

A GRANITE STATE FUTURE

New Hampshire, its regions and municipalities have a unique opportunity to address local problems and needs by joining forces through an ambitious three-year project being led by the State's nine Regional Planning Commissions. A Granite State Future will develop nine regional comprehensive plans based upon local values and needs that together present a vision for how we can improve our communities, regions, and the State. The 3-year project will culminate with a snapshot of regional priorities and visions for New Hampshire's future. The project is based on the recognition that better public decisions get made when we consider all the options and look at the big picture. Throughout the state, regions and localities are facing decisions about transportation and land use, about economic development and resource management, and about housing, public health, energy, and cultural, historic, and natural resources. A Granite State Future will help make decisions about all of these from within a common framework, increasing efficiencies and benefits for New Hampshire's taxpayers.

The program provides an unprecedented level of support for, and emphasis on, public engagement in the planning process. The staff of New Hampshire's nine Regional Planning Commissions will be working with a range of community and business leaders, state agencies, counties and municipalities, and citizen groups, to develop a robust and productive public dialogue within each region. The project is specifically committed to engaging members of communities at the grass roots level and being responsive to the interests of every sector of the community. Better public decisions are made when everyone affected participates in the process. Supported by NH based resources and technical support, A Granite State Future will be the product of the people of New Hampshire to identify shared interests, and direct the use of limited government resources.

This initiative will help to truly engage communities, regions and the State, to identify, share and replicate successful projects. Together, this collaboration will make it possible for large communities and small villages throughout the state to achieve economic vitality, and can protect the natural resources, character and rural landscapes that are so important to New Hampshire.

The objectives of this project are to:

- Protect New Hampshire's unique beauty and character.
- Identify local assets that are important to the lasting prosperity of our communities, regions and State.
- Capitalize on and incorporate shared values and opportunities included in existing plans and research.
- Plan for public infrastructure investment through an open and transparent process.
- Direct capital investments toward locally identified needs.
- Conserve our natural, social and financial resources.

Starting in the fall of 2012, the project will be sponsoring community listening sessions, with support from the University of New Hampshire's Carsey institute. These sessions will provide vital information and perspective, toward addressing the unique needs of local and regional communities through a fair and democratic process. Over the following months, the RPC's will lead their communities in looking at the big picture to consider the impacts of land use and transportation on our economic development, our health, our costs, and our natural and cultural resources. Through scenario planning, communities will think through desired future development patterns, and identify and prioritize place-based implementation projects that support social connections and cultural values. The plans will identify implementation actions that balance community needs and identify the most efficient use of limited government resources for future infrastructure and community investments, making wise use of limited financial resources.

Right now, each of the Regional Planning Commissions is looking for local and regional partners to help recruit and serve on regional leadership teams representing a broad cross-section of their communities. Members of these teams will help shape and promote the process, and will have a unique opportunity to serve their communities, to listen to their neighbors, and to help build A Granite State Future.

July 13, 2012

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 Lakes Sunapee Regional Planning Commission

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

Region 4: Southwest Region Planning Comm.

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

Rochester, 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

