



Winter 2013

Winter Newsletter

Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission

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NH DOT Commissioner's Overview of Road Conditions

The Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) hosted NH Department of Transportation (DOT) Commissioner Christopher Clement at their January meeting. The TAC is currently in the process of updating regional priorities that will become part of the NH Ten Year Transportation Plan.

Commissioner Clement provided an overview of the conditions and funding challenges that exist in NH. Some issues are more pronounced in NH; NH has among the highest winter severity issues. Forty percent of the highway maintenance expenditures are spent on snow and ice control. He noted that roads are more challenging to

maintain because the price of asphalt and cement has increased 460% since 1992. He stated that while the costs of maintaining roads and bridges have increased, revenues to support the transportation system have not. The last time the gas tax was raised in NH was in 1992.

It is estimated that to maintain the existing pavement conditions in NH it would cost \$12M. Commissioner Clement demonstrated how 37% of NH's roads are in poor condition and another 44% are in fair condition. There are 140 state owned bridges that are on the 'red list' which is defined as consisting of a major structural deficiency. Additionally, there are 353 municipally and otherwise owned 'red listed' bridges in NH. *continued on page 2*

Safe Chemical Management in Schools

The Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission in a joint effort with two Vermont Solid Waste Districts has received funding from the USDA Solid Waste Grant program. This year's focus is on increasing accessibility to collections for household hazardous waste and unwanted medicine and food waste composting and develop a marketing campaign to purchase products that do not contain chemicals that are harmful. It also includes developing workshops for schools to help them manage their chemicals in a safe and practical way.

There are an abundance of chemicals lurking in schools. Some chemicals are in constant use in classroom laboratories, art and photography studios, bus maintenance

garages, and closets. Others have been forgotten and may have labels facing away so identification and handling messages cannot be read until the chemical is picked up by someone. If chemicals are old, they may be shock sensitive.

Many schools have cleaned out their unused or old chemicals, but many have not. Last year in Vermont, a high school was evacuated due to a chemical fire in the school's classroom laboratory. It was summer so few people were in the building, but five people were taken to the hospital. This is just one indication that safe chemical management training is needed for administrators and science teachers.

Chemical management workshops were offered in both New Hampshire and *continued on page 2*

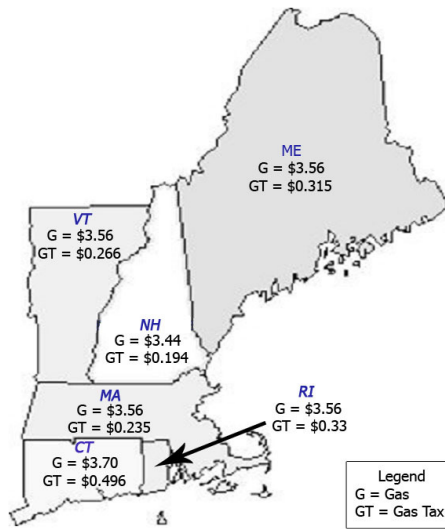
Sign up for our E-Bulletin-contact Chris at 603-448-1680



Overview of New Hampshire Road Conditions *from page 1*

After the Commissioner's presentation, the TAC and other members of the public spent about an hour discussing the issues and talking about the needs here in this region. In the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission area, there are currently more than \$65M in known transportation infrastructure needs. The TAC's job over the next few months will be to prioritize those projects and deliver the region's recommendations to the DOT for inclusion in the State's Ten Year Plan.

Municipalities within the region have been notified about funding constraints, but have additionally been



Gas Tax and Gas at the Pump in New England.
Source: NH DOT

asked to identify any new issues and projects they feel should be considered for Ten Year Plan funding. The TAC will have its work cut out for it to prioritize the needs of the region over the next few months.

TAC members are appointed by their community's Selectboard/City Council to represent the interests of their community. If you would like to learn more about the TAC or the Ten Year Plan process please contact Nate Miller at 448-1680 or email nmiller@uvlsrpc.org or visit our website www.uvlsrpc.org.

Safe Chemical Management in Schools *from page 1*

Vermont about ten years ago, but there are always personnel changes in schools; these lessons are not always carried on by new employees. (The VT HS mentioned above had participated in the earlier training.)

Victoria Davis, a planner at the Commission is working with representatives from NH Department of Environmental Services, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Vermont School Boards Insurance Trust. This team will develop workshops for schools in our region and

our partner solid waste districts in Vermont. They will focus on science classroom labs and teach proper inventory methods, evaluation of unnecessary chemicals or those too dangerous to keep in a school, how to develop a purchasing process so duplicate chemicals are not ordered, proper storage with compatible chemicals, and how to dispose of unwanted chemicals. There will also be an emphasis on developing a chemical hygiene plan to address all of these topics. Workshops are anticipated to be held in late April or May.



Photo Credit: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/jimmiehomeschoolmom/3423117437>

For more information contact Vickie Davis at 603-448-1680 or e-mail vdavis@uvlsrpc.org

Stakeholders' Group Identifies Need for Broadband Expansion

At their meeting on November 8th, the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (UVLSRPC) Broadband Stakeholders' Group prioritized needs and barriers to broadband Internet expansion in our re-

gion. The Group has been meeting quarterly since December 2011 to inform the development of a regional broadband plan; stakeholders represent a diversity of interests from communities large and small across the region and bring local concerns to a regional planning process.

The Group identified three priority barriers to broadband expansion in the UVLSRPC region:

- Expanding broadband in rural areas with low population density does not provide a sufficient profit for private Internet Service Providers.

Building Healthier Communities

Opportunity for Communities to Assess Municipal Policies

The Regional Planning Commission has recently completed a bicycle and pedestrian Level of Service (LOS) analysis for all state roads within the 27 municipalities it serves. The level of service demonstrates how easy it is to walk or bike on various portions of road throughout the region. This analysis is being combined with the ‘access to healthier food options’ mapping that was completed this past year with the help of many volunteers throughout the region. The mapping project also identified where farm stands and farmers markets are located and what access people have to these food sources.

(Inset map provides some of this information for the Town of Newport. Data was collected prior to the creation of Violette’s, a wonderful new grocery store in their downtown.)

A set of maps along with information presenting this work will be sent in February to all 27 communities within the region along with information about how communities can take advantage of an opportunity to review their regulations. The information will be sent to the Planning Boards in February, please look for it.

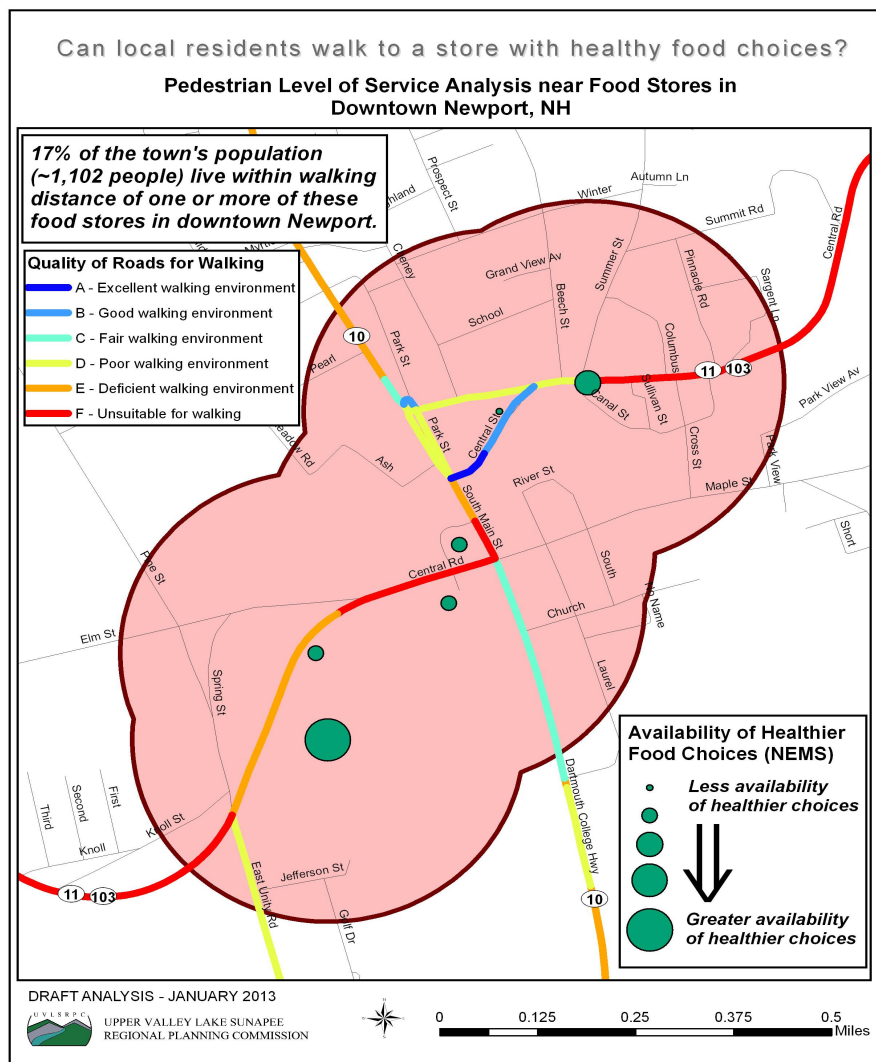
The Regional Planning Commission has funding to assist up to three communities that are interested in better aligning what is expressed in their Master Plan with what regulations they have that are driving development.

An increasing issue, in not only NH communities but throughout the country, is the disconnect between what communities want to do and what current regulations allow them to do. Often ordinances are outdated or can be too prohibitive for businesses to be located in places that may be appropriate for the long-term health of a community. Incentives can be woven into

current regulations and other recommendations can be made to better align the vision a community has for itself with the regulations that guide future development. These are specific issues for each community to decide on. The Regional Planning Commission can help by conducting an analysis on current policies and regulations with a focus on building healthier communities that promote walking and

biking and increased access to healthy food opportunities. The Commission will provide a set of recommendations for changes that communities support through their master plan. Communities may then use those recommendations as they like to make changes to their policies.

If your community is interested in this type of analysis, please contact Christine Walker at 603-448-1680 or cwalker@uvlsrc.org.



Broadband Expansion *from page 2*

- Many pole attachments are unlicensed and strung without consent creating a scenario where the poles are “full” of unlicensed wires making it impossible to string new licensed wires.
- There is a lack of understanding about the connections between broadband and economic development, which limits the ability of grassroots broadband expansion initiatives to obtain financing from banks.
- Expanding broadband to all schools, particularly so that rural school districts can take advantage of distance learning and other tools available online.
- Compiling and communicating clear examples of how broadband opens opportunities for economic development.
- Prioritizing expenditures of public money for the improvement of rural communities.

The Group identified four priority areas of need for the region:

- Expanding broadband for local businesses already operating in the region and to encourage opportunity for innovations and new business development.



The Group acknowledged that individual industries, such as healthcare, education and manufacturing, have specific demands for broadband; UVLSRPC is in the midst of surveying five sectors of the regional economy to determine the specialized technology and broadband needs of each sector.

Next steps for the Broadband Stakeholders' Group are to investigate and evaluate potential strategies to expand broadband in our region and to draft the regional broadband plan.

The Broadband Stakeholders' Group meets quarterly at the UVLSRPC conference room in Lebanon and we invite all to attend. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 7, 2013 from 4:00 – 5:30 pm. Contact Rachel Ruppel [rruppel@uvlsrpc.org] or Adam Ricker [aricker@uvlsrpc.org]

New Website for Household Hazardous Waste

The Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (Commission) is proud to present its new Household Hazardous Waste web site: hhw.uvlsrpc.org. Since many of our residents and small businesses use our HHW collections and call us for information, this web site provides greater access to general information and HHW collection schedules.

Originally, a similar web site had been available through the Upper Valley HHW Committee which is staffed by the Commission. Since developing a second HHW Committee, the Greater Sullivan County HHW Committee, the Commission recognized the need to have one web site devoted to providing information throughout the region. A lot of effort has gone into updating this site, and we hope you enjoy browsing through it.

Check out the new web site for information about the Committees, available educational materials, other great resources for information, HHW collections in New Hampshire and Vermont, universal wastes, chemical-free yards and gardens, and alternative cleaning recipes. The Commission will be updating the yard and garden section soon.

The Commission is also in the process of developing a separate web site for Waste Management. The two web sites will be linked. A page will be

made available on both web sites to provide the latest information about “What Do I Do with This?” to provide information about proper management of materials ranging from dead animals to helium tanks to asbestos.

For more information contact Vickie Davis [vdavis@uvlsrpc.org] or call 603-448-1680.

Home and Life Show

March 15th – 17th

Watch for the Upper Valley Household Hazardous Waste Committee's booth at the Home and Life Show in Hanover. We'll be in Booth A10 against the opposite wall as you enter. This year's theme will be nontoxic lawns and gardens.



Proposed Safety Improvements in Claremont

The commercial section of Washington Street (NH Route 11/103) in the City of Claremont has been a recurring safety concern for residents and City officials. The area has traffic volumes exceeding 20,000 vehicles per day, and curb cuts adjacent to busy intersections create additional conflict points for traffic. From 2002 to 2010, there were 118 reportable crashes on Washington Street (between Dane Avenue and Winter Street).

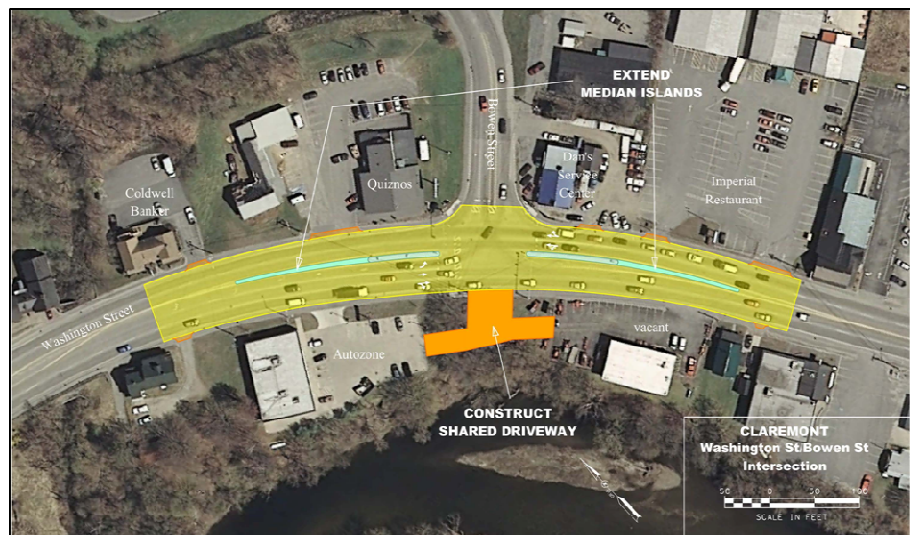
In the summer of 2011, Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (Commission) staff coordinated with representatives of the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) to organize a Road Safety Audit of Washington Street. A Road Safety Audit (RSA) is a formal safety evaluation of a roadway by an independent, multidisciplinary team. Participants in the Washington Street RSA included staff from the Commission, NHDOT Bureau of Planning and Community Assistance, NHDOT Bureau of Highway Design, NHDOT District II, City of Claremont Planning Department, City of Claremont Police Department, and

City of Claremont Fire Department.

A written report summarizing the results of the Road Safety Audit was published in late 2011 (available at: <http://www.uvlsrc.org/project/Washington-Street-Road-Safety-Audit-83/>).

A key recommendation from the report was that the intersection of Washington/Bowen Street be improved with extended medians and a shared driveway to connect neighbor-

ing developments. A conceptual design has been developed for these improvements, and the project has been approved for funding. The \$200,000 project will be funded by the federal Highway Safety Improvement Program and is currently under design. Commission staff is also assisting the City of Claremont in developing an Access Management Plan for the entire Washington Street corridor with funding from the NHDOT Bureau of Planning and Community Assistance.



Proposed safety improvements at the intersection of Washington/Bowen Street in Claremont.

Safe Routes to School Continues to be of Interest to Communities

The Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission has been conducting travel plans that help school-aged kids walk safely from home to school throughout the region for over four years. The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program, part of the Federal Highways Administration, has enabled many schools throughout the region to assess the condition of infrastructure, educate kids on safety and promote healthier lifestyles through exercise attained by walking and biking to school.

In Lebanon, the process resulted with

the Department of Public Works coordinating with the schools to ensure that the walkways to schools receive higher priority to be cleared of snow during the winter months. In the City of Claremont it was discovered that sidewalks and walkways were not contiguous and were a barrier to children and parents using them. The City is currently exploring grant funding to address this issue.

The purpose of the program is to make walking and biking safer from home to school, to reconfigure traffic circulation and identify other measures

that assist communities in alternative transportation and building healthier communities.

The SRTS program was consolidated with many other programs with the passing of Federal authorization for Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21, the nation's transportation bill). Although these activities may still be eligible for funding the competition with other programs will be great. If your community is interested in SRTS please contact Mike McCrory at 448-1680 or e-mail mmccrory@uvlsrc.org

UVLSRPC Commissioners

Acworth:	Laurence Williamson Brian Miller
Charlestown:	Steven Smith
Claremont:	Peter Guillette
Comish:	William Lipfert
Dorchester:	William Trought
Enfield:	Dan Kiley Steven Schneider
Grafton County:	Ken Morley
Grantham:	Thain Allan Ken Ryder
Hanover:	Katherine Connolly Joanne Whitcomb
Lebanon:	Larry LeClair Joan Monroe
Lyme:	Dan Brand Sam Greene
New London:	Bob Crane Nancy Rollins
Newbury:	Claire Vannatta
Newport:	Jeffrey Kessler
Orford:	Vacant
Piermont:	Vacant
Plainfield:	James Taylor
Springfield:	Kevin Lee George McCusker
Sunapee:	Aaron Simpson Josh Trow
Unity:	William Schroeter Robert Trabka
Wilmot:	John O'Connor Linda Scofield
At-Large Members:	Peter Gregory Marc Scarano Nancy Merrill

What is the Role of a Commissioner?

The Commissioners have overall fiduciary responsibility for the direction of the Commission.

As a representative of a local government, Commissioners may assist with regional policy decisions and bring back information to a community. A Commissioner's role is to balance the needs of their municipalities with the needs of the region. Commissioners work to reach consensus when regional solutions can provide greater benefit. It is a Commissioner's role to bring concerns, issues, and information to the Commission so that staff may find the best resources to help communities. It is important to express the needs of communities and be engaged in the business of the Commission.

Commissioners are often asked to:

- Attend six bi-monthly meetings a year.
- Review agenda materials sent prior to meetings.
- Serve on subcommittees who meet more often than bi-monthly.
- Advise the Commission on issues within the community.
- Introduce staff to key leaders in the community.
- Keep community officials and citizens informed on regional issues and the activities of the Commission.
- Make sure to keep the Executive Director informed of any special concerns your local leaders have.
- Approve a yearly budget and work plan for the organization.

An effective Commissioner is an engaged liaison between the Commission and the member community.

Meeting Schedule for the Fiscal Year 2013

- Wednesday, February 27, 2013 at 6:00 pm
- Wednesday, April 24, 2013 at 6:00 pm
- Annual Meeting, June, 2013 TBD

If you are interested in becoming a commissioner for your municipality, please contact Christine Walker for the proper procedure at 603-448-1680 or email cwalker@uvlsrpc.org.

We want to thank the current commissioners for volunteering their time and dedication to the Commission. It is greatly appreciated.

Please Welcome Our Newest Employee Quinn Molloy

Please welcome the newest member of our staff, Quinn Molloy. As an Assistant Planner, Quinn will be helping the staff with the overflow of work.

Quinn is a New Hampshire native and recent graduate of Keene State College, where she earned a B.A. in Geography. Passionate about the practical application of geospatial technologies, she hopes to be able to aid the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission through additional support in the use of GIS. Quinn has worked on a number of projects in recent years, ranging from outdoor recreation management to local food system development, and believes that work at the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission will be a thrilling expansion upon her previous experience.



Spotlight on Staff Adam Ricker



Adam joined the staff at the Commission in September of 2012 as an Assistant Planner following his graduation from the State University of New York at Buffalo: School of Architecture and Planning. Over the course of the last 16 months, Adam has seen many facets of the planning world in our office through his work with each of the planners. One of Adam's responsibilities is to collect the traffic count data throughout the UVLSRPC Region for the NH DOT. He has also worked extensively on the New Hampshire Broadband Mapping and Planning Project helping to coordinate quarterly Stakeholder Meetings and data collection for the Regional Broadband Plan. In his free time, Adam enjoys spending time with his family at their camp on Lake Winnepesaukee. He resides in Hartford, VT.

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Elise Angelillo
Planning Assistant



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Regional Forum on the Future

Here is one more opportunity to provide your input to the Regional Plan online.

You can:

- Share favorite places and your opinions on important topics;
- See the breadth of comments from your friends and neighbors, and;
- Visit often and watch the Forum grow.

Visit the Regional Plan web site and explore!

<http://regionalplan.uvlsrc.org/>

