



Value Yesterday. Enhance Tomorrow. Plan Today.

In a region with a long and storied history, the Nashua Regional Planning Commission strives to honor the past and preserve its historic traditions while working to make the region the best possible place to live, work, and play both today and for the benefit of future generations. The NRPC provides comprehensive planning services for local land use, transportation, and environmental planning efforts, and delivers extensive mapping and data assistance utilizing the latest technologies. Membership in NRPC allows communities to access customized services by request as well as resources such as:

- **Transportation Planning:** Grant writing, custom traffic counts and data, transportation modeling, intersection analysis, road safety audits, road surface management system, parking studies.
- **Land Use Planning:** Customized land use board training and materials, draft ordinance and regulation review, special projects and research assistance, fact sheets, guidebooks and educational resources, master plan consultation, and project scoping.
- **Data and GIS Mapping:** Demographic data and analysis, mapping data and standard map sets, GIS community needs assessments, production of annual tax maps and NRPC Live Maps.
- **Environment and Energy:** Group energy purchase for municipal and school facilities, consultation for local Energy Committees, MS4 Permit coordination, household hazardous waste collections.

In 2014, NRPC launched our new website at www.nashuarpc.org. The site is intuitive to navigate and information is easier to find. It promotes understanding about NRPC: our mission, our services, and the value we provide. The site contains a wealth of data resources presented in a modern, creative, and interactive manner to meet the evolving expectations of our communities. For each of our core planning areas, Transportation, Land Use Planning, GIS, and Environment, there are pages that summarize our service offerings with illustrative work examples. In addition, there is a transportation data viewer, a searchable Document Library and new flagship application called Live Maps that allows users to create their own parcel level maps.

In 2014, NRPC provided the following services to the Town of Milford:

TRANSPORTATION

Traffic Data Collection – NRPC collected traffic counts at 13 locations within Milford. These counts were collected in cooperation with NH Department of Transportation to support the Highway Performance Monitoring System. The data that was collected included total traffic volume at all 13 locations, and vehicle classification at 1 location. NRPC staff has also collected data at other locations in recent years to support various town requests. Historical data for all locations may be found at:

<http://www.nashuarpc.org/trafficcount/index.htm>.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – NRPC develops and maintains the TIP so that federal highway transportation dollars are available to Milford and the rest of the region. Throughout 2014, 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. These include:

- NH101: Safety improvements from Wilton Road to NH 101 / Elm Street intersection.
- South Street: Construct of phase 2 of the downtown revitalization plan.
- NH Route 13/Emerson Rd/Armory Rd: Signal modification and additional turn lanes.
- NH101A: Engineering and Right of Way phases for improvements at NH101 WB on-ramp and widening from Craftsman Ln. to Continental Blvd.
- NH 101: Engineering and Right of Way phases Corridor improvements from NH 31 in Wilton to Wallace Rd. in Bedford.
- NH 101A/NH 13: Improvements in the area known as the "Oval" to improve traffic flow based on ongoing traffic studies within the town.
- Jennison Road: Bridge Rehabilitation over Hartshorn Brook.

2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) - NRPC develops and maintains the MTP so that federally funded and regionally significant transportation projects can be advanced towards design and construction. The MTP lists multimodal projects over a 25-year planning horizon and is the source from which specific projects are identified, prioritized and selected for funding through the Ten Year Plan and TIP. This is a critical step to ensure federal highway transportation dollars are available to Milford and the rest of the region. NRPC is working to advance projects through the transportation planning process to support Milford. These include:

- NH 101: Corridor improvements from NH 31 in Wilton to Wallace Rd in Bedford
- NH 101: Widening of NH 101 between west end of bypass and Bedford town line to four-lane access controlled highway

Souhegan Valley Transportation Collaborative (SVTC) - NRPC continues to support the SVTC. NRPC was again awarded federal transit administration funds to assist the expand the operation of the service. This grant allowed SVTC to evaluate expansion opportunities to other communities in the region while maintaining its level of service to the residents of Milford. 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://www.souheganrides.org/>.

Pedestrian, Bicycle, Trail and Recreation Connectivity Plan - The Nashua Regional Planning Commission worked with the Milford Planning Board and the town's Community Development Office to develop the Milford Pedestrian, Bicycle, Trail and Recreation Connectivity Plan in 2014. The project serves as a guide for the implementation of future pedestrian and bicycle routes, trails and corridors and identifies locations where connections are necessary to provide safe and reasonable access between existing destinations in the community.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS)

Data and Mapping Services – NRPC continues to maintain an authoritative digital GIS basemap for the region. NRPC completed a region-wide set of building footprints in 2014, and initiated a project of inventorying existing trail data. As part of a Community

Block Grant, NRPC assisted the Town of Milford with the creation of a Town Center Pedestrian, Trail and Recreation Bicycle Connectivity Plan.

Applications – MapGeo, NRPC’s award-winning Live Maps App, is a public-facing resource for property information in the region. NRPC’s Transportation Data Viewer hosts the most up-to-date traffic counts and transportation project information, in an easy-to-use Google Interface.

Training and Workshops – NRPC hosted the free, instructor-led classroom training, “Introduction to American Factfinder with Thematic Mapping.” We also continued the quarterly GIS Brownbag Lunch Series, an informal knowledge-exchange among GIS users in the region. Geared towards municipal GIS users and open to the public, each meeting features general news and announcements, followed by a guest speaker or open group discussion on a particular GIS project or topic. In 2014 NRPC developed expertise in CommunityViz scenario planning software and presented a regional build-out model to our towns.

LAND USE AND ENVIRONMENT

Electricity Supply Aggregation - NRPC serves as an aggregator to facilitate a bid process among competitive electricity suppliers licensed with the NH Public Utilities Commission. In 2014, NRPC worked with aggregation members to obtain a 9-month competitive electricity supply contract running from February to November 2014. Savings among aggregation members varied based on usage. Individual 9-month savings resulting from the 2014 bid process ranged from \$863 to \$35,201; the Town of Milford is anticipated to save \$35,201. Total combined 9-month savings for members of the aggregation are \$165,781 or 19.4% compared to the utility rate.

Household Hazardous Waste Program - On behalf of the Nashua Regional Solid Waste Management District, NRPC conducts six HHW collections each year to allow residents to properly dispose of hazardous products. Five of the events were located at the Nashua Public Works Garage and one was held in Milford. Residents of Milford could attend any of the six events.

In 2014, a total of 1,623 households participated in the HHW collections District-wide; of those, 142 households came from Milford. In 2014, participation rates among Milford households were the highest they have been in since 2007. District-wide, participation rates in 2014 were the 3rd highest they have been in the past 10 years and the highest they have been since 2007.

The Solid Waste District manifested a total of 84,799 pounds of waste during the 2014 collection season. Non-latex paint is the most common item received (50.3%). Solvents and thinners were the second most common item (37.9%). Lawn and garden products were the third most common item (25.3%). In comparison, Milford residents brought 54.9% non-latex paint, 37.3% solvents and thinners, and 27.5% lawn and garden products.

Hazard Mitigation - NRPC worked with Milford’s hazard mitigation team to complete the update to the Town’s Hazard Mitigation Plan, incorporating newly obtained fluvial erosion hazard data. The new data documents the causes of erosion and other river movements, identifies property and infrastructure at risk, and determines how areas at

greatest risk can be targeted for hazard mitigation opportunities such as culvert replacements or bank stabilization projects. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires that municipalities update their hazard mitigation plans every 5 years in order to maintain eligibility for federal mitigation grants. Milford's Hazard Mitigation Plan Update is complete and is pending formal approval from FEMA.

Milford Health Impact Assessment - The NRPC prepared a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) of the Planning Board's draft modifications to the Open Space and Conservation District and associated proposed density bonuses. The HIA used an array of data sources and analytic methods and considered input from stakeholders to determine the potential effects of a proposed policy, plan, program, or project on the health of a population and the distribution of the effects within the population. The report provided recommendations on monitoring and managing those effects and provided recommendations to enhance the proposed density bonuses relative to six identified health areas: opportunities for social cohesion, impacts to water quality, exposure to air pollutants, safety from crime, traffic safety, and housing affordability.

Respectfully submitted,

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