



SERVING THE REGION SINCE 1966

# Visions

**SNHPC**

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## Becoming Age-Friendly

This program was envisioned in part from the many discussions with SNHPC region community representatives. Many have voiced concerns that New Hampshire's senior population is experiencing a steady growth rate, while younger populations are declining. How can SNHPC assist our communities in attracting young adults and help communities create senior-friendly environments?



The Commission understands that older Granite Staters want to age in place. Knowing where the grocery store and pharmacy are, knowing their neighbors, and of course, staying close to doctors who know them and their medical history are all very important for seniors. Still, we recognize that as our population ages, needs and abilities change.

The concept of an Age-Friendly Community is in part about providing community assets and amenities such as safe, walkable streets; diverse housing and transportation options; access to senior services; and opportunities for residents to participate in community activities.

The SNHPC has begun to work with AARP and state and community partners to create coalitions on topics related to housing, transportation, zoning and regulations, economic development, and recreation and community engagement. Guided by the coalition, the Commission will develop age-friendly assessments covering these topics for each of our region's communities. We will be reaching out to all our municipalities, and talking with community representatives on these various aspects.

If you are interested in the project or in joining one of the subcommittees on housing, transportation and accessibility, social engagement and recreation, age-friendly businesses and millennials, or the Manchester Resident Committee; call Sylvia von Aulock at 603-669-4664. We look forward to talking to all our communities about these issues in the coming New Year.

## SNHPC Staff Shares Holiday Spirit with Community

Ronald F. Poltak, Alt.,  
 Auburn  
 David J. Danielson,  
 Bedford  
 William Duschatko,  
 Bedford  
 Barbara Salvatore, Alt.,  
 Bedford  
 Richard Snow, Candia  
 Albert Hall, Candia  
 Janet Boyden, Chester  
 Deborah Munson,  
 Chester  
 Frances Menard,  
 Deerfield  
 Frank Bartkiewicz,  
 Derry  
 Jeff Moulton, Derry  
 John O'Connor, Derry  
 Scot Heath,  
 Francestown  
 Prescott Tolman,  
 Francestown  
 Rebecca Harris, Alt.,  
 Francestown  
 Henry C. Boyle,  
 Goffstown  
 JoAnn Duffy, Alt.,  
 Goffstown  
 Barbara Griffin,  
 Goffstown  
 David Pierce, Goffstown  
 Leslie Boswak,  
 Hooksett  
 Richard G. Marshall,  
 Hooksett  
 Cutler Brown, Alt.,  
 Hooksett  
 Sharon M. Carson,  
 Londonderry  
 Arthur E. Rugg,  
 Londonderry  
 Leitha Reilly, Alt.,  
 Londonderry  
 Martin Srugis, Alt.,  
 Londonderry  
 Peter Capano,  
 Manchester  
 Raymond P. Clement,  
 Manchester  
 Daniel P. O'Neil,  
 Manchester  
 Elias "Skip" Ashooh,  
 Manchester  
 Bob Mackenzie, Alt.,  
 Manchester  
 Harold "Bo" Strong, New  
 Boston  
 Mark Suenen, Alt., New  
 Boston  
 Angela Drake, Weare  
 Wendy Stevens, Weare  
 Carl Griffin, Windham  
 Peter Griffin, Windham  
 Mark Samsel, Windham  
 Eileen Mashimo, Alt.,  
 Windham



**SNHPC Staff shares holiday gifts with a family of students from the Holy Cross Family Learning Center.**

## SNHPC Approves Draft 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

On November 16, 2016, the SNHPC opened the public comment period on the draft 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the region. The TIP is generally updated every two years by the SNHPC Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), concurrently with the NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT) State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). All projects utilizing Federal transportation funds in the SNHPC region must be included in an approved TIP in order to be incorporated into the STIP and proceed to construction.

The public comment period for the draft FY 2017-2020 TIP ran through December 16, 2016. A public hearing on the draft TIP was held on December 20, 2016 at 11:30 AM at the SNHPC Office.

The draft FY 2017-2020 TIP can be accessed online by visiting [www.snhpc.org](http://www.snhpc.org) and clicking on "Transportation Planning" at the top of the page.

For more information, please contact Nate Miller, AICP, Principal Transportation Planner at 603-669-4664 or [nmiller@snhpc.org](mailto:nmiller@snhpc.org).

### Draft Transportation Improvement Program

FY 2017 – FY 2020

for the  
 Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission



Auburn, Bedford, Candia, Chester, Deerfield, Derry, Francestown, Goffstown,  
 Hooksett, Londonderry, Manchester, New Boston, Raymond, Weare, Windham

November 16, 2016

### SNHPC Staff

David J. Preece,  
 AICP  
 Executive Director

## Solar Up NH Works

Volunteers and community members across the region have been partnering with the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission, Smart Power (a

Linda Moore-O'Brien  
Office Administrator

Linda Shinn  
Financial  
Administrator

John I. Munn, Jr.,  
AICP  
Chief Planner

Nathan Miller, AICP  
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Transportation  
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Jihong "Julie" Chen,  
Ph.D.  
Senior Transportation  
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national marketing firm in Washington DC) and several solar installers: Granite State Solar of Boscaawen, NH; NuWatt Energy of Windham, NH; and Milhouse Enterprises from Belmont, NH to offer residents, businesses, non-profits, churches, agricultural entities and municipalities discounted pricing for installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems within their communities.



There have been several rounds of Solar Up NH in the region to date. The first two rounds occurred in 2015 and involved seven communities (the towns of Bedford, Candia, Chester, Deerfield, Derry, Francestown and Goffstown). These locally-generated campaigns involved many educational workshops, participation at local events, parades, fairs, etc., and distribution of informational letters and flyers to town residents, and marketing via yard signs and banners. All of this community outreach in the original communities generated a total of 1.35 MWs of new renewable solar energy through installations at 91 homes and 3 businesses.

The primary goal of Solar Up NH, to double the number of existing solar systems in every participating community, was easily achieved in each of these towns and the discounts offered through the program were based on the buying power of group purchasing. As more people requested a free site visit and signed contracts for installation, the costs for installation for everyone were reduced upwards of 10 to 15 percent, depending on the type of system installed (roof or ground) by the end of the 16-week campaign. In 2015, all the costs of running Solar Up NH were paid for through a grant to the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission and Smart Power from the John Merck Fund.

In 2016, the Solar Up NH program was set up differently. This year the program has been operating on a new self-funding approach. Instead of the group purchasing approach, a onetime discounted price is offered to everyone who signs up for a system throughout the 16-week campaign. In addition, the participating solar installers were interviewed and selected by local volunteers and, once selected, were required to cover the costs of participation.



This past summer, the towns of Francestown, New Boston and Weare participated in Solar Up NH with the campaigns ending in October. The campaigns in Francestown and New Boston generated 97 total inquiries among residents, and 39 of these inquiries resulted in quotes for solar installations, including interest expressed by the Town of Francestown and the New Boston Public Library. To date, 4 homes signed up for solar and these installations have been completed. In Weare, a total of 152 inquiries were received from residents. Of these 82 percent (125 inquires) resulted in site visits and 26 percent (33 contracts) were signed for new solar installations. The average system size is 7.20 kW. The overall total number of new solar PV systems installed in all three towns is 37.

In the final round of the program this fall and winter, volunteers in the towns of Derry and Londonderry and the Rimmon Heights Neighborhood Association on the West Side of Manchester have been working on

campaigns reaching out to local residents through a number of local workshops and events in their communities. While interest among residents on the West Side of Manchester has been low, interest among residents in Derry and Londonderry has been strong. So far, a total of over 121 inquiries have been generated by residents in Derry and Londonderry for site visits, resulting in 10 contracts for new installations. There has only been one contract for an installation so far on the West Side. The deadline for these campaigns is January 31, 2017.



With the 30 percent federal tax credit, NH state rebates, the sale of renewable energy credits and credits for excess power sold back through the grid (including the discounts offered through Solar Up NH), many homeowners are taking advantage of the benefits of owning their own renewable source of power that will last for many years. The local volunteers and community members among these towns, SNHPC and SmartPower, and most importantly the selected solar installers participating in Solar Up NH, have shown that solar works and by working together more homeowners and communities can successfully take charge of their energy future.

For more information, contact Jack Munn, AICP, Chief Planner, at 603-669-4664 or visit [www.solarupnh.com](http://www.solarupnh.com).

## SNHPC Assists Upper Lamprey Scenic Byway Council complete Corridor Management Plan

In November 2016, a process that's been underway for nearly four years came to its completion. SNHPC staff guided the Upper Lamprey Scenic Byway (ULSB) Council in submitting its required Corridor Management Plan (CMP) to ensure its place as the fourth scenic byway in the SNHPC region. This process had been delayed by fluctuating levels of town participation. However, 2016 saw renewed interest and commitment, and bi-monthly meetings allowed the process to conclude in time for the Statewide Scenic & Cultural Byways meeting on November 10.

The CMP serves as the byway's key planning document. Among its other attributes, the plan includes:

- A description of the Intrinsic Qualities (scenic, historic, natural, cultural and/or recreational resources) along the byway that merit designation;
- An inventory of those buildings, sites and cultural events;
- A summary of existing conditions along the byway, including traffic volumes, current land use, zoning and other regulations in each community;
- Identified strategies for the preservation, enhancement and promotion of the historic buildings, scenic views and cultural events that define the area;
- Strategies for enhancing tourism opportunities along the corridor and

improving safety for all users of the byway.



*Photo Courtesy Lucy Edwards*

The ULSB connects the towns of Candia, Deerfield and Northwood, and contains an assortment of historical, cultural, and natural resources ranging from hilly vistas and a lakeside panorama to classic New England village areas. The northwestern part of the Lamprey River flows through the region, and recreational opportunities abound. In addition to scenery and recreation, the traveler experiences myriad opportunities for antiquing along the Northwood stretch. Historical architecture also exists throughout the 50-mile byway, and is a major draw for anyone interested in New Hampshire's proud days gone by.

The region's four scenic byways and their CMP completion dates are:

- General John Stark (Dec. 2008)
- Londonderry Apple Way (Mar. 2015)
- Robert Frost/Old Stage Coach (Oct. 2015)
- Upper Lamprey (Nov. 2016)

For more information, contact Adam Hlasny, Transportation Planner, at 669-4664 or [ahlasny@snhpc.org](mailto:ahlasny@snhpc.org).

## Senior Transportation Planner Achieves Goal of U.S. Citizenship

Jihong "Julie" Chen, SNHPC Senior Transportation Planner, and her family obtained their U.S. citizenship this past summer. A native of Tangshan, China, Julie came to the United States in 2001 to study and received her Ph.D. in



transportation engineering from Rutgers University. Dr. Chen began working for SNHPC in 2006.

She and her husband, Huanxi, and daughter, Feier (who is about to graduate from medical school), passed their citizenship tests in August and were sworn in as citizens on August 19, 2016.

Congratulations to Julie and her family!

## Piscataquog River Watershed Culvert Priority Model

As a result of federal highway funding provided through NH DOT to the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission, SNHPC staff and the consulting firm of Milone & MacBroom (Waterbury, Vermont), with assistance from NH DOT, NH DES, Trout Unlimited (TU), NH Geologic Survey and the NH Department of Homeland Security, a new and important planning and decision-making screening tool to aid communities in the Piscataquog River Watershed has been developed.

This screening tool is a first of its kind in New Hampshire and it is designed to aid communities in identifying, ranking and selecting priority culverts in their towns for replacement and stream crossing restoration. This screening tool is an Excel and GIS-based model which builds upon previous studies and uses previous data on the existing culverts in the Piscataquog River Watershed, including culvert inventories, geomorphic compatibility screening, approximate hydraulic capacity analysis modeling, and aquatic organism passage screening.



This new planning tool uses existing data to prioritize all types of culverts (box and pipe) for replacement to improve flood resiliency and reconnect aquatic habitats. The screening model will directly aid communities and state agencies in considering funding choices and grant opportunities when

replacing priority culverts before they are damaged or washed out in a storm.

The decision making model was developed based on a review and analysis of the scientific literature of important processes at crossing structures, existing culvert screening tools for structural geomorphic compatibility and aquatic organism passage, existing design guidelines, and previous work performed by Milone & MacBroom in developing culvert screening methods throughout the region. A project report DRAFT of the Piscataquog River Watershed Culvert Prioritization Model and associated User Guide DRAFT dated November 2016 has been posted on the SNHPC website and circulated to state agencies for final review and edits. The report also summarizes a pilot study among three municipalities in the watershed, the towns of Frankestown, Goffstown and Weare; and the results for each town where culverts are assessed with town input are generated. The user guide defines each variable used in the model, describes the model excel spreadsheet, and provides guidance on how to interpret the results.



A final public workshop on the model and the model results was held for all 11 towns in the Piscataquog Watershed on December 14, 2016 starting at 7:30 PM at the New Boston Public Library. Participating state agencies, Trout Unlimited and the Central and Southwest Regional Planning Commissions, including the Piscataquog River Local Advisory Committee were invited to participate at this workshop. Members of town planning boards, boards of selectmen, town managers and administrators, road agents and conservation commissions were invited to attend.

Ultimately the results of this modeling effort will be incorporated into local hazard mitigation plans, capital improvement programming, asset management systems and applications for grants and funding for culvert projects through NH DOT; NH Fish and Game; Wetlands Bureau - Aquatic Mitigation Funds; and Department of Safety and Homeland Security and FEMA grants.

For more information, please contact Jack Munn, AICP, Chief Planner at 669-4664 or [jmunn@snhpc.org](mailto:jmunn@snhpc.org)

## Road Safety Audit Applications

Road Safety Audits (RSAs) intend to address specific safety problems, to examine locations with high potential for successful safety projects, and to make data-driven decisions. The New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) launched a new RSA application process at the end of 2015. Under the new application process, RSA applications will be accepted annually at a given deadline; there will be about four RSAs conducted each year; and RSA applications not selected will be carried forward for up to three years. There are four options for conducting RSAs: 1) Consultant-led RSA with concepts, 2) Consultant-led RSA without concepts, 3) NHDOT-led RSA, and 4)

## Safety study/surveillance.

The first round of RSA applications ended in early 2016. Two applications for the intersections of Back River Road/County Road and Ministerial Road/McAllister Road in Bedford were selected to be conducted by a consultant-led RSA



team. Three applications for the intersections of Hanover Street/Beech Street, Goffstown Road/Montgomery Street and Union/Valley Street in Manchester were selected to be conducted by an NHDOT-led RSA team. These RSAs for Bedford and Manchester were conducted on November 12 and 14, 2016 respectively. Draft RSA reports will be sent by the consultant or NHDOT to the corresponding communities when they are ready.

The NHDOT kicked off the second round RSA applications for 2017 in summer 2016 with a deadline of December 1, 2016. Meanwhile, the Southern NH Planning Commission is assisting communities in preparing RSA applications by providing collision diagrams, summaries of accident data and traffic data. Two RSA applications from communities in the SNHPC region have been sent to NHDOT. They are intersections of:

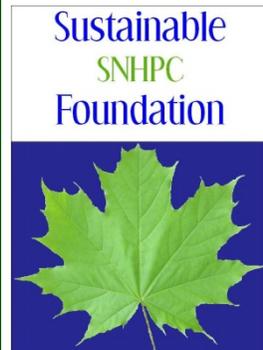
1. Liberty Hill Road/County Road, Bedford
2. Queen City Avenue/Second Street, Manchester

The NHDOT will rank locations received statewide. For more information on the RSA applications, contact Julie Chen, Ph.D., SNHPC Senior Transportation Planner, at (603) 669-4664 or [jchen@snhpc.org](mailto:jchen@snhpc.org).

## Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation Donates \$10,000 to Sustainable SNHPC Foundation

### *Project to Foster Opioid Addiction Recovery in Southern NH*

The **Sustainable SNHPC Foundation** is pleased to announce receipt of a \$10,000 Partnership Grant from the **Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation** to work with the Southern NH Planning Commission's (SNHPC's) communities, public agencies, and private businesses to identify needs and issues surrounding transitional recovery housing programs.



"Eastern Bank is deeply committed to giving back to the communities we serve," said Eastern Bank's Joe Reilly, Regional President, New Hampshire. "We're proud to support the Sustainable Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission Foundation in its life-saving initiative to develop solutions to combat the opioid crisis."

In this project, SNHPC staff will work with public health service providers, land use regulators, and communities in assessing existing land use regulations and permitting processes and providing guidance to SNHPC communities with the siting of recovery housing.



"The opioid health crisis in New Hampshire is a major concern for SNHPC and its communities," said David J. Preece, AICP, executive director and chief executive officer, Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission. "Existing regional public health networks, Continuums of Care, Law Enforcement, and Fire Protection Agencies are tackling various aspects of the crisis. However, siting of recovery housing facilities, land use regulation roadblocks, community opposition due to misunderstanding the issues, and education for land use boards, public officials, and other stakeholders have not been addressed. SNHPC intends to provide an education/outreach initiative,

as well as assist our Region's communities and service providers in overcoming these barriers."

For more information, contact David Preece, AICP, Executive Director at 603-669-4664 or [dpreece@snhpc.org](mailto:dpreece@snhpc.org).

## 2016 Legislative Outreach

Despite a morning snowstorm, the **Southern NH Planning Commission's** legislative event, **Growing a Sustainable Tech Ecosystem**, held at the NH Institute of Politics at Saint Anselm College, was a success. The following are some of the highlights with links for additional information.

**Steve Norton, Executive Director, NH Center for Public Policy Studies**, discussed why looking at the needs of tech companies and tech workforce is important to the communities of Southern NH and NH, both demographically and economically. Mr. Norton stated that for several decades, New Hampshire has stood out as an economic anomaly in the Northeast. With a highly-educated workforce, high rates of in-migration and a high median per-capita income, New Hampshire boasted a strong, vibrant economy that gave it distinct advantages over its neighbors. After benefiting from nearly three decades of economic tailwinds, New Hampshire now faces a strong headwind: net out-migration, an aging population and decreased labor productivity. <http://www.snhpc.org/pdf/NHCtrPubPolicyStudies.pdf>



**Colleen Cone, VP of Talent and Culture, Dyn**, spoke on what tech companies are looking for. Ms. Cone discussed that hiring the right people has been one way Dyn stay ahead of the competition. She noted that not only hiring the brightest minds are important, but it is also important to hire people who thrive in Dyn's values-based culture, centered around trust, passion, performance and respect. [http://www.snhpc.org/pdf/Dyn\\_presentation.pdf](http://www.snhpc.org/pdf/Dyn_presentation.pdf)

**Susan Huard, Ph.D., President, Manchester Community College**, presented what can Colleges and Universities do to help provide the needed technical workforce. Dr. Huard remarked there is an urgent need to have a skilled workforce that can meet the projected demands across New Hampshire. She noted that the universities and community colleges are committed to working with businesses to train and retrain employees to develop a robust workforce.

**Matt Cookson, Executive Director, NH High Tech Council**, discussed how to determine the workforce skill needs and gaps. Mr. Cookson remarked the Southern New Hampshire needs to attract, retain and retrain, and it is essential that the tech sector partners with the local colleges and universities area to start addressing this tech workforce gap. <http://www.snhpc.org/pdf/NHHighTechCouncil.pdf>

Manchester Public Television videotaped the event and you can now watch it in the warmth of your own home. The link is <https://vimeo.com/195672047>

For more information, contact David Preece, AICP, Executive Director at 603-669-4664 or [dpreece@snhpc.org](mailto:dpreece@snhpc.org).

## The World's Newest Planner Arrives!

On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, Nate Miller (SNHPC Principal Transportation Planner) and his wife Rita welcomed their first child, a bouncing baby girl named Olivia Jane Miller. Olivia was born happy and healthy at 6 lbs. 10 oz. after 20 hours of labor.



Nate and Rita report that Olivia already has a distinct personality. She enjoys eating, sleeping (although she doesn't enjoy sleeping in her crib), and staring at any lamp or light that is on in the house. She also likes being tickled, and showing off her new ability to giggle.

Even though both of Olivia's parents are transportation planners, she has not yet shown any interest in transportation infrastructure. Rather, she falls asleep as soon as she's in the car. She does, however, enjoy doing bicycle kicks (especially when she's mad). So, Nate and Rita expect that she'll be an avid cyclist when she gets older.

Congratulations Nate and Rita, and welcome to the world Olivia!