

Central New Hampshire Regional Plan: A GRANITE STATE FUTURE



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New Hampshire's nine Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) have a unique opportunity to develop regional Master Plans through a federally-funded program entitled **A Granite State Future**. The regional Master Plans will be based upon grassroots local values and needs that together present a vision for how we can improve our communities, regions, and the state. The Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission (CNHRPC) will be working to develop the new **Central New Hampshire Regional Plan**.

The three-year project is based on recognizing that obtaining and then considering all available options can result in more informed public decisions. Throughout the state, regions and communities continually address issues such as land use, transportation, economic development, infrastructure, housing, public health, energy, and cultural, historic, and natural resources. The regional Master Plans developed under **A Granite State Future** can serve as resources to assist communities with making decisions related to these issues, which increase efficiencies and benefits for our state's residents. Ultimately, the regional data and resulting implementation actions can be used by area communities during their development of local Master Plans if they wish.

To obtain a better understanding of our CNHRPC region's values and needs, the project provides an extraordinary level of emphasis on public engagement in the planning process. The staff of the nine RPCs will be working with a range of community and business leaders, state agencies, counties and municipalities, and non-profits and citizen groups to develop a productive public dialogue within each region, including in our Central NH Region. Supported by New Hampshire-based resources and technical support, **A Granite State Future** is designed to be a product of the people of New Hampshire and is committed to engaging all sectors of our population to identify shared interests to more effectively utilize limited government resources. We believe better public decisions are made when everyone affected participates in the process, which is the goal of the extensive public engagement activities.

To begin the **Central New Hampshire Regional Plan** development process, in the summer of 2012 we will place "listening" boxes around the CNHRPC region to encourage the submission of comment cards to identify peoples' values and needs. We will begin to recruit local and regional partners representing a broad cross-section of communities and interests to serve on a Regional Advisory Team to oversee the planning process. In the fall, we will begin to reach out to citizens during some local events to obtain further public input. More activities will be held as the planning process continues through 2015, when the **Central New Hampshire Regional Plan** will be concluded. Find information on the project and each region at www.granitestatefuture.org.

In the meantime, state-wide committees with participants from throughout the state will assist with compilation of necessary data. When complete, the nine regional Master Plans, including our **Central New Hampshire Regional Plan**, will identify potential implementation actions. CNHRPC communities are encouraged to use the Plan information to update local Master Plans and communicate with other municipalities to identify, share, and replicate successful projects. The Regional Plans can assist communities large and small to achieve economic vitality and protect the natural environment, community character, and rural landscapes that are so important to New Hampshire. **A Granite State Future** is the way to get us there.



NH'S NINE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS

Region 1: North Country Council

Bethlehem, NH
Michael King, Executive Director
www.nccouncil.org

Region 2: Lakes Region Planning Commission

Meredith, NH
Kimon Koulet, Executive Director
www.lakesrpc.org

Region 3: Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission

Lebanon, NH
Christine Walker, Executive Director
www.uvlsrc.org

Region 4: Southwest Region Planning Commission

Keene, NH
Tim Murphy, Executive Director
www.swrpc.org

Region 5A: Central NH Regional Planning Commission

Concord, NH
Michael Tardiff, Executive Director
www.cnhrpc.org

Region 5B: Southern NH Planning Commission

Manchester, NH
David Preece, Executive Director
www.snhpc.org

Region 5C: Nashua Regional Planning Commission

Merrimack, NH
Kerrie Diers, Executive Director
www.nashuarpc.org

Region 6: Rockingham Planning Commission

Exeter, NH
Cliff Sinnott, Executive Director
www.rpc-nh.org

Region 7: Strafford Regional Planning Commission

Dover, NH
Cynthia Copeland, Executive Director
www.strafford.org

Regional Planning Commissions

- 1 - North Country Council
- 2 - Lakes Region
- 3 - Upper Valley Lake Sunapee
- 4 - Southwest
- 5A - Central New Hampshire
- 5B - Southern New Hampshire
- 5C - Nashua
- 6 - Rockingham
- 7 - Strafford

