



RPC Newsletter

Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission
 77 Bank Street, Lebanon, NH 03766 Tel. (603) 448-1680 www.uvlsrpc.org

**Winter
2003**

Inside This Issue

Workshop & Event Information	2
Transportation News	3
Around the UVLSRPC Region	4-5
RPC News	7
Did You Know?...	8

Household Hazardous Waste Collections

Tentative Dates and Locations for 2003

July 12

Hartford, VT
 8:00 a.m. - Noon

August 23

Sunapee, NH
 9:00 a.m. - Noon
 Enfield, NH
 9:00 a.m. - Noon

September 6

Hartford, VT
 8:00 a.m. - Noon

October 4

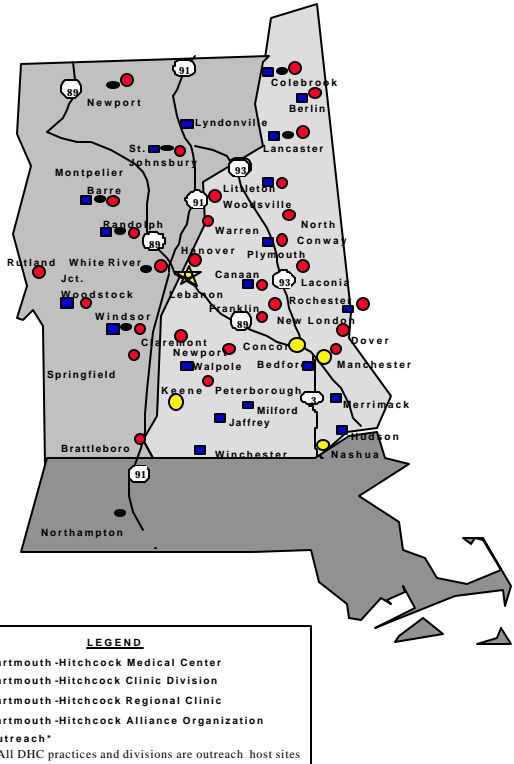
Claremont, NH
 9:00 a.m. - Noon



Planning for Expansion

Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC) and Dartmouth College provide the Upper Valley region with high-quality medical care, cultural opportunities, and economic stability. Because of their presence, recessions in the national economy are slow to come to our area, and their effects are moderated.

On November 20, 2002, about forty residents of the Upper Valley, along with UVLSRPC Commissioners and staff, sat down with representatives of the two largest employers in the Region to share ideas about how employers, regional planners, and the communities of the Upper Valley can work together to plan for balanced growth. The program was part of UVLSRPC's series of public forums on regional planning topics.



Courtesy of Bill Garrity, Vice President of Human Resources at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center

Over the next few years, DHMC plans a 30 percent expansion in square footage. It is estimated that DHMC traffic will increase from 25 percent of total NH Route 120 traffic to 40 percent. DHMC already works closely with Advance Transit to provide for the needs of commuters willing and able to ride the bus from core towns, and to shuttle those who drive to and from satellite parking. A substantial increase in parking area, including a 540-car garage, is part of the expansion plans.

Of the 600 additional staff that will be needed, it is expected that about 75 percent will be moving to the Upper Valley from other areas. Zip code analysis of current employees of the medical center has shown that, as suspected, employees are already having to live farther away from the hospital to find housing and pay a reasonable amount for it. DHMC is a strong supporter of the Upper Valley Housing Coalition that grew out of UVLSRPC's November 2001 Housing Summit, and has been making clear to area developers that they can easily provide buyers and renters for a substantial number of additional units.

(Continued on page 2)



Staff

Tara Bamford
Executive Director
tbamford@uvlsrc.org

Victoria Boundy
Senior Planner
vboundy@uvlsrc.org

Peter Dzewaltowski
Regional Planner
pdzewaltowski@uvlsrc.org

Denyce Gagne
Planning Assistant
dgagne@uvlsrc.org

Beth Lowell
Administrative Assistant
blowell@uvlsrc.org

Ken McWilliams
Principal Planner
kmcwilliams@uvlsrc.org

Jason Rasmussen
Regional Planner
jrasmussen@uvlsrc.org

The RPC Newsletter is printed three times per year and is mailed to our member communities, NH and VT regional planning offices, and other interested folks. If you would like to join our mailing list, please call, write, or e-mail:

UVLSRPC
77 Bank Street
Lebanon, NH 03766
603-448-1680
E-mail: info@uvlsrc.org
Website: www.uvlsrc.org

Planning for Expansion

(Continued from page 1)

The national economic slowdown has meant slow growth projected for Dartmouth College for the foreseeable future. However, the College remains actively involved in programs to increase and improve housing opportunities. Like DHMC, Dartmouth College also supports the Upper Valley Housing Coalition with funding and staff time. College planners have also continued to strive to maintain a walkable campus, and to implement other smart growth strategies such as downtown mixed-use redevelopment. The College is exploring and testing policies to provide incentives for carpooling, walking or biking, and transit use.

Workers who don't have the highest-paying jobs in the Upper Valley have a dilemma. They need to live farther away because of high housing prices in the core towns, so they are reliant on automobile transportation. Longer commute times mean less time for family and community. Innovative programs such as the Upper Valley Rideshare program, started by Advance Transit with the assistance of UVLSRPC, are one way to address this problem. Significant increases in the size and numbers of park and ride lots are another. Through the formation of the Upper Valley Transportation Management Association, UVLSRPC and other partners have joined with the College, DHMC, and local officials to help find other innovative solutions to these challenges.

Questions and policy issues discussed at our recent forum include:

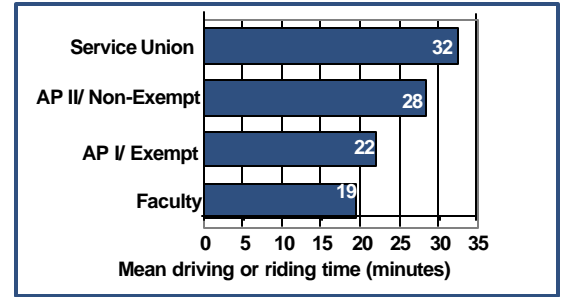
- ◆ School districts need to examine current policies that favor students driving or being dropped off by a parent;
- ◆ Increased road capacity often results in increased traffic;
- ◆ Federal and state policies continue to favor improvements for cars over public transit;
- ◆ Smaller job centers such as the Claremont/Newport area are looking for more job growth and have more housing opportunities for workers;
- ◆ Meaningful incentives are often needed to change human behavior - to get people to ride the bus or carpool instead of driving their own vehicles.

After this next phase of medical center expansion, what's next? Does the Upper Valley have the capacity to grow at this rate for another decade? Are there actions we can take as a regional community to ensure that the region's special features - outstanding natural areas, clean air and water, and a caring village atmosphere - are here for our children to enjoy in the future?

Forum participants agreed that through organizations such as UVLSRPC, our communities can develop consensus on the rate, location, and type of growth desired, and implement plans and policies to influence development in that direction.

Travel Time

- ◆ Median total time driving or riding is about 25 min.
- ◆ Slightly longer than the national average of 20 min.



Commuting Time: Dartmouth College Service versus Professional Staff. Courtesy of Resource Systems Group, White River Junction, VT.