



Annual Report of  
NASHUA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
Activities for the  
THE TOWN OF MILFORD  
~ 2012 ~

The Nashua Regional Planning Commission is formed by the thirteen communities of Milford, Hudson, Pelham, Litchfield, Merrimack, Nashua, Amherst, Hollis, Brookline, Mont Vernon, Lyndeborough, Wilton, and Mason. NRPC serves as a resource to support and enhance local planning, provides a forum for communities to coordinate land use, environmental and transportation planning at the regional level, and provides a clear voice for the region at the state and federal levels. Our core planning programs are transportation, land use, environment, and mapping. NRPC is also the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the region and is responsible for developing and maintaining the region's official transportation planning program for transportation projects that are funded through Federal or State sources.

In 2012, NRPC provided the assistance summarized below directly to Town Departments, land use boards and commissions, and the Board of Selectmen. Town officials, staff and board members also have access to the many training and educational programs NRPC offers and may request customized services through NRPC programs.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

NRPC is responsible for developing the region's portion of the State's Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), maintaining the regional traffic model, and performing required air quality analyses. In addition, NRPC MPO funds are used to provide municipal technical assistance on transportation issues.

**Traffic Data Collection** – NRPC completed traffic counts throughout the region including within the Town of Milford to support the Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS). All traffic counts are available for use by the Town and NRPC can conduct special counts upon request. The count data is available to anyone through the NRPC website using the Google Maps feature and more detailed data from each count is available upon request. In 2012, NRPC collected traffic counts at 11 locations within Milford to support the federal Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) program. The count data is used to support a data driven decision process that defines the scope and size of the Federal-aid Highway Program.

**Transportation Improvement Program** – As the designated MPO for the region, NRPC maintains the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP is a document required under federal transportation regulations that shows that there are

sufficient resources to fund the proposed projects. All federally funded highway improvements must be included in the region's TIP in order to receive federal funding.

NRPC is responsible for the development and maintenance of the TIP so that federal highway transportation dollars are available to Milford and the rest of the region. Throughout 2012, NRPC carefully monitored the status of Milford projects in the TIP to ensure that project information and changes initiated by NHDOT were communicated to the Town planning and community development staff. Specific projects which NRPC monitored include: safety improvements on NH 101, intersection improvements on 101A, the Milford Oval and South Street improvement projects, and signal modifications and improvements at the intersection of NH 13 with Emerson Road and Armory Road.

**Souhegan Valley Transportation Collaborative (SVTC)** - NRPC continues to support the SVTC in its 5th year of service. NRPC was awarded federal transit administration funds to expand the operation of the service. This grant allowed SVTC to expand existing service to 5 days per week (Monday through Friday) and increase the available hours of operation per day to up to 10 hours per day (8:00AM to 6:00PM) and/or additional buses depending on passenger demand and community needs. It also provided the flexibility to increase the number of destinations served by the service. This service is available to eligible residents of Milford. Learn more at <http://souheganrides.org/>.

**Congestion Management Process** – The NRPC has developed a Congestion Management Plan (CMP) designed to identify areas of congestion and develop solutions for more effective management of the transportation system. This plan provides information to municipal decision makers to assess the effectiveness of strategies and identify investment priorities. In 2012, NRPC collected travel time data on NH 101A which will be used to support prioritization of transportation improvements in the region.

**Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Program** – The CMAQ program provides funding opportunities for communities to address transportation needs that have a direct and beneficial impact on air quality in the region. NRPC assisted town staff with a successful CMAQ application grant to acquire funding for the previously mentioned signal modifications and improvements at the intersection of NH 13 with Emerson Road and Armory Road. Throughout 2012 NRPC continued to support town of Milford staff by monitoring the project to ensure expeditious and efficient implementation.

**Road Inventory** – During 2012, NRPC staff prepared the updated data in the Town Road Inventory. This data set allows officials from the Town and NH DOT to have the most up to date information on Milford's roads and will be used for planning road improvements in the community. This data also forms the basis for the Town's allocation of Transportation Block Aid from the State.

**Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)** – During 2012, NRPC began a major update to the region's Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The purpose of this document is to identify the long term transportation needs of the region. It provides a mechanism for the communities of the region to have a voice in the transportation planning process and decisions. NRPC staff worked closely with Town of Milford staff to identify local

transportation improvements that benefit the Town. Including these projects in the MTP will provide the opportunity for future funding through the states Ten Year Plan Process.

**NH Capitol Corridor Passenger Rail Project** – During the course of 2012 NRPC continued to work toward the development of the NH Capitol Corridor project. Activities this year included participation on the New Hampshire Rail Transit Authority, the operating entity for the rail project, and pursuing options to study the feasibility of passenger rail in the corridor.

**Regional Traffic Model – Regional Traffic Model** – NRPC is nearing completion of a large-scale update to the regional traffic model in conjunction with the release of new U.S. Census data, new regional employment data, and NRPC's updated community-by-community population projections through 2040 (see below). This update will also allow NRPC to provide morning and afternoon peak hour traffic forecasts, as well as more accurately model traffic signalization and intersection issues. NRPC can then provide more specific information to the town when assessing the impact of traffic from new development. This capability is available for town use whenever there is interest, without cost, and the town staff has utilized NRPC traffic expertise on several occasions to help study critical intersections and development issues.

This year, NRPC also provided modeling data support to consultants working on the NH13-Emerson Rd-Armory Rd project.

**Population Projections** – In the absence of updated projections from the NH Office of Energy and Planning State Data Center, NRPC staff have developed population projections for the Town of Milford that will aid in community planning through 2040. Additionally, NRPC developed similar projections for all towns in the region as has Southern NH Planning Commission, allowing Milford to track its future in comparison with neighboring communities.

**Human Service Transit Coordination** –The NRPC has been the leader in the state in this process and was recognized as the first Regional Coordinating Council. In the coming years it is anticipated that this project will lead to increased transit service throughout the NRPC region and help meet the transportation needs of many seniors and disabled adults without transportation options.

**Safe Routes to Schools Program** - The Safe Routes program encourages children to bike or walk to school through education and incentives that remind children 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 continues to pursue Safe Routes to School funding for communities and school districts in the region.

## **LAND USE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**NRPC Energy Program** – In 2012, NRPC utilized funding from the Energy Technical Assistance and Planning (ETAP) program to work with the Town of Milford along with 10 additional towns and 6 school districts to form an aggregation to procure a competitive electricity supply. As a result of a successful bidding process, the Town saw an estimated annual savings of \$71,466 on its municipal electricity bills. Although

the ETAP program ended in April 2012, NRPC was able to continue working with the aggregation to help members renew their electricity supply contracts for 2013. Consequently, Milford's anticipated electricity savings in 2013 are \$57,576.

**Resources and Training** – Through the innovative iTRaC (Integrating Transportation and Community Planning) program the NRPC provided a wide array of resources to town volunteers and staff. Fact sheets are available on our website and cover numerous topics relevant to local boards and staff. In addition, presentations were offered on Form Based Codes and Green Streets.

**Household Hazardous Waste Program** – Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) comes from everyday products used in the home, yard, or garden. By definition, they are corrosive, flammable, toxic, or reactive. Non-latex paint, solvents, oven cleaner, pool chemicals, pesticides, drain opener, and auto chemicals are just a few examples. The Nashua Regional Planning Commission organizes HHW Collections each year to allow residents to properly dispose of these products. During these events, participants can also recycle unwanted electronics.

The Nashua Regional Solid Waste Management District held six collections during the 2012 Household Hazardous Waste season, including 1 in Milford. In 2012, a total of 1,280 households participated in the HHW collections District-wide; of those, 105 households came from Milford. A total of 79,819 pounds of material was collected in 2012. Milford residents comprised 8.2% of the total participation, which equates to roughly 6,545 pounds of waste removed from the Town's waste stream.

**Milford Community Planning Grant** - NRPC worked with the Milford Office of Community Development and the Milford Planning Board on a Draft Regulatory Audit Report which will help determine the consistency of the Town's Zoning Ordinance and Development Regulations with the adopted vision and goals of the 2012 Housing Chapter of the Milford Master Plan. On November 13, 2012, the team worked through a variety of housing topics including Conservation Subdivisions, housing affordability, the benefits and drawbacks to density bonuses, mixed-use development, accessory dwelling units, town water and sewer capacity, etc. NRPC will meet with the Planning Board in 2013 to finish the final draft of the Report. Community outreach is anticipated to occur during the beginning of 2013.

**Granite State Future** – In 2012 Nashua Regional Planning Commission was awarded a grant from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to fund NH's regional plan updates. NRPC, acting as the program's lead and collaborating with the eight other RPCs in NH, is developing a common set of data to be made available statewide to aid municipalities in their own planning efforts. Additionally under development are a set of online public participation tools, which can be found at [www.granitestatefuture.org](http://www.granitestatefuture.org).

**Regional Plan** – The NRPC began the three-year process of updating the comprehensive regional plan for the Nashua Region, as required by state law. Much of 2012 was spent getting the word out about the plan and gathering input. In addition to meeting with municipal officials from each NRPC town, staff attended numerous public events and collected approximately 1,000 survey responses from people around the region. In Milford, we gathered public input at the Milford Pumpkin Festival and the Southern New Hampshire Business Expo. The top three things that people stated were

best about Milford were: (1) small-town feel, (2) conveniences and amenities, and (3) community and people. The top three things that people stated could make Milford better were: (1) public transportation, (2) recreational fields and activities, and (3) less traffic.

## **GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS)**

**General Mapping and Spatial Data Maintenance** - The GIS staff at NRPC continues to maintain a diverse collection of mapping information and databases including local roads, real property parcels, zoning, land use, and environmental conditions. This data is applied extensively to provide mapping and analysis for local and/or regional projects. NRPC continued its quarterly updates to the town parcels layer, using the Registry of Deeds database to update the town digital parcel map to include all changes to property data. This item is a critical component of many projects conducted in the town and is always available to the town from NRPC free of charge. NRPC also worked with the assessing department to acquire the latest set of land use and housing data to join geographically for improved mapping and data analysis.

**New Standard Maps** – At the end of 2012, NRPC released an update to its poster-sized standard map series. These maps are available as PDFs on the NRPC website, and hard copies are being printed and delivered to every community in our region, including Milford. The standard maps are: 1) Street Index and Town Features, 2) Land Use, 3) Zoning, and 4) Environmental Features.

**GIS Discovery Sessions** - The GIS group met with the Town of Milford to discuss how the Town can best take advantage of NRPC's GIS services. Meeting topics covered included a review of the overall technical investment in GIS at the local level, community need for GIS services, a discussion of NRPC's GIS capabilities, and recommendations to the Town for future options.

**Census Data** – NRPC collected and processed datasets from the ongoing US Census Bureau American Community Survey estimate program at various geographic levels, including: state, county, town, tracts, block groups and blocks. Census data is very important in planning efforts and decision making for communities. Updated estimates in categories such as population, race, language, employment, poverty and housing are used in regional and local plans, and will be the inputs to the updated travel demand model.

**Broadband Mapping** – NRPC provided data collection support to the New Hampshire Broadband Mapping and Planning Program. This year, tasks included updating the Community Anchor Institution database with new emails, and filling in contact information for new facilities. Thanks to this effort, the proper contacts at all anchor institutions, such as schools, town halls, and libraries, are now being emailed to update their broadband survey information over the web.

NRPC also continues to coordinate the rural addressing project, which is mapping every household in a rural census block throughout the state. Milford has 1 such block with 223 reported households, and it was completed in the fall by volunteers using the latest GPS technology on an iPad.

**Broadband Planning** – In 2012, NRPC worked closely with the Greater Nashua Region Broadband Stakeholder Group (BSG) on a variety of Broadband Planning tasks

for the region. The BSG is comprised of diverse regional stakeholders representing a variety of sectors such as health, education, economic development, public safety, local government, communications/media, etc. NRPC, with support from the BSG, identified barriers to broadband in the region, began a draft for a regional broadband plan, conducted community outreach and education to municipalities, businesses, etc., and conducted a sector based analysis, through surveys and interviews, to help better understand the current and future broadband needs/barriers of sectors in the Region. Specifically, NRPC held a public forum at the Milford Rotary Club to provide an overview on broadband technology and the New Hampshire Broadband Mapping and Planning Project and assessed broadband needs and barriers.

Additionally, NRPC created a summary brochure on broadband technology and the New Hampshire Broadband Mapping and Planning Project. The brochure is available on the NRPC website at

[http://www.nashuarpc.org/home\\_page/pdf/BBOverviewBrochure](http://www.nashuarpc.org/home_page/pdf/BBOverviewBrochure).

For more information contact Kerrie Diers, Executive Director at 603-424-2240, ext. 12 or via email at [kerried@nashuarpc.org](mailto:kerried@nashuarpc.org) or visit the NRPC website at [www.nashuarpc.org](http://www.nashuarpc.org).

---

## ***2013 Household Hazardous Wastes Collection Schedule***

Household Hazardous Wastes (HHW) come from everyday products used in the home, yard, or garden. By definition, they are corrosive, flammable, toxic, or reactive. Oil-based paints and solvents, oven cleaners, pool chemicals, pesticides, drain openers, and auto chemicals are just a few examples. NRPC holds HHW Collections to allow residents to properly dispose of these products.

We are always looking for volunteers to help at our collection events. If you are interested, please contact Jill Longval, [jillL@nashuarpc.org](mailto:jillL@nashuarpc.org).

### **2013 Collection Schedule:**

- Saturday, April 20, 2013 ~ in Nashua, 8:00am-12:00pm
- ***Saturday, May 4, 2013 ~ in Milford, 8:00am-12:00pm***
- Thursday, June 6, 2013 ~ in Nashua, 3:00pm-7:00pm
- Saturday, August 3, 2013 ~ in Nashua, 8:00am-12:00pm (tentative)
- Saturday, October 5, 2013 ~ in Nashua, 8:00am-12:00pm (tentative)
- Saturday, November 2, 2013 ~ in Nashua, 8:00am-12:00pm (tentative)

Nashua Location: Nashua Public Works Garage, 9 Stadium Drive

Milford Location: (**MAY 4 ONLY**) Milford Public Works Garage, 289 South Street

User Fees (cash or check): \$10 per vehicle, for up to 10 gallons or 20 pounds of waste