



February 2026 - eBulletin

Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission

The UVLSRPC newsletter returns this month as the snow keeps falling. The work never stops here at the RPC -- the eBulletin has everything you need to stay in the loop!

In this issue:

- **UVLSRPCorner** - Learn about an ongoing staff project!
 - ADU Webinar Series
 - NBRC Information and Office Hours
 - And more!
-

UVLSRPCorner

*Join us every month in the **UVLSRPCorner** to learn more about our projects and the staff behind them!*

This month: Transformative Planning Grant

Late last year, UVLSRPC completed our work as part of a cohort of New Hampshire RPC's that received a Transformational Planning Grant from the NH Community Development Finance Authority. The goal of the project was to advance novel planning activities that could increase local housing supply. UVLSRPC's research and analysis considered how a bulk purchasing strategy of modular housing units could bring down the construction costs of new housing and make efficient use of limited water and sewer infrastructure.

The Transformational Planning Grant was instrumental in orienting UVLSRPC's housing work towards new goals and directions. The added resources from CDFA allowed the RPC to extend the work that began with our Keys to the Valley project and Regional Housing Needs Assessment. The intent of this project was to better understand how our region can manage necessary water and sewer infrastructure through coordinated development strategies across **high-value clusters** in each community.

UVLSRPC will continue refining the lessons learned through the Transformational Planning Grant and apply those lessons to our existing housing work.

If you would like to be involved in the RPC's housing work, contact John Haffner (jhaffner@uvlsrpc.org) or Renee Theall (rtheall@uvlsrpc.org).

More UVLSRP News

UVLSRPC Data Collection

UVLSRPC offers data collection and assessments of various roadway infrastructure for towns. Assessment criteria was created in collaboration with NH Department of

Transportation (**NHDOT**), UNH T2, the Regional Planning Commissions, and other State agencies. Data collected can be utilized to create long-term maintenance plans, understand forecasted improvement costs, identify priority vulnerable infrastructure, as well as be used to support grant applications.

UVLSRPC currently offers data collection and assessment for:

- Stream Crossings/Culverts
- Drainage Culverts
- Pedestrian Facilities (e.g. crosswalks, sidewalks, bike lanes)
- Pavement Road Surface Management and Maintenance Forecasting

UVLSRPC has some funding to provide cost share opportunities for member communities on a first come first served basis. Please reach out to Ian Garland at igarland@uvlsrpc.org for more information!



Check Out the UVLSRPC YouTube Page

Find past webinars, recordings, trainings and more on our YouTube page. There are playlists from our School Chemical Safety series, our Food Scraps and Composting Series, Stormwater Management and Household Hazardous Waste. [Click here](#) to view!

Emergency Preparedness

Be #WinterReady

Being #WinterReady means understanding winter risks you face and taking steps now to prepare.

Why should you be #WinterReady?

- Sixty-three percent of temperature-related deaths are attributed to cold exposure.
- Home heating is the second leading cause of home fires, and winter is when most home fires happen.
- Travel during the winter has unique risks, especially if you travel by car.

How to Protect Yourself from Winter Weather - Know your weather terms

Winter Storm Warning: Issued when hazardous winter weather in the form of heavy snow, heavy freezing rain, or heavy sleet is imminent or occurring. Winter Storm Warnings are usually issued 12 to 24 hours before the event is expected to begin.

Winter Storm Watch: Alerts the public to the possibility of a blizzard, heavy snow, heavy freezing rain, or heavy sleet. Winter Storm Watches are usually issued 12 to 48 hours before the beginning of a Winter Storm.

Winter Weather Advisory: Issued for accumulations of snow, freezing rain, freezing drizzle, and sleet which will cause significant inconveniences and, if caution is not exercised, could lead to life-threatening situations.

For more information, please visit ready.gov/winter-weather

If you'd like to sign up to receive alerts about hazardous weather in your area, visit **NH Alerts** and enter your email and/or phone number.



Housing

Economics of Development Workshops

New Hampshire Housing (and partners) are hosting two more workshops on the economics of development. The target audience for these trainings is volunteer planning and zoning board members, professional planners, and others interested in better understanding the economics of housing development, including elected officials and folks who serve on housing committees.

The next two workshops will take place in Concord and Nashua on Friday mornings. Class size is limited to 35 people so sign up soon!

Click the links below to register:

- [February 20th | From Plans to Projects: Concord \(at Granite Edvance\)](#)
- [March 13th | From Plans to Projects: Nashua \(at Nashua Regional Planning Commission\)](#)

Registration Open for Beyond the Front Door ADU Webinar Series

Unlock the Door to a new unit on your property with **Beyond the Front Door** — a webinar series on how to plan for, build and manage your Accessory Dwelling Unit.

Join North Country Council for three live sessions packed with practical guidance, expert insights, and real-world examples that make designing, financing, and building an ADU approachable for homeowners, developers, and community enthusiasts alike.

Sign up for one or all of the webinars:

-  February 17, 6-8pm: Planning and Permitting
-  March 17, 6-8pm: Budgeting and Financing
-  March 26, 6-8pm: Constructing and Maintaining

Reserve your spot today and start turning your ADU vision into a tangible, well-planned reality. Space is limited, so don't miss out! <https://www.nccouncil.org/community-planning/beyond-the-front-door-webinar-series/>

BEYOND THE FRONT DOOR

*How to Finance, Permit & Build an
Accessory Dwelling Unit on Your Property*

Join our webinars to find out more about how to finance, design, permit, and construct an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) on your property. The webinars are free and open to the public. RSVP is required.

**FEB
12TH**

Planning and Permitting
6-8pm



**MARCH
5TH**

**Financing Your ADU: Budgeting,
Development Models & Financing**
6-8pm



**MARCH
26TH**

**Building and Maintaining:
Managing Your Project and How
to be a Landlord**
6-8pm



To Register:

1. Scan or click the QR Codes above
2. Email Taylor Roy at troy@nccouncil.org
3. Call: 603-444-6303, x2028



Transportation

ABLE NH Transportation Equity Lunch & Learn Series

ABLE NH's Transportation Equity Task Force will hold its monthly Lunch & Learn on February 20th at 12:00. This month, panelists will discuss Regional Coordinating Councils (RCCs), where interested citizens can participate in addressing the transportation needs of all populations in their part of the state. Participants will learn about the purpose and work of RCCs, in addition to understanding the role of the NH State Coordinating Council (SCC).

This event will include a presentation and Q&A. Attendees will receive a one-pager on highlights of the program!

Participants may join on Zoom at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84389460204> or by using Meeting ID 843 8946 0204. For those who need one, a calendar invite can be copied from the ABLE NH Community Calendar at <https://ablenh.org/events/>

Regional Coordinating Councils: Where Community Transportation Puzzles are Solved

Join ABLE NH's Transportation Equity Task Force for a Lunch & Learn on Regional Coordinating Councils (RCCs), where you can participate in addressing the transportation needs of all populations in your part of the state. Participants will learn about the purpose and work of RCCs, in addition to understanding the role of the NH State Coordinating Council (SCC). This event will include a presentation and Q&A. Attendees will receive a one-pager on highlights of the program!

ABLENH
DISABILITY JUSTICE ADVOCATES



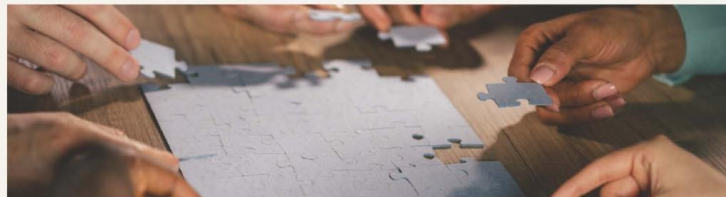
Panelists Include

Nick Altonaga, Region 1 RCC (North Country)

Nate Miller, Region 8 RCC (Southern NH)

Teri Palmer, SCC Member (Representing Transit Agencies)

Steve Workman, SCC Secretary (Representing Statewide Advocacy)



Mark your calendars for:

February 20, 12-1 PM

Zoom Meeting ID 843 8946 0204

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84389460204>

Save Image
and Press or
Scan to Join



Contact: info@ablenh.org

Website: ablenh.org

Instagram: [@able.nh](https://www.instagram.com/able.nh)

X: [@ablenh1](https://twitter.com/ablenh1)

Rural Road Safety Center Training

Are you concerned with traffic safety in our area? Wondering what you can do? Consider becoming a Road Safety Champion! The National Center for Rural Road Safety offers free webinars on road safety where you can learn all aspects about how to keep our roads safe. The Road Safety Champion Program (RSCP) is a nationally-recognized "Roadway Safety 101" training series. It is made for staff in transportation, public health, and first responder agencies who have an interest in roadway safety but are not safety experts.

The RSCP includes seven core modules plus career-focused pathways. Once participants complete the seven core modules and one pathway, they are awarded a Road Safety Champion Program Certificate!

Find out more at <https://ruralsafetycenter.org/road-safety-champion-program> and register for modules here: <https://ruralsafetycenter.org/safety-center-registration/>

Winter Weather Driving Tips

Officials from the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) have posted reminders on how to stay safe on the road this winter!

Reduce Speed:

- Slow down for wet, snowy, or icy conditions, when visibility is poor, or when



- conditions are changing or unpredictable.
- Slow down when approaching intersections, off-ramps, bridges or shady spots, which are candidates for developing ice.
- Allow additional space between vehicles.
- Winter conditions often result in longer stopping distances.
- Before pulling out into traffic, remember that they may not be able to slow down.
- You may not be able to accelerate as quickly as on dry pavement either.
- Avoid using cruise control in winter driving condition.

Driving Maneuvers:

- Stopping on snow and ice requires extra time and distance. If you have anti-lock brakes, press the pedal down firmly and hold it. If you don't have anti-lock brakes, gently pump the pedal.
- Brake early, brake slowly, brake correctly, and never slam on the brakes.
- On snow and ice, go slow, no matter what type of vehicle you drive.
- Even if you have four-wheel drive, you may not be able to stop any faster, or maintain control any better, once you lose traction. Four-wheel drive may get you going faster, but it won't help you stop sooner.
- Accelerate gradually and avoid abrupt steering maneuvers.
- Merge slowly, since sudden movements can cause your vehicle to slide.
- Look farther ahead in traffic than you normally do. Actions by other vehicles will alert you to problems more quickly, and give you that split-second of extra time to react safely.
- Avoid distracted driving. This includes texting, eating, handheld devices, etc.

Travel Around Snowplows:

- Don't crowd the plow. The front plow extends several feet in front of the truck and may cross the centerline and shoulders during plowing operations.
- Don't tailgate or stop too close behind snowplows. Snowplows are usually spreading deicing materials from the back of the truck and may need to stop or take evasive action to avoid stranded vehicles. If you find yourself behind a snowplow, stay behind it, leaving a safe distance. The road behind a snowplow will be safer to drive on.
- On multi-lane roads, watch for several snowplows plowing in tandem. This type of plowing clears all the lanes of a multi-lane highway quickly and effectively with one pass.
- Snowplows throw up a cloud of snow that can reduce your visibility to zero in less time than you can react. Never drive into a snow cloud, as it could conceal another snowplow.
- Snowplows travel much slower than posted speeds while removing snow and ice from the roads. When you spot a plow, allow plenty of time to slow down.

Trip Preparedness:

- Before leaving home, find out about the driving conditions.
- Safe drivers know the weather, and they know their limits. If the weather is bad, remember, ice and snow, take it slow, or just don't go.
- Clear all the snow off all of your vehicle including roof, windows, head lights, brake lights, and turn signals.
- Make sure you can see and be seen.
- Always buckle up, and remember, when driving in winter, ice and snow, take it slow.
- Give yourself extra time to reach your destination safely.
- Check your vehicle's tires, brakes, fluids, wiper blades, lights, belts, and hoses to make sure they're in good condition before the start of the winter season.

For more information, please visit <https://www.dot.nh.gov/about-nh-dot/divisions-bureaus-districts/highway-maintenance/winter-maintenance-snow-removal-and>

Funding Opportunity for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant

USDOT recently issued the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program's Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) (located at [FY 2026 BUILD Grants Notice of Funding Opportunity | US Department of Transportation](#)).

This NOFO announces up to \$1.5 billion in funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for projects that will have a significant local and regional impact and improve transportation infrastructure.

The press release is posted here: <https://www.transportation.gov/BUILDgrants>

Submission and Deadline Requirements:

- **Applications must be submitted online no later than 5:00 pm eastern on February 24, 2026.**
- Complete instructions on how to apply will be posted at [grants.gov](#) and the [BUILD program website](#). Selections are expected to be announced no later than June 28, 2026

Applicants should email questions to: BUILDgrants@dot.gov

Environment and Energy

Mascoma Lake Watershed Plan Public Meeting

The City of Lebanon Department of Public Works, along with project partners including the Town of Enfield, Lebanon Conservation Commission, and Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission, invites the public to review and discuss the current draft of the Mascoma Lake Watershed Plan.

Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2026

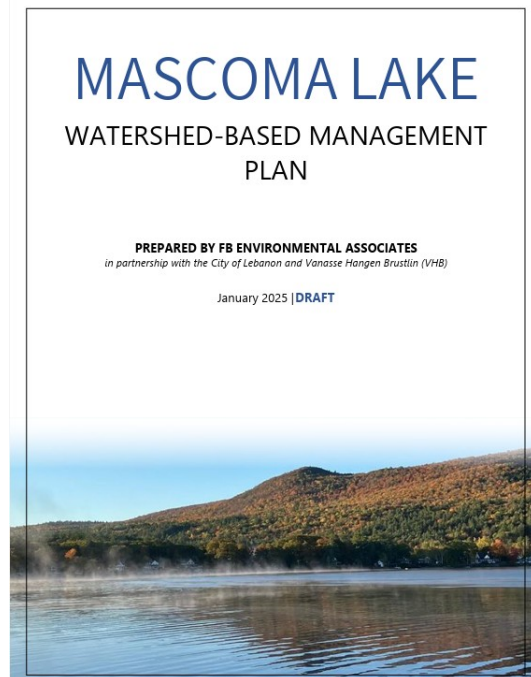
Time: 4:00pm

Location: Council Chambers, City Hall, 51 N. Park Street, Lebanon, or remotely via LebanonNH.gov/LIVE

Public input is especially important as the plan reviews proposed actions such as watershed and shoreline best management practices, municipal road and stormwater improvements, land use and ordinance considerations, and education and outreach efforts that will shape implementation over the next decade.

Click [here](#) to read a draft of the plan. For more information, please visit <https://lebanonnh.gov/1923/Mascoma-Lake-Watershed-Management-Plan-P>

Please attend the meeting on Tuesday, February 17th at 4pm to give your input!



Lithium-Ion Battery Fire & Safety Virtual Training – March 19, 2026



The Commission is partnering with NH Recycles to provide a Solid Waste Safety Summit on Lithium-Ion Batteries. As of July 1, 2025, rechargeable lithium-ion batteries were prohibited from disposal in NH landfills and incinerators. These batteries can be found in automobiles, electric bikes and scooters, lawncare equipment, portable electronics such as cell phones, cordless power tools, and toys.

Lithium-ion batteries contain hazardous metals which when crushed or damaged may ignite causing intense fires. These batteries are a leading cause of fires for trash haulers and waste management facilities. There are recycling options at many municipal facilities, as well as some stores like Staples, Best Buy and BatteriesPlus. The Battery Network (formerly Call2Recycle) has a battery drop-off locator:

<https://batterynetwork.org/locator/>

The training will be held at the Kearsarge Regional School District in New London on Thursday, March 19 (snow date March 26) at 9:00 – 11:30 AM. Sign-in and breakfast are 8:30 – 9:00 AM. There will be a discussion on preventing fires at the transfer station—batteries will continue to be found in waste and scrap metal; how to engage and educate the residential population; and the NH Deputy State Fire Marshall will discuss how to identify a battery fire and what to do. The NH Department of Environmental Services will also provide information about reporting after a fire and how to update the facility operations plan to address battery fires.

Registration and more information including a virtual option is available at this link: <https://www.cognitoforms.com/NHRecycles1/SolidWasteSafetySummitLithiumIonBatterySafety>

Contact Vickie Davis at vdavis@uvlsrpc.org or 603-448-5694.

Funding Available through the Granite State Clean Fleets Grant Program

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Mobile Sources team has released a \$7.5 million request for proposals (RFP) through the Granite State Clean Fleets (GSCF) program.



GSCF is a competitive reimbursement program funded by the **Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust** (VW Trust) focused on reducing diesel emissions by replacing Class 4-8 diesel vehicles, engines and equipment, or installing marine shore power systems. This new round of funding provides up to a 95% reimbursement for eligible projects from state and municipally run entities such as school districts, public community colleges/universities and transit agencies.

NHDES anticipates this will be the final funding round for diesel vehicles, engine and equipment replacements under the VW Trust, so applicants are encouraged to take full advantage of this unique opportunity.

Applications are accepted on a rolling monthly basis until March 30, 2026, at 4 p.m. ET or earlier if all funds are obligated.

More information on eligibility, funding limits, and grant requirements can be found in the GSCF RFP, which is located on the [GSCF webpage](#). Terms and conditions of the GSCF

program are subject to change. Prior applicants are encouraged to thoroughly review the RFP for updated guidance.

Questions may also be forwarded to the Grants Program Coordinator, Mac Bevier, via email to ms-grants@des.nh.gov or by phone at **(603) 271-8330**.

NHDES Announces Emergency Drought Assistance Program

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) announces it will reopen a program to help low-income homeowners experiencing water supply issues resulting from the ongoing drought. During this historic drought, nearly 250 residents have reported drywells causing insufficient drinking water in their homes. In response to these widespread reports of dry wells, the Drinking Water and Groundwater Advisory Commission voted in November to approve a \$1,500,000 grant from the Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund (DWGTF) to re-establish the Emergency Drought Assistance Program (EDAP).

To qualify for the program, applicants must provide income information, and verification by a licensed New Hampshire well driller or pump installer that the well has experienced irreversible water supply issues due to drought.

More information can be found on the [EDAP website](#). Private well-owners are encouraged to self-screen eligibility using the income limits provided in the application.

For more information, email edap@des.nh.gov or call Marysa Boire at (603) 271-1355.

Municipal Support & Economic Development



**Northern Border
Regional Commission**

Northern Borders Regional Commission Information Sessions & Office Hours

If you weren't able to attend one of NBRC's Program Information Sessions last week, or would like to revisit the information shared in one, recordings and PDF slides for all four sessions are now available:

- Timber for Transit Overview and Project Development Webinar: [Watch Video](#) | [View PDF Slides](#)
- Catalyst Program Information Session: [Watch Video](#) | [View PDF Slides](#)
- Forest Economy Program Information Session: [Watch Video](#) | [View PDF Slides](#)
- Timber for Transit Program Information Session: [Watch Video](#) | [View PDF Slides](#)

All Pre-Applications are Due: Friday, February 27 by 5 PM EST

NBRC Office Hours: Spring 2026 Grant Programs

Taking the next step in submitting your pre-application and have some questions? NBRC is here to help!

Friday, February 20 | 10-11:30 AM

Join the Northern Border Regional Commission for open Office Hours focused on our Spring 2026 grant opportunities and pre application requirements. These sessions are designed for prospective applicants who need guidance or additional clarity on the steps required before submitting a pre application. NBRC staff will be available to answer questions and help you navigate the process.



FY2027 Congressionally Directed Spending Requests - Application Open

Senator Shaheen's **FY 2027 CDS application portal is now live** and ready to accept applications for Congressionally Directed Spending projects in New Hampshire. The deadline to apply is **Friday, March 6th, 2026**.

The Office of Senator Shaheen along with the New Hampshire Municipal Association will be hosting a webinar on submitting CDS requests on **February 17th at 10:30 am**. Learn more and register [HERE](#).

Senator Shaheen, as a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, is dedicated to ensuring that the federal government makes impactful investments that uplift Granite State communities and propel our nation forward.

FY2027 CDS requests may be made for the following bills:

1. Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
2. Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
3. Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies
4. Financial Services and General Government
5. Homeland Security
6. Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
7. Labor, Health, and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
8. Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
9. Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

For more information on the CDS process, please consult the February 12, 2025, webinar '**Submitting Congressional Directed Spending Requests in FY26**' hosted by the New Hampshire Municipal Association.

Please [click here](#) for updated guidance received from the Senate Appropriations Committee with respect to FY 2026 CDS requests.

Reach out with any questions to appropriations_shaheen@shaheen.senate.gov.

Community Happenings



Borrow an E-Bike!

The Upper Valley E-Bike Lending Library is a free selection of four e-bikes of assorted styles and retail costs that has one- and two-week residencies in towns and workplaces throughout the Upper Valley. While the e-bike library is stationed at a particular lending location, people can try multiple bikes at “Demo Days” or sign up to borrow a single bike overnight to see how an e-bike might fit into your lifestyle. Book a bike [here](#)!

Full Commission Meeting Dates FY 2026

- April 8, 2026



If you have any questions or concerns, please call Chris at 603-448-1680.

**Upper Valley Lake Sunapee
Regional Planning Commission**
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