



## Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission

### UPPER VALLEY LAKE SUNAPEE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT FOR FY 2007

Through UVLSRPC membership, the 27 cities and towns of the Upper Valley, Sullivan County and Lake Sunapee area strive to ensure that the growth of the Region does not lower our quality of life, and that it enhances rather than threatens our healthy economy. Regional planning provides a mechanism for communities that live and work together to collaborate on issues of common concern, such as transportation, emergency preparedness, economic development, housing and resource protection. Your community's active participation in UVLSRPC provides you with a voice in regional activities, as well as in decision-making at the state level that affects the future of your community.

Here is a summary of our work during the past year:

- Completed Phase I of the Route 120 Corridor Management Plan in Hanover and Lebanon, and began transit plans with Community Transportation Services in Sullivan County and Advance Transit in Grafton County.
- Continued to participate and facilitate the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) developed for Sullivan County to increase eligibility for federal funding for economic development and infrastructure improvements.
- Continued to collaborate with economic development partners in Grafton County through the North Country CEDS Committee.
- Partnered with Lake Sunapee Protective Association and Sunapee Area Watershed Coalition to help communities collaborate on watershed management planning.
- Completed the Route 4 Corridor Management Plan to balance growth of Canaan and Enfield village centers with needs of commuters.
- Obtained funding for Source Water Protection inventories, planning and outreach for Claremont and Croydon.
- Promoted our Region's priorities for federal and state transportation funding including Transportation Enhancement (TE) Grants. Served on NH Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Advisory Committee (CMAQ).
- Participated in work group studying sprawl in NH and effectiveness of state smart growth policies with NH Association of Regional Planning Commission's Legislative Policy Committee, NH GIS Advisory Committee, and Mount Sunapee Ski Area Advisory Committee.
- Co-wrote innovative zoning guidebook with NHDES and NHARPC.
- Began updating the Land Use Chapter of the Regional Plan.
- Participated in the New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning's fall conference.
- Assisted Connecticut River Joint Commissions with update of corridor management plan.
- Participated in Sullivan County Community Mobility Project to begin identifying and addressing unmet transportation needs.
- Performed over 100 traffic counts in 13 communities throughout the Region to provide data for state and regional transportation plans.
- Continued to participate with Advance Transit, Community Transportation Services, Upper Valley Transportation Management Association, Connecticut River Joint Commissions, Connecticut River

- Byway Council, Upper Valley Household Hazardous Waste Committee, Upper Valley Housing Coalition, North Country Resource Conservation & Development, and Lake Sunapee Protective Association.
- Organized 4 hazardous waste collections in which over 1,100 households participated to keep approximately 11,000 gallons of hazardous chemicals out of the Region's groundwater.
- Organized, facilitated and participated in a panel discussion for local officials regarding solid waste disposal issues in Sullivan County.
- Assisted 7 communities with updates of local master plans, 2 with zoning amendments, 1 with a Natural Resource Inventory, 1 with starting a capital improvement program and 3 with other regulations.
- Completed road inventories in 5 member communities and processed inventories in an additional 3 communities, ensuring that full state aid for maintenance is received.
- Conducted hazard mitigation planning in 6 communities to enable them to be eligible for federal disaster assistance and hazard mitigation funds. Assisted 2 communities with review of National Flood Insurance Program compliance. Assisted Sullivan County communities with process to adopt new floodplain maps to ensure residents' continued eligibility for flood insurance.
- Assisted communities with review of proposed developments.
- Published Elevate the Creative Economy: a planning guide for communities interested in enhancing their "creative economy" as an economic development tool.
- Continued emphasis on informational programs and training for local officials including Law Lecture Series and programs including: People Power: How to get Citizens to Turn Out, Tune in, and Stay Tuned, How to Combat Sprawl with Simple Zoning Techniques, and Context Sensitive Solutions: What This New Approach to Transportation Planning Means For Your Community.
- Began the CSS (Context Sensitive Solutions) Process with Charlestown and Walpole for Route 12.
- Responded to numerous day-to-day requests from local board members and staff for guidance, data and GIS maps.
- Continued to update our website - [www.uvlsrpc.org](http://www.uvlsrpc.org) – with information on planning issues and events, and kept library current with the latest technical guidance, planning literature, and sample regulations. Provided information to businesses, residents, libraries, school districts and other area organizations.
- Participated in professional development activities to ensure planning staff stays up-to-date on best practices, emerging topics, GIS, and changes in NH land use law and federal funding programs of benefit to communities.
- Each year we try to address the highest priority needs of the Region, while balancing the varied concerns of both the larger and smaller communities within our area.

We appreciate the high level of participation and support we receive from our communities, and look forward to continuing to serve the needs of the Region in addressing the issues above and others that arise in the future. We count on feedback from the Commissioners appointed by each community, as well as local officials and residents, to ensure that our work program continues to focus on those regional issues that are of the highest priority to you.

Please feel free to contact us at (603) 448-1680 or email me at [cwalker@uvlsrpc.org](mailto:cwalker@uvlsrpc.org) to share your thoughts.



Christine Walker  
Executive Director