



FY 2022/2023

Budget and Work Program Highlights

June 2, 2022

Introduction

Fiscal Year 2022 marked a return to “almost normal”. Our meetings went from exclusively remote to hybrid, with many Commissioners attending in person. The RPC staff returned to the office in a reincarnated form. We said goodbye to some long-time staff and welcomed Maddie Dilonno, Sarah Tatarczuk, Trisha Cheever, and Jill Longval. With these changes come challenges and opportunity. I’m happy to report the staff rose to the challenges and has had a successful year advancing many significant local and regional planning initiatives.

Below are some highlights from this past year’s work, a summary of our proposed budget for FY2023, as well as a look ahead at some of the work we will take on as a region in the upcoming year.

FY 2022 Accomplishments

Land Use and Local Planning Assistance

Local Planning Assistance

RPC staff provided a variety of Master Plan updates and reviews to support five communities including Brentwood, North Hampton, Fremont, Hampstead, and Newton. The most extensive effort was in Hampstead where work on a comprehensive Master Plan update using innovative tools and strategies to develop the region’s first dynamic, online Master Plan got underway. RPC staff also provided MS4 Stormwater Permit compliance support and general stormwater management assistance to Greenland, Epping, Raymond, and Hampstead. Circuit rider services were provided to five communities in the region. New this year, the RPC provided the Town of Raymond with comprehensive planning services to address a wide array of planning, community and economic development needs as well as MS4 support.

5 communities supported by circuit rider services

25 communities in which RPC staff participated with local officials and staff to present information, provide technical assistance, or work on a project.

6 local master plans updated by RPC staff.

222 staff hours at Planning Board meetings providing guidance on land use regulations, application review, and master plan development.

5 developments of regional impact reviewed by RPC staff at the request of four communities.

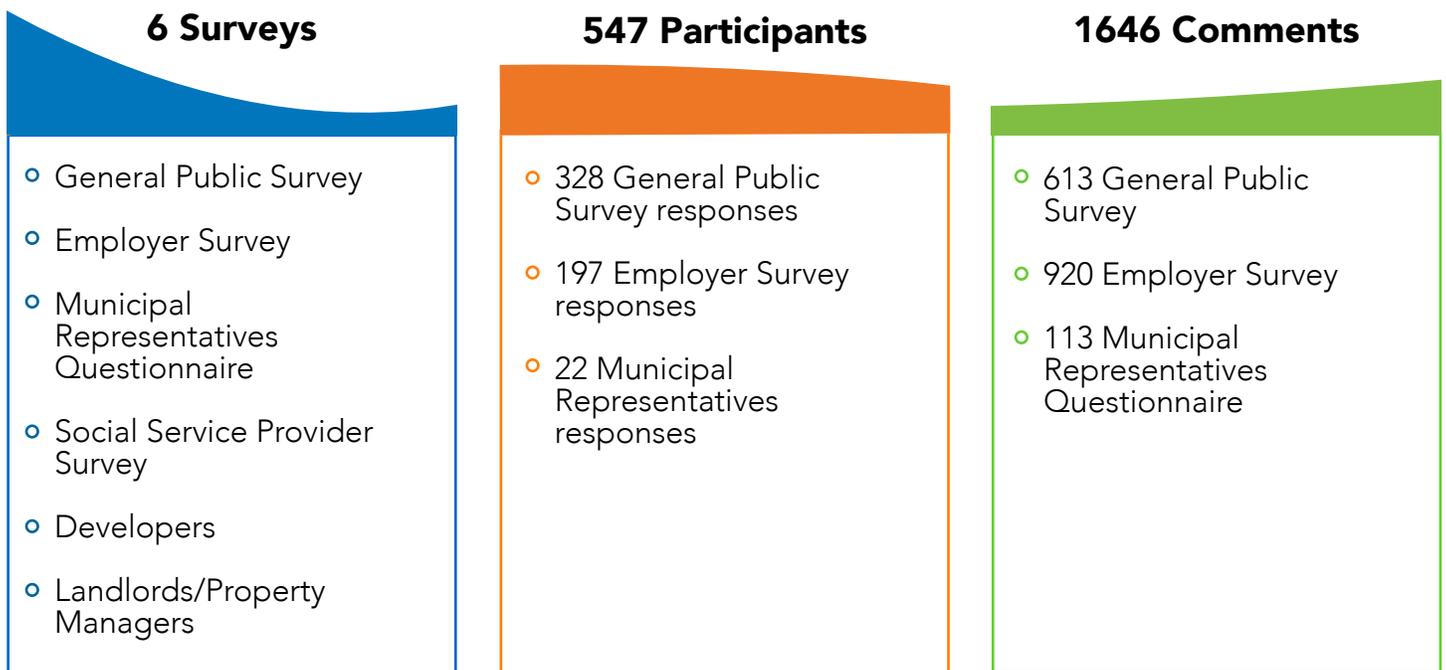
100% of coastal communities engaged on coastal resiliency, mitigation, and adaptation efforts.

12 presentations at local, regional, or state workshops and conferences given by RPC staff on topics including master plan options, drinking water protection regulations, housing data, and long-term transportation network reliability.

Regional Housing Needs Assessment

In FY2022 RPC staff have been working on a comprehensive update to the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA). The RHNA will provide current trends and existing housing needs and will begin to identify future housing needs and opportunities for the region. The project includes a robust community engagement program including surveys, focus groups, and stakeholder interviews. The final document will include various case studies of local employers, residents, and developments and a comprehensive snapshot of our regional housing story according to the most up to date data available. The project is being conducted with guidance from an advisory committee comprised of local housing stakeholders. The final document will be available in December 2022.

Housing Outreach by the numbers:



Tufts Age Friendly Communities

RPC is working with six communities this year to explore how communities in the RPC Region can become even better places to grow up and grow old. This effort is part of a two-year Age Friendly Communities grant from the Tufts Health Plan Foundation. The communities of Exeter, Fremont, Hampstead, Hampton, Portsmouth, and Stratham are participating in Age Friendly Community Assessments based on a national framework developed by AARP. The framework considers elements such as transportation, housing, recreation and social engagement, health and nutrition services, information flow, respect and social inclusion, work and civic engagement, and outdoor spaces. Each assessment is led by local steering committee made up of town staff and residents, and includes a town-wide survey, community forum, demographic profile, and asset inventory. To date surveying across five communities has generated nearly 1200 responses. Staff are working with towns to hold community forums from May to July for additional public input. This important planning initiative will continue in FY2023.



Coastal Resilience

Seacoast Transportation Corridor Vulnerability Analysis

One of the more substantial planning initiatives undertaken by the RPC was the Seacoast Transportation Corridor Vulnerability Analysis (STCVA). This transformative effort is laying the groundwork for future investment in the most vulnerable infrastructure threatened by sea-level rise and extreme weather events.

The RPC utilized the regional travel demand model to understand possible future traffic patterns associated with sea-level rise scenarios. By overlaying sea level rise scenarios on the travel demand model network, the RPC was able to identify 25 inundated areas and evaluate impacts to mobility. The methodology evaluated specific flood conditions based on projected sea-level rise scenarios of 1.0 feet, 1.7 feet, and 4.0 feet. Using results of the travel demand analysis and the NH Coastal Flood Risk Guidance, estimated timeframes for sea-level rise scenarios were developed resulting in a set of prioritized adaptation options for 10 selected sites and assets. The STCVA sets the stage for accessing funds through The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to make coastal infrastructure more resilient to the impacts of rising sea level and extreme weather events.

The STCVA was funded, in part, by NOAA's office for Coastal Management under the Coastal Zone Management Act in conjunction with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Coastal Program. For more information and to view the report, visit the www.therpc.org/stcva.

Technical Assistance to Coastal Communities

The focus of the FY 2022, Coastal Zone Program Technical Assistance Grant was to advance local and regional coastal resilience initiatives. This year the RPC launched a cooperative, continuous, and comprehensive approach to working with coastal communities on resiliency planning. This effort included:

- Coordination with regional and municipal partners on outreach and engagement activities including outreach and presentations to municipalities on the 2020 Coastal Flood Risk Guidance.
- Completing a check-in interview with each of our 12 coastal communities for the purpose of enhancing engagement, collecting data on municipal needs and priorities, and scoping projects.
- Reviewing Vulnerability Assessments, Master Plans, and Hazard Mitigation Plans to identify outreach opportunities and regulation changes that can be advanced in the coming year.

RPC staff also implemented an all-boards climate change adaptation and resilience workshop series with the Town of New Castle. This series of meetings addressed coastal flooding, sea-level rise, municipal services and infrastructure, zoning ordinance floodplain development standards, land use and resource protection regulations, and living shorelines. The workshop was successful in advancing progress on an update to the New Castle Master Plan.

Electricity Aggregation

The goal of the Rockingham Planning Commission Electricity Supply Aggregation is to purchase electricity as a group from a competitive supplier at a lower rate than each member could receive on its own. By purchasing as an aggregation, municipalities and school districts can offer electricity suppliers a larger demand than they could individually. The larger demand, in turn, allows suppliers to offer a better rate to the aggregation than it could to individual members. The aggregation also makes it possible for members to share the costs of documenting load data, organizing an RFP process, selecting a supplier, conducting negotiations, and managing energy contracts. Contracts for current Electricity Aggregation members end on October 31, 2022, and have resulted in significant savings, ranging from \$19,333 for our largest user to \$860 for our smallest user. Over the past year RPC staff have:

- Continued to track savings against the default utility for aggregation members.
- Monitored competitive supply rates and price trends in the energy market.
- Held discussions with competitive suppliers and aggregation members about innovative purchasing options to hedge against current market volatility.

Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning

Municipal hazard mitigation plans provide a framework to recognize and address the impacts of natural hazards and climate change, including infectious disease such as COVID-19. This fiscal year RPC worked with the Towns of Sandown, Raymond, Fremont, and Rye to complete their Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Updates with funding from NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management (NHHSEM). Having an updated, compliant Hazard Mitigation Plan in place ensures your community's eligibility for federal funding in the face of a natural disaster.

Transportation Planning

In FY 2022 RPC Staff participated on the Project Advisory Committees for transportation improvement projects in the communities of Epping, Hampton, Hampton Falls, New Castle, Rye, Plaistow, Kingston, Portsmouth, and Seabrook. Our direct involvement at the project level ensures that local interests are being represented at the state and regional level.

This fiscal year also coincided with the Ten-Year Plan development process. The RPC staff worked closely with our partners at the NHDOT on the development of the Draft Ten Year plan. The RPC, in cooperation with NHDOT and Executive Councilor Janet Stevens, participated in five hearings to gather input on the draft plan.

RPC staff also successfully administered the required federal transportation planning process to ensure an uninterrupted flow of project design and construction funding to the region. To learn more about the dollars invested in our region see the obligated project list.

<https://www.therpc.org/transportation/annual-list-obligated-projects>



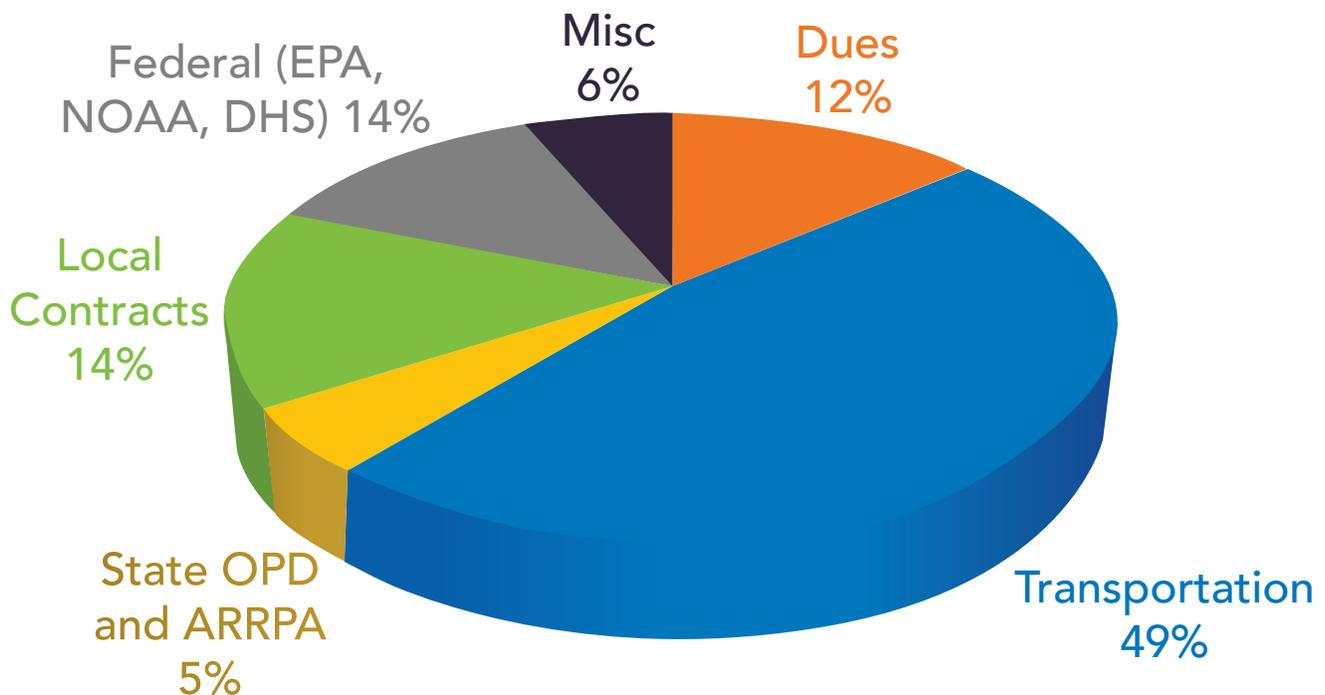
FY 2023 Budget Summary

Resources

The proposed FY 2023 Budget is strong with several important regional projects planned. Transportation planning funds provided through the U.S. Department of Transportation and passed through the New Hampshire Department of Transportation to make up approximately half of the total revenue. The FY 2023 budget and work program also includes funding to wrap up the Regional Housing Needs Assessment and funding to begin an update of our Regional Plan. Several local contracts are also anticipated as the RPC Staff provide local planning support and Master Plan assistance to several communities. The Work Program also features continued work in resilience planning with funding from Federal sources such as the Environmental Protection Agency and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Revenue	Contracts
Dues	\$ 151,485.00
Transportation (Federal)	\$ 595,239.00
State OPD and ARPPA	\$ 61,111.00
Local Contracts	\$ 172,840.00
Federal (EPA, NOAA, DHS)	\$ 163,500.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 77,827.00
Total Revenue	\$ 1,222,002.00

FY23 Revenue Sources



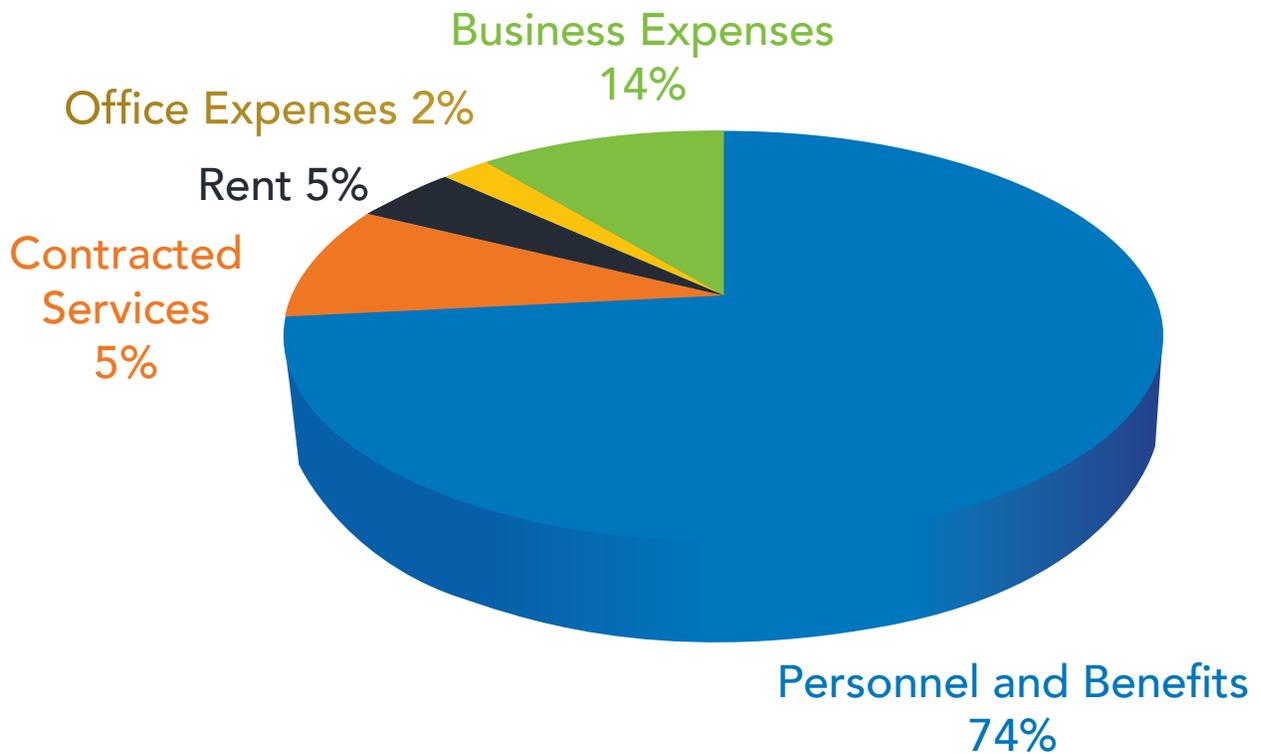
Expenses

Operating expenses are generally stable for the organization with limited year to year variability. Personnel and benefits represent the greatest percentage of the budget. A very competitive job market makes staffing and staff retention a priority for FY2023. As such, salary and benefits have been adjusted to remain competitive. Business expenses including software licensing to support

our GIS program, public outreach services, transportation data, as well as our server, network and workstation infrastructure combine to make up about 14 percent of the expenses. Overall expenses are expected to remain stable for the year and result in a net reserve of \$10,093.00.

Expenses	
Personnel and Benefits	\$ 900,407.00
Contracted Services	\$ 64,500.00
Rent	\$ 54,244.00
Office Expenses	\$ 25,100.00
Business Expenses	\$ 163,808.20
Miscellaneous	\$ 3,850.00
Total Expenses	\$ 1,211,909.00
Net Reserve/Deficit	\$ 10,093.00

FY23 Expenses Sources



FY 2023 Initiatives

Land Use and Local Planning Assistance

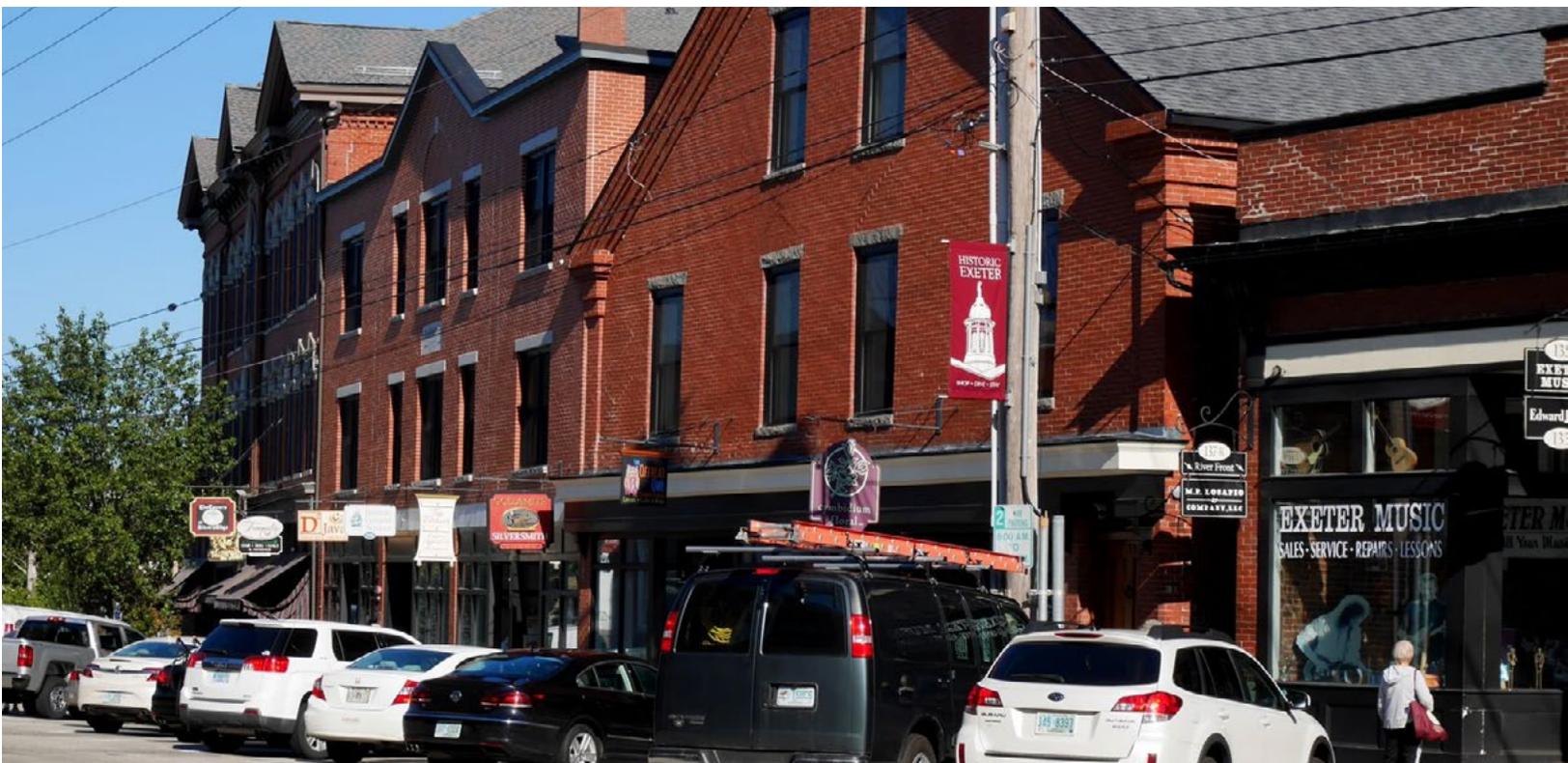
Land Use Planning Assistance

In FY2023 The RPC land use planning team will continue to provide their expertise with direct assistance to your planning board. The RPC is prepared to ensure that each member community has the resources and technical skills needed to meet their planning needs. On a case-by-case basis, the RPC can assist with complicated or challenging site plan and subdivision review, with most costs eligible to be billed back to the applicant under state law. The land use team can:

- Review subdivision, site plan or other development applications for completeness, compliance with local regulations, and advise applicants of the requirements and process for approving land use applications.
- Prepare written memoranda to the land use board regarding applications under review, citing incomplete or inaccurate information, identifying potential areas of concern, and identifying local, state, or federal permits which may be required.

Master Plan Review: We want to help keep your master plan useful and ensure it reflects your community's values. RPC is proactively conducting a review of each member community Master Plan to help communities plan for and prioritize updates.

Board Training: The RPC can work with your land use boards to provide procedural training. We can tailor the training to meet your board's needs or organize a multi-town training for the region.



Regional Housing Needs

The RPC is entering into the second year of work on the Regional Housing Needs Assessment update. Year two of this effort will begin to analyze data gathered in phase one of the assessment and arrive at target housing recommendations for the region. In addition, the project will deliver a comprehensive toolbox that may include:

1. **Engagement and Coordination** – providing education and options for next steps for municipalities to continue addressing housing in their community.
2. **Land Use Regulations** – Best Practices (parking and access, dimensional standards, understand how local ordinances impact development potential)
3. **Permitting Procedures & Best Practices**

A final document will be delivered in December with the goal of equipping communities with a foundation of knowledge on the challenges and opportunities facing their community regarding housing needs. Key sections of the final document will include:

1. **Analysis of Historical/Existing Conditions and Trends:** analyze the available data related to our region's housing supply and project the region's housing needs through 2030 based on varying conditions.
2. **Analysis of Future Conditions and Trends:** discuss the impact various conditions are likely to have on the region's housing supply (COVID19, Climate, Economy, Supply and Labor costs, short-term rentals, aging populations etc.)
3. **Affordable and Equitable Housing Choice Opportunities and Barriers:** Summarize both opportunities and barriers to increasing affordable housing throughout the region. Discuss the fair housing impediments to creating additional affordable and equitable housing opportunities.
4. **Resources for Meeting Local Housing Needs and Recommendations**

Regional Master Plan Update

In 2015 the RPC worked to update the Regional Master Plan. The document guides and coordinates development in the region and helps communities work together to address common problems. In FY 2023, the RPC will refresh the data and content of the regional plan to incorporate the 2020 census and the latest information from the Regional Housing Needs Assessment. This update is expected to begin in the fall of 2022.

Age Friendly Communities Year 2

The second year of age friendly community planning will get underway in FY2023. The term "Age Friendly" is shorthand to denote communities that enable residents to thrive at every age and every stage of life, as policies and improvement that help older residents tend to make communities more livable for all ages. The project draws on a national framework developed by AARP that has been used widely in New Hampshire in recent years. AARP New Hampshire is also a collaborating sponsor of the project. Building on work completed in the last fiscal year the project will complete additional assessments and two local pilot implementation projects by July 2023. The assessment process will include health services and community supports, transportation, housing, design of outdoor spaces and building to accommodate all ages, opportunities for civic and social participation, respect and social inclusion, communication, and information flow.

Source Water Protection Planning

We were successful in securing a NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Local Source Water Protection Grant to help several RPC municipalities update their local groundwater and drinking water protection regulations. Recent work by NHDES and RPC has brought to light that the groundwater protection ordinances of several communities in the RPC region contain provisions that make administration and enforcement difficult and/or open to legal challenge. Clarification of the regulations through minor to moderate amendments will strengthen the protection of drinking water resources and make them more enforceable. RPC will begin working with several Planning Boards during Summer 2022 to bring potential regulation changes to adoption.

Coastal Resilience

Flood Smart Seacoast

RPC will play a pivotal role in the Flood Smart Seacoast project. The initiative seeks to build regional capacity and coordination to improve coastal community, environmental, and social resilience in New Hampshire by establishing a staffed technical assistance partnership focused on coastal floodplain management and hazard mitigation. The program will provide direct assistance to help coastal communities incorporate best available flood risk science in decision making, adopt higher floodplain management standards, and access FEMA funding for coastal resilience projects. State agency, regional, and local project partners will work together to achieve several objectives, including enhancing technical knowledge through training, conducting local outreach and technical assistance projects, assessing potential for Community Rating System (CRS) participation, developing a portfolio of FEMA-eligible coastal hazard mitigation projects, and piloting an equitable home elevation and voluntary buyout program in Hampton, NH.

Technical Assistance to Coastal Communities

The FY 2023, Coastal Zone Program Technical Assistance Grant will build on the work completed in the FY2022 program to advance local and regional coastal resilience initiatives. RPC staff will work directly with coastal communities to implement projects identified as priorities. The RPC will also work collaboratively with our local and regional partners to establish coastal hazard adaptation teams in interested coastal communities.



Transportation

Long Range Plan and Project Solicitation

The transportation planning cycle will move forward in FY 2023 with a required update to our Long-Range Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The process is underway with survey and public outreach efforts designed to identify priorities for state and federal transportation project funding in our region for the next 20 years. The Long Range MTP provides a data driven pathway to identify transportation projects and advance projects into the Ten-Year Plan (TYP).

As part of the update process the RPC is soliciting communities for transportation projects to be considered for inclusion in the MTP and Ten Year Plan. Communities are encouraged to review projects currently in the plans and submit new projects for consideration. New this planning cycle, the RPC has provided an online portal to submit new projects and to provide additional information on existing projects. <https://www.therpc.org/projectselection>.

Additionally, in FY 2023 the RPC will seek funding to continue work on the Seacoast Transportation Corridor Vulnerability Analysis. The RPC will build on the recent study and take advantage of the hydrodynamic coastal flood model expected in the coming year.





156 Water Street
Exeter, NH 03833
603.778.0885

The Rockingham Planning Commission is a voluntary regional public organization enabled under RSA 36 and created and sustained by its 27 member communities and their appointed representatives. We provide professional planning assistance and advice to member communities concerning local and regional planning and by actively promoting and facilitating cooperation and coordination among the communities.

Our Commissioners

Mike Turell (Atkinson)	Jim Doggett (Newton)
Kristin Cheek (Brentwood)	Mary Allen (Newton)
Edward Warren (East Kingston)	Annie Collyer (Newton)
Heather Clark (Epping)	Valerie Gamache (North Hampton)
Gwen English (Exeter)	Lauri Etela (North Hampton)
Langdon Plumer (Exeter)	Josh Jeffrey (North Hampton)
Leanne Miner (Fremont)	Tim Moore (Plaistow)
Roger Barham (Fremont)	Darrell Britton (Plaistow)
Stephen Gerrato (Greenland)	Julian Kiszka (Plaistow)
Alan Davis (Hampstead)	Peter Britz (Portsmouth)
Susan Hastings (Hampstead)	Deaglan McEachern (Portsmouth)
Ann Carnaby (Hampton)	Elizabeth Moreau (Portsmouth)
Barbara Kravitz (Hampton)	John Tabor (Portsmouth)
Marl Olson (Hampton)	Christina McCarthy (Raymond)
Andrew Brubaker (Hampton Falls)	Patricia Bridgeo (Raymond)
Richard McDermott (Hampton Falls)	Keith Smith (Raymond)
Peter Merrill (Kensington)	Thomas Luszcz (Raymond)
Glenn Coppelman (Kingston)	Jaci Grote (Rye)
Peter Coffin (Kingston)	Phil Winslow (Rye)
Mike McAndrew (New Castle)	John White (Sandown)
John Hayden (Newfields)	Srinivasan Ravikumer (Seabrook)
William Meserve (Newfields)	James VanBokkelen (South Hampton)
Denis Hebert (Newington)	Lucy Cushman (Stratham)
Chris Cross (Newington)	Joseph Johnson (Stratham)