk or bike to school through educational programs, encouragement efforts, and better law enforcement. The funding will also be used to improve sidewalks, crosswalks and other infrastructure.

## TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVES FOR FY 2012

### Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Ten Year Plan

This effort will represent a major update to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and lay out the vision for the future of the region's transportation system. This represents the first major update to the MTP in more than 6 years. As part of this effort, NRPC will hold a series of public input sessions and workshops to review the transportation goals and objectives of the region. This initiative is already underway. It began with a solicitation for new transportation projects for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The purpose of the project solicitation is to begin to develop solutions to transportation problems that can be developed over time and considered for future implementation. An important goal of this process is to identify and prioritize the major transportation infrastructure improvements needed to ensure the region's growth and economic competitiveness through 2040.

# Transportation Programs continued...

## Travel Demand Model Update and Peak Hour Modeling

NRPC will complete an update to the region's Travel Demand Model. This effort will incorporate the latest traffic, census and employment information into the model. In addition, the increasing focus on traffic issues in the Nashua region has resulted in greater demand for peak hour turning movement forecasts for intersection operation analysis. NRPC has been building the database of land use and traffic operations data necessary to support development of peak hour models. During FY12, NRPC will implement morning and afternoon peak hour models. These models will then be available for use by NRPC to respond to requests from municipalities, the NH DOT, and consultants.

## Third Merrimack River Crossing

East west travel across the Merrimack River has been under discussion and study for 50 years. The first item of the first meeting of the Nashua Regional Planning Commission was a discussion of developing a crossing of the Merrimack River. There are currently no projects programmed to address east west travel across the Merrimack River. NRPC will continue to engage officials from the affected communities and continues to support the following long term programming recommendations.

## Exit 36 S

NRPC will continue to pursue funding to participate in a planning effort to study the development of the Exit 36 Southbound off ramp. This project was recently recommended by the City of Nashua Mayor's Transportation Task Force and will be pursued in cooperation with the City of Nashua; the Town of Tyngsborough, MA; Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG); Mass DOT; and NH DOT. It is expected that the development of this project would result in significant reductions in congestion on Spit Brook Road and the Daniel Webster Highway in South Nashua. It would also facilitate the development of a passenger rail station in the south Nashua/Pheasant Lane Mall area.

## Hudson Connector

NRPC will continue to coordinate with NH DOT and the Town of Hudson on the proposed Hudson Connector road. Efforts in FY12 will focus on the intersection at Lowell Road and the Sagamore Bridge as well as the intersection with NH 111.

## NH 101A Corridor West

NRPC will provide travel demand modeling and public participation administration for improvements along the western end of the corridor recommended within the Route 101A Corridor Master Plan and Improvements Program. NRPC is a subcontractor to Fay, Spofford, and Thorndike to complete various intersection and capacity improvements selected from the Corridor study by NHDOT. The estimated cost of these improvements is between \$5.5 and \$7.5 million.

## Regional Rideshare Program and Commute Green NH

NRPC received Federal Highway Administration funding for FY 2012 and 2013 to build its capacity and implement iTRIPS, a regional rideshare program for the Nashua Region. iTRIPS will result in broad environmental, economic, health, and social benefits including decreased travel expenses, reduced traffic congestion, and better air quality. iTRIPS will also produce ongoing reductions in greenhouse gases by reducing the number of vehicle miles traveled (VMTs) among the region's residents.

## Transportation Demand Management

NRPC staff will build upon the successes of the first Smart Commute Week to develop an outline for a potential Transportation Demand Management Program. This program will be aimed at reducing single occupancy vehicles and encouraging commuters, employers, and the general public to begin using alternative forms of transportation such as buses, vanpools, carpools, bicycling, walking, flexible schedules, and telecommuting. Developing a plan to implement such a program is vital to applying for future grant opportunities and engaging project partners. Numerous regional planning commissions throughout the nation have successfully implemented similar programs, so there are many models to use as guidance.



## LAND USE PROGRAM ~ MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN FY 2011

### iTRaC: Integrating Transportation and Community Planning

In 2008, NRPC staff assisted the Town of Milford in developing and adopting the Nashua and Elm Street Corridor Overlay District and Design Guidelines. The goal of these guidelines was to guide future development along these corridors to maintain and enhance Milford's community character and sense of place. The Town decided that based on the success of the Design Guidelines they would consider extending the overlay district concept to other corridors in town. In the summer of 2010 the decision was made to begin developing a new set of Design Guidelines for the western portion of Elm Street from Granite Town Plaza to the Wilton Town line. Last Fall, NRPC began working with the Town of Milford to assist them in this effort and has facilitated a number of public meetings to obtain community input on desired land uses and site designs along this corridor.

The iTRaC Advisory Board established the Exemplary Spaces Award Program this year. The main objective of this program is to acknowledge property owners who have successfully implemented innovative planning techniques that enhance their community's sense of place. Recognition is awarded in the following three categories; Residential, Commercial/Industrial and Public Spaces. All selected sites must be located in the Greater Nashua region and successfully utilize innovative planning and site design standards to reflect a high level of aesthetic appeal. For more information or to nominate a site please contact Camille Pattison at [camillep@nashuarpc.org](mailto:camillep@nashuarpc.org).

### Brookline Master Plan

NRPC began assisting the Town of Brookline with its Master Plan update in June 2010. NRPC collaborated with UNH Cooperative Extension and the Brookline Master Plan Steering Committee to conduct a visioning forum and community survey process early in the fall. NRPC staff then worked with the Master Plan Steering Committee and Planning Board to write the Vision, Land Use, Energy, Natural Resources, Transportation, Economic Development, and Cultural and Historic Resources chapters. The first four chapters listed here were approved by the Planning Board in May 2011 and the latter three are expected to be approved by July 2011. Additional information can be found at <http://www.nashuarpc.org/communities/brookline.htm>.

### NHOEM Hazard Mitigation

Over the past year NRPC completed Mason's first Hazard Mitigation Plan as well as updates to the Hudson and Pelham Plans. The development of these plans are funded through the Federal Emergency Management Agency as part of a national strategy to lessen or avoid losses from natural disasters.

### Nashua Tree Streets

The Tree Streets Neighborhood of Nashua has historically been a destination for immigrants and mill workers. This neighborhood has a rich cultural history, is home to a diverse group of residents and has some of the oldest housing stock in the city. Compared with the greater City, the Tree Streets area faces unique issues in regards to density, social issues, access to services, parking and green space. NRPC staff is assisting the City of Nashua to develop a Neighborhood Plan that will identify key issues in the area and make specific recommendations to address these issues and improve the quality of life for neighborhood residents. To date initial data analysis and mapping has been completed and two public input meetings were held in June to obtain input from residents on current issues and desired amenities in the neighborhood.

### Conferences

NRPC staff Kerrie Diers and Camille Pattison joined efforts with Bill Parker, Community Development Director and Sarah Marchant, Town Planner from Milford in presenting a session titled "Creating a Sense of Place Through Innovative Zoning" at the National American Planning Association Conference in Boston this past April. It was a great success with over 150 people in attendance!

# Land Use Programs continued...

## LAND USE INITIATIVES FOR FY 2012

### iTRaC: Integrating Transportation and Community Planning

In FY12, NRPC staff will continue to provide staff support to the Town of Milford's effort in the development of Design Guidelines for a newly proposed overlay district along the western portion of Elm Street. Community input will be analyzed and incorporated into the guidelines. Educational materials on the proposed guidelines and overlay district will also be developed and distributed to the general public. Planning Board hearings on the draft guidelines will take place this fall and an anticipated warrant article will be submitted for town meeting in the Spring of 2012.



We anticipate accepting one or two applications for Special Projects in FY 2012. The Town of Pelham has already expressed interest in developing a project to address Class VI roads in their community. If your community is interested in completing a Special Project, customized training, or research and marketing materials, at no cost, please contact Camille Pattison at [camillep@nashuarpc.org](mailto:camillep@nashuarpc.org) or 603-424-2240 x14.

### Town of Brookline Master Plan

NRPC will continue working with the Brookline Planning Board and Master Plan Steering Committee to complete the Brookline Master Plan update in FY 2012. Remaining chapters to be written and/or updated include Community Facilities, Housing, Community Design, Natural Hazard Mitigation, Demographics, Implementation, and Executive Summary. For more information, contact Jill Longval at [jilll@nashuarpc.org](mailto:jilll@nashuarpc.org) or 603-424-2240 x27.

### NHOEM Hazard Mitigation

In FY12, NRPC will complete updates to the Town of Brookline and Town of Hollis Hazard Mitigation Plans. NRPC will also begin work on a 2 year contract to update Hazard Mitigation Plans in the towns of Litchfield, Milford and two other towns yet to be determined. NRPC is also anticipating to assist in a Fluvial Erosion Plan for the Piscataquag and Souhegan River Watersheds.

### Nashua Tree Streets

In the summer of 2011, NRPC will continue to obtain public input, finalize data analysis and begin developing recommendations and final products for the Tree Streets Neighborhood Plan. An eye-catching neighborhood map with proposed recommendations will be the main final product. The final map will be widely distributed to locations and residents throughout the neighborhood as a means to educate the public about recommended improvements while fostering community pride. A short plan will also accompany the map and provide supporting analysis and documentation for the proposed recommendations. The project is anticipated to be completed this fall. For additional information contact Camille Pattison at 603-424-2240 x14 or [camillep@nashuarpc.org](mailto:camillep@nashuarpc.org).



## GIS PROGRAM ~ MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN FY 2011

### GIS Implementation for Merrimack Village District

The GIS Department continued implementing GIS data and applications for Merrimack Village District (MVD) Water Utility. This work built on the GIS Needs Assessment, Data Model, and Implementation Plan completed in previous years and put into practice the strategies identified in those reports. The GIS Department is now into the data development phase of the project. This includes extensive GPS fieldwork to precisely capture water system features. To date, GIS staff have gathered over 3,200 GPS location points and attributes for residential service or shut-off valves in the network. We have located these valves to sub-meter accuracy and collected various attributes including type, material, and diameter. Other recent achievements include the installation of ArcPad software on MVD computers, allowing them to begin collecting their own data, and a draft PDF mapbook using the Town of Merrimack's grid system.

### NTS Ridership Prediction Model and Mapping Support

NRPC GIS completed this project, which statistically predicts ridership potential for areas of Nashua without bus service and for the surrounding communities of Hollis, Hudson, and Merrimack. Using a spatial regression method called Geographically Weighted Regression (GWR) and current ridership totals as inputs, NRPC created a model that will best estimate ridership based on surrounding land use. The model is based on 1/4 mile walk catchments, or service areas, for each bus stop, using the walkable pedestrian network to build the areas. This is an improvement over a simple straight line buffer method. The other major data inputs are parcel-based information for independent variables including number of residential units, average residential assessed value, commercial square footage, and total jobs. This combination of network produced service areas and parcel data gives us much more specific service area data for each bus stop to put in our model. The final results and technical memo will soon be available in report form, while the model itself will be a valuable tool for NTS in future route planning.

In addition, NRPC provided NTS with a series of new system maps for display at the Transit Center and NTS offices. The maps combine new route and timetable information with an updated look that includes clearer route lines and bus stop locations. NRPC continues to support NTS' mapping needs whenever route and schedule changes occur.

### Community Data Updates

NRPC continues to proactively update data layers throughout the region. Roads and parcels, two datasets that are used constantly in mapping and planning projects, were continually updated on a monthly or quarterly basis by NRPC GIS staff. A new system of updating local parcel lines was put in place, as staff now digitizes any approved plans found on the Registry of Deeds website for Hillsborough County. This ensures that all our maps are as current as possible for local meetings and project plans.

In addition, updates to two key datasets were started in FY 2011—zoning and conservation lands. For zoning data, GIS staff has sent out existing data maps to all our communities for corrections and other additions. NRPC has begun incorporating these changes, as well as aligning zoning boundaries to our parcel and road data which may have shifted to become more accurate over the years. For conservation lands, NRPC is helping to keep NH GRANIT's statewide database up to date by contacting the Conservation Commissions of each of our communities for additions or other changes to the current set of data. Once completed, this data, as well as official record sheets for each conserved tract, will be submitted to GRANIT for inclusion in the statewide layer.

# GIS Programs continued...

## GIS INITIATIVES FOR FY 2012

### Rural Addressing Project

An offshoot of the New Hampshire Broadband Initiative, the Rural Addressing project will be a statewide effort coordinated by NRPC that will attempt to bring complete geospatial address data for all rural Census blocks in New Hampshire. RPCs will be tasked with collecting this data in a variety of ways, including GPS, on-screen digitization using aerial photography, and exploring opportunities to add commercial datasets where possible. The project may also provide interesting individuals in our communities to take part in data collection and learn GPS and GIS tasks on a volunteer basis.



Local parcel and assessing data will be a key component of this project, and NRPC's past efforts to maintain complete digital parcel databases for all our communities will play a pivotal role in the organization of this project.

When completed, the data will be used in conjunction with broadband mapping efforts, leading to a better spatial understanding of where the need for broadband is the highest. It is also expected that the data will be made available to communities and individuals at some level, through the NH GRANIT program.

### GIS Implementation for Merrimack Village District

The GIS Department will continue the implementation of GIS data and applications for Merrimack Village District (MVD) Water Utility. The significant effort for FY12 will be finalizing the GPS gathering and mapping of all service valves. These valves are the water features most often searched for by MVD personnel and are also the hardest to find. Locating these features accurately through GPS is a difficult but significant part of the GIS implementation. There are more than 5,000 of these features yet to be GPSed by our team, and efforts have been underway since the snowmelt in order to complete this phase.

The other major tasks of this project this year will be the complete implementation of all applications and system files on MVD computers and training sessions that NRPC will provide to MVD staff. NRPC will also be finalizing the PDF mapbook with all available features of the system included, and continuing to provide GIS support to MVD on an as-needed basis.

### Travel Demand Model Update

NRPC GIS will continue the process of updating our Travel Demand model. This process will involve updating data inputs and improving how the model analyzes the road network including smaller Transportation Analysis Zones (TAZ) areas, updated trip generation rates from surveys and other sources, and improved configuration data on intersections. New data gathered for intersections will include the type of intersection (stop sign, light, yield, etc.), the number and length of turn lanes, and the timing of traffic signals.

All of this information will greatly improve traffic analysis, particularly for small areas of study. This is a long, detailed data gathering process. The final product, which is expected to be ready in 2012, will consist of a 24-hour model for air quality analysis and other requirements, as well as AM and PM peak hour models so that NRPC can analyze regional and local traffic flows under rush-hour conditions.

### 2010 Census Data

NRPC GIS will continue to receive and synthesize data from the 2010 United States Census and the American Community Survey. We will be releasing more Census Fact Sheets on our website in the coming months, highlighting community-specific data on general demographics, transportation patterns, economic indicators, and more. Many datasets will be used in support of nearly every planning program at NRPC.



# Environmental Programs

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM ~ MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN FY 2011

### Brownfields Assessment Program

In 2007, NRPC was awarded an EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant for properties containing hazardous substances. Work on this grant was completed in January 2011 and included assessments of the former Milford Police Department (OK Tool Company), the Grugnale Waste Disposal site, and the Hudson Asbestos Disposal site.

### Low Impact Development Guidebook and Impervious Surface Model Ordinance

NRPC developed an impervious surface model ordinance for implementation within the one-quarter mile Lower Merrimack River Corridor. The Lower Merrimack River Corridor is found adjacent to the Merrimack River in the communities of Hudson, Litchfield, Merrimack, and Nashua. In order to help potentially affected property owners more easily comply with impervious surface requirements, a Low Impact Development (LID) Guidebook was simultaneously developed to provide instruction, illustration, and basic engineering specifications of development options. NRPC gave presentations in communities interested in implementing the impervious surface ordinance or using the LID Guidebook. These documents can be found at <http://www.nashuarpc.org/REPP/index.htm>.

### Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program

NRPC continued to assist the Nashua Region Solid Waste Management District with coordinating and staffing their annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program. Residents from member communities are encouraged to safely dispose of toxic, flammable, corrosive, or explosive materials at scheduled events during the collection season. The Solid Waste District held six events during calendar year 2010. These events saw a total of 1,130 participants and collected 79,464 pounds of waste. For more information on the HHW program, please visit [www.nashuarpc.org/hww](http://www.nashuarpc.org/hww).

### Energy Program FY 2011

The way in which communities generate and use energy has consequences for many facets of life. It can affect municipal costs and operations, influence job growth and the local economy, and impact the natural resources and quality of life that are so important to New Hampshire. Communities across the Nashua Region have started addressing energy issues by taking action to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy demand. In FY 2011, NRPC received funding through the Energy Technical Assistance and Planning (ETAP) program to provide energy support to municipalities in the Nashua Region.

#### Brookline

NRPC wrote an Energy Master Plan chapter for the Town of Brookline, which will be included in the Town's 2011 Master Plan Update. The chapter covers Brookline's energy vision; the importance of energy planning, efficiency, and conservation; energy planning and projects in Brookline; energy efficiency and energy use in buildings; energy generation; energy implications of land use patterns and transportation; and references. NRPC worked closely with the Brookline Planning Board and Master Plan Steering Committee to develop this chapter. It was approved by the Brookline Planning Board on May 5, 2011.

NRPC also assisted Amherst to re-energize their Local Energy Committee and began developing an Energy Inventory for the Town's municipal buildings which will include obtaining and entering Amherst's oil, propane, and electronic data from PSNH. NRPC worked with the Town of Hollis to facilitate technical assistance with Peregrine Energy Group, in the evaluation of RFPs for investment grade audits and for design proposals for the Town's police station. In Hudson, NRPC assisted in the development of an Energy Inventory for the Town's municipal buildings which included a working spreadsheet to facilitate continued data entry by the Hudson Finance Department. In Pelham, NRPC provided assistance to the Town to help them create a Local Energy Committee and facilitate the Town's technical assistance services with Peregrine Energy Group to include a review of fire station plans for possible energy efficiency upgrades and the evaluation of heating systems in the municipal complex.

## Environmental Programs continued...

Lastly, NRPC worked with Nashua's Energy Coordinator to develop an Energy Inventory for the City's municipal buildings. NRPC also worked with the City to facilitate a competitive electricity supply technical assistance project with Peregrine Energy Group.



### Regional Cooperative Energy Initiative

On March 31, 2011 NRPC organized the first meeting of interested municipalities in the Nashua Region to discuss opportunities for regional energy cooperation. In addition to identifying opportunities for a regional renewable energy project, 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. Communities interested in this collaboration have met monthly since the initial meeting. The Regional Cooperative Energy Initiative has the support of the ETAP program and its partners, as well as the MBA program at Southern NH University. For more information, visit <http://www.nashuarpc.org/energy/collaboration.html>.

## ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES FOR FY 2012

### Brownfields Assessment Program

NRPC applied for a 3-year EPA community-wide hazardous substances grant to assess brownfields in the Nashua Region beginning in FY 2012. NRPC expects to be notified of its award status by the end of June 2011.

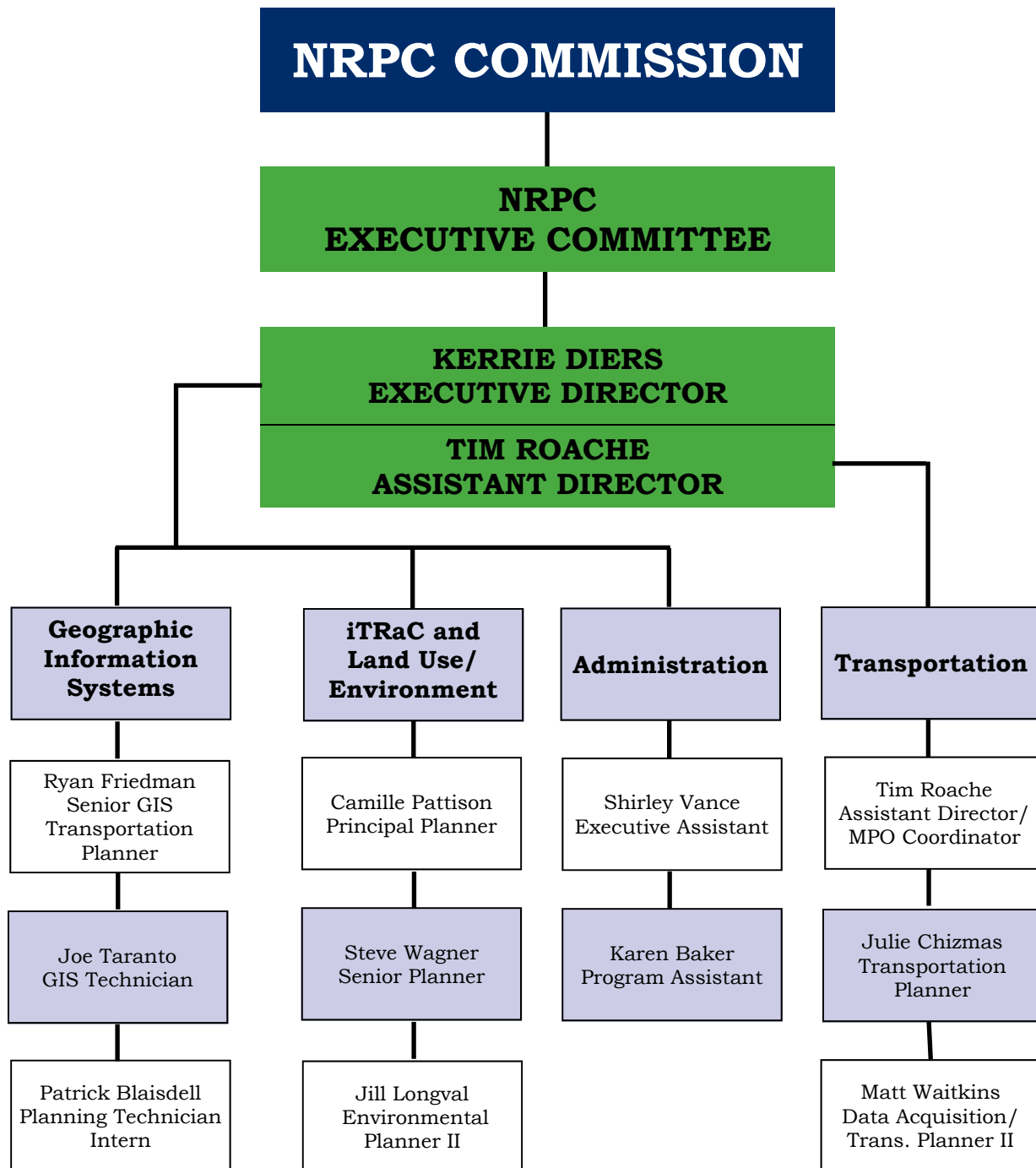
### Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program

NRPC will continue its work with the Nashua Region Solid Waste Management District in FY 2012. Six collections are tentatively planned, including a satellite collection in Milford in May 2012. Remaining collection dates in 2011 include August 6, October 1, and November 5, all from 8:00AM-12:00PM at the Nashua Public Works Garage.

### Energy Program

In FY 2012, NRPC will continue offering energy services to individual communities as well as the Regional Cooperative Energy Initiative through the ETAP program. If your community is interested in participating, please contact Jill Longval at [jilll@nashuarpc.org](mailto:jilll@nashuarpc.org) or 603-424-2240 x27.

# NRPC Organizational Chart



## NRPC Commissioners

### AMHERST

Martin Michaelis  
Marilyn Peterman  
Bradley Vear

### BROOKLINE

Karl Dowling  
Tad Putney  
Therry Neilsen-Steinhardt (alt)

### HOLLIS

Peter Baker

### HUDSON

Howard Dilworth, Jr.  
Richard Maddox  
Michael Pitre (alt)  
Stuart Schneiderman

### LITCHFIELD

Leon Barry  
Joel Kapelson

### LYNDEBOROUGH

Tracey Turner

### MASON

Dorothy Millbrandt  
Charles V. Moser

### MERRIMACK

Karin Elmer (Treasurer)  
Finlay Rothaus  
Donald Wunderlich

### MILFORD

Kevin Johnson  
Janet Langdell  
Andy Seale

### NASHUA

Mark Cookson (alt)  
Jeffrey Cox  
Ken Dufour

Katherine Hersh (Vice Chair)  
Roger Houston (alt)  
Richard LaRose (alt)

Michael Tabacsko  
Thomas Yurovchak

### MONT VERNON

Michael Fimbel (Chair)  
David R. Hall  
Richard Quintal

### PELHAM

Ed Gleason  
David Hennessey

### WILTON

Daniel Donovan III  
William Condra



## Nashua Regional Planning Commission

9 Executive Park Drive, Suite 201  
Merrimack, NH 03054

Phone ~ 603.424.2240

Fax ~ 603.424.2230

[www.nashuarpc.org](http://www.nashuarpc.org)  
[nashuarpc.blogspot.com](http://nashuarpc.blogspot.com)