



March 2026 - eBulletin

Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission

The UVLSRPC newsletter returns this month as spring slowly approaches the Upper Valley. 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!
 - **Lithium-Ion Battery Fire & Safety Virtual Training**
 - **School Chemical Safety Trainings Starting this Month**
 - Register now for the Food Security Summit
 - And more!
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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 RPCs housing work, contact John Haffner (jhaffner@uvlsrpc.org) or Renee Theall (rtheall@uvlsrpc.org).

More UVLSRP News

UVLSRPC Executive Director Named in NH's 40 Under 40

We have a special announcement to make! UVLSRPC's own Executive Director, Meghan Butts, has been included in the Union Leader's New Hampshire 40 Under 40 Class of 2026! The individuals named here are New Hampshire's future and will help shape the environment for years to come.

Read below for an excerpt from Meghan's interview with the Union Leader:



What motivates you to give back to your community?

I want to live in a place where community is valued, and one way to support that is by giving back. Contributing to my community is personally rewarding, and it helps strengthen the community as a whole.

What would make New Hampshire more attractive to young professionals?

Expanded indoor recreation and meeting spaces, improved public transportation to reduce reliance on personal vehicles, and a more welcoming, affordable environment for young families.

Last major achievement:

Maintained funding and staff during rapid shifts in federal priorities by implementing innovative solutions and strategically adapting staff workloads and skill sets to ensure continued support for our communities.

Congratulations, Meghan!

To read Meghan's full interview and see the full list, visit: https://www.unionleader.com/union_leader_events/40_under_forty/

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

Register Now for New Hampshire Housing's Homeownership Conference

Join housing leaders from across New Hampshire for a timely conference examining the policy, market, and financial forces shaping homeownership. The agenda includes discussions on housing affordability, property taxes, and housing finance trends, along with a keynote fireside chat.



Find out more and register here: [NH Housing's Homeownership Conference on March 18th](#)

If you have any questions, please reach out to info@nhhfa.org.

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 the final session here:

 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

Webinar: Safe Streets, Stronger Communities - Preparing Competitive Applications for the SS4A Program

With the next Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Notice of Funding Opportunity expected by the end of March, now is a critical moment for cities to act—especially those that have not yet applied or been awarded.

This webinar will help city and town leaders understand how SS4A planning grants can be used to develop data-driven, community-centered safety action plans that align with federal priorities and position communities for future implementation funding. Participants will learn how the current administration is approaching roadway safety, what makes a strong and competitive safety plan, and how evidence-based strategies can be tailored to local context.

The session will feature examples of impactful community safety plans from cities that have successfully leveraged SS4A and related federal funding, with a focus on practical insights for cities preparing to apply in the upcoming funding cycle.

Date: March 17, 2026

Time: 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm ET

Cost: Free

For more information about this training, click [here](#).

Moving the Needle: April 20 Cross-Sector Traffic Fatality Strategy Session

The UNH Technology Transfer Center is hosting a cross-sector **Traffic Safety Strategic Planning Session on Monday, April 20, 2026**, at NHDOT (7 Hazen Dr in Concord, NH). This working session will focus on defining a set of meaningful, collaborative actions to address the most significant problem areas identified during this year's summit and reinforced by last year's discussion.

The work done on April 20th will focus on these four areas:

- Speeding and aggressive driving
- Impaired driving
- Distracted driving
- Rural access to post-crash emergency care

Candid dialogue and collaborative problem-solving will help to identifying practical actions that stakeholders can take in the next 24 months towards reducing traffic fatalities. Your professional perspective is important.

Session details:

April 20 | 9a-11a | NHDOT Hazen Drive (Coffee and donuts will be provided)

Please RSVP to Marilee.Enus@unh.edu, if you're available and interested in participating in this strategic action session.

Also, if you're interested in attending any of the roadway safety educational opportunities UNH T2 has planned this year, [details and registration info are found here](#).

USDOT Request for Information: Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success Initiative

The USDOT has issued a [request for information \(RFI\)](#) on rural and Tribal transportation needs as a part of the Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success Initiative (ROUTES).

This notice requests comments on unmet transportation infrastructure needs in rural communities, barriers that rural communities face in addressing those needs, and opportunities for ROUTES to improve its services and technical assistance to support rural and Tribal stakeholders.

Comments can be submitted [here](#). Comments are due by April 26, 2026 at 11:59 pm EST.

If you have any further questions about Rural Road Safety in your community, contact Tim Josephson at tjosephson@uvlsrpc.org or Ian Garland at igarland@uvlsrpc.org

Registration Now Open for Trans-NH Annual Bike Ride

The Trans-NH Bike Ride is a fully supported 1, 2, or 3-day exploration of New Hampshire roads, scenery and fire stations. Its mission is to raise funds and awareness for people living with muscular dystrophy, ALS, and related neuromuscular diseases. This is your opportunity to explore different areas of beautiful and scenic New Hampshire supported by a 5-star volunteer crew, comfortable accommodations, and a welcoming community that rides for a great cause.

The ride will take place over the course of June 26-28th.

- Day 1 will start in Beecher Falls VT, and end in Littleton, NH.
- Day 2 will start in Littleton, NH and end in West Lebanon, NH.
- Day 3 will start in West Lebanon, NH and end in Concord, NH.

To learn more about the route details and register, [click here](#).

Environment and Energy

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

School Chemical Safety Trainings Starting this Month

The Commission is working with Becky Andersen of Hazardous Materials Consulting in Iowa again for school chemical safety training. This is a great opportunity for your schools to obtain the training now required to create and implement chemical hygiene and safety plans. Becky is a talented and experienced trainer with hands-on experience working with hazardous materials in schools and industry. The feedback from previous participants included comments to bring Becky back—and that's what we're doing.

We will have several webinars to teach school staff about chemical safety basics and how to write and enforce the State-required Chemical Safety Hygiene Plans. All schools

are required to have these plans to address chemical safety in all classrooms, not just the laboratory. This includes many art classrooms and custodial closets. An additional webinar will address PCBs and vapes in schools.

To learn more about the school chemical safety webinars and to register, please click here or go to <https://tinyurl.com/SchChemSafety>. All webinars will be recorded for future training tools.

Live webinars will be the following Tuesdays from 10:00 – 11:30 AM.

1. Introduction to Chemical Safety - 3/10/26:
2. Building a Strategy – 3/24/26
3. Understanding Regulations – 4/7/26
4. Decision-Making Involving Chemicals – 4/14/26
5. Documentation Requirements – 7/14/26
6. Writing the Chemical Hygiene & Lab Safety Plan (Part 1) – 8/4/26
7. Writing the Chemical Hygiene & Lab Safety Plan (Part 2) – 8/18/26
8. Implementing Classroom Standard Operating Procedures – 9/15/26
9. PCBs and Vapes/E-Cigarettes in Schools – 9/29/26

Contact Victoria Davis at vdavis@uvlsrpc.org for more information.



FEED Kearsarge Food Security Summit

Our friends at Kearsarge Food Hub and Kearsarge Neighborhood Partners are partnering to host a food security summit on Saturday, April 18th.

This is a unique opportunity for all stakeholders in food security work to come together, build relationships, share information, and leave with action items. The day will include panel discussions with local leaders, breakout discussion, an exhibitor fair with helpful resources, and refreshments and lunch provided!

Register today to save your spot: <https://bit.ly/FoodSecuritySummit2026>.



Food Security Summit

Connection • Learning • Collaboration





Saturday, April 18th 9am-3pm
Kearsarge Regional High School

www.bit.ly/FoodSecuritySummit2026

Registration by donation thanks to our sponsors:



Weston & Sampson Webinar Series - Increased Savings Through Energy Efficiency

Join Weston & Sampson for an insightful webinar on Energy Efficiency, where they will explore strategies and cutting-edge insights to help optimize energy use, reduce costs, and accelerate sustainability goals.

As municipalities, institutions, and developers work to meet increasing energy demands, improving energy efficiency across buildings and infrastructure has become essential for strengthening performance, resilience, and long term stability.

Webinar Details:

- DATE: Wednesday, March 25, 2026
- TIME: 12:00PM - 1:00PM (ET)
- PLATFORM: Microsoft Teams Online (Link provided upon registration)

[Click here to register!](#)

New England Heat Pump Accelerator is Here!

The New England Heat Pump Accelerator is a regional program to speed up heat pump adoption in homes across Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. Now through December 2029, the Accelerator will bring efficient, affordable heating and cooling to New England through:

- Distributor incentives: Participating distributors pass along instant savings to contractors and customers on eligible heat pumps and heat pump water heaters. [Learn more -->](#)
- Heat pump education: The Accelerator helps HVAC contractors stay competitive in the evolving market and become leaders in heat pump installations. [Explore the program's free offerings -->](#)
- Local innovation: The Accelerator funds state pilots and community grants to overcome local barriers to heat pump adoption so that everyone can access clean, efficient home comfort. [Learn more -->](#)
- Resources: The program's website will have practical tools—like calculators, heat pump sales data, and info sheets for customers—that can speed up the technology transition. [Check it out -->](#)

The program is in its early days, so new incentives, grants, and resources will launch throughout the year. [Explore the Accelerator's website to learn more, sign up to receive updates, and submit questions.](#)

Lake Sunapee Protective Association Site Plan Workshop

The Lake Sunapee Protective Association (LSPA) is hosting a workshop on Saturday, April 4th, to help anyone involved in land use to become more familiar in reading site plans, regard for water quality, and to provide other information helpful in their roles. Professional engineers will be involved in the workshop, along with LSPA staff.

Date: Saturday, April 4th

Time: 9am-12pm

Where: LSPA Center for Lake Studies, 63 Main Street, Sunapee NH

[Click here to register.](#)

Community Happenings

Save the Date for Sustainable Lebanon's Styrofoam Recycling Collection

This event will take place on Saturday, April 11th, from 10am-12pm at Hanover Street School Parking Lot at 193 Hanover Street in Lebanon, co-sponsored by Sustainable Lebanon and Rotary Club of Lebanon.

Donations are gratefully accepted to cover the cost of transportation to the Gilford Recycling Center for processing. Volunteers are urgently needed. Please contact Cindy at cheath58@gmail.com, 603-543-1307 if you can help even for just a couple of hours. The event will take place rain, snow, or shine and is open to residents of the Upper Valley.

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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