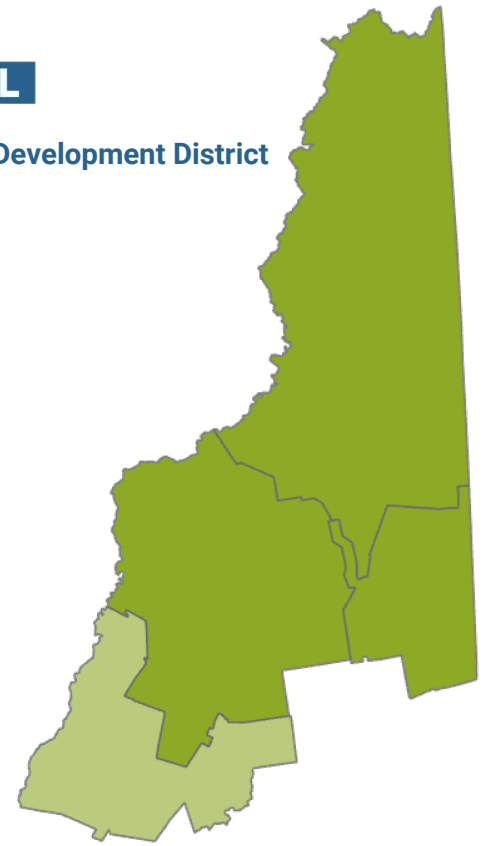




NORTH COUNTRY COUNCIL

Regional Planning Commission and Economic Development District



About Us

The North Country Council has provided land use, transportation, environmental, community, and economic development planning services for 48 years. We are one of nine Regional Planning Commissions (RPC) established in the state by [NH RSA 36:46](#). As an RPC; we assist in collaborative planning across many areas, act as liaisons between local, state, and federal governments, and provide advisory assistance in the region.

North Country Council seeks to effectively provide services supporting municipalities in planning and community development activities. Support to municipalities is accomplished by providing professional planning services, securing grants, administering grant funding, collecting and analyzing data, and regional coordination.

In addition to being an RPC, North Country Council is a federally designated Economic Development District (EDD) by the US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration. The Council, as an EDD, is responsible for carrying out the various aspects of developing, maintaining, and implementing the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Being a designated EDD, the region is afforded enhanced services focused on economic development.

These services include grant writing and administration, project development and management, Davis Bacon wage compliance, project funding strategies, outreach, public input sessions, surveys, and meeting facilitation.

Some of our assistance to communities and organizations may be contractual, depending on currently available funding sources, staff capacity, length, and request timing.

QUICK FACTS



Population



Median
Household
Income



Square
Land
Miles



Square
Inland
Water
Miles



Median
Age



Poverty
Rate



Municipalities &
Unincorporated
Places

RPC	82,262	\$59,655	3,052	57	53	11.4%	50 & 25
EDD*	140,706	\$62,273	3,952	86	51	10.6%	67 & 25

North Country Council, Regional Planning Commission region, covers all of Coös County and the municipalities in Northern and Carroll Counties. The Economic Development District (EDD) covers all of our Regional Planning Commission area and all of Grafton County.*

How We Can Assist



North Country Council provides communities and partner organizations with planning services, technical assistance, training, and resource connections. In various areas of community and economic development planning.

Most of our services are available to member and non-member communities and organizations. Members have the advantage of member rates, complimentary services, and the ability to leverage funds depending on the current funding sources the Council has available. Our services or assistance can be tailored to meet your community or organization's needs, capacity, or budget.

Some of the services and assistance we provide in our areas of focus include:

- Updating & developing community Master, Hazard Mitigation, or Capital Improvement Plans.
- Assistance with the organization of community Household Hazardous Waste Events.
- Development & implementation of special traffic counts, parking studies, completed street pop-ups, road surface management studies and stream crossing assessments.
- Development of surveys, public input process, and community outreach.
- Drafting and review of land use ordinances, policies, and procedures
- Initial data research, mapping, and funding strategy to support local project development
- Grant writing
- Grant administration and compliance

FOCUS AREAS

**Economic
Development**

**Community Planning
& Local Assistance**

**Transportation
Planning**

**Environmental
Planning**

**Mapping & Data
Analysis**

**Resiliency &
Emergency Planning**

Give our staff a call or email us. We would love to hear about your work and find ways to help.

We are always available to discuss your community's opportunities, challenges, projects, or planning needs, even if they do not fit neatly into one of our focus areas.

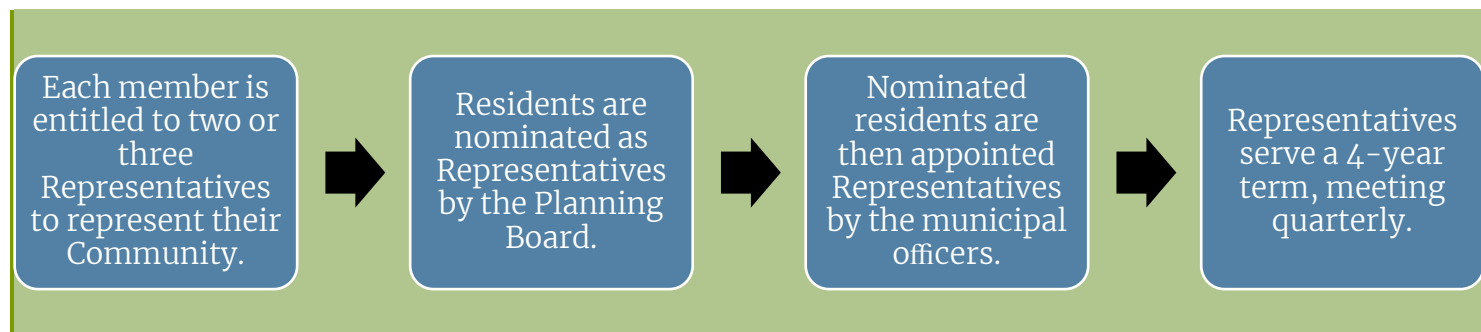


Membership



Any municipality in North Country Council's planning region with a planning board, by ordinance or resolution, is welcome and encouraged to become a member of the Council. Members pay annual dues that assist in leveraging other funding resources for planning efforts and can vary from year to year.

Each member municipality can appoint two residents or three if the total municipal population is over 10,000 people to serve as representatives of the Council. Representatives, as well as a Board of Directors, make up the Council's governing body. Representatives play an important role in providing the community's voice at a regional level.



Representatives liaise between the North Country Council and the communities they represent to provide practical assistance and enhanced considerations in regional and local planning activities. In addition, Representatives provide important updates about their community's experiences and work in concert with other communities to govern how North Country Council carries out the work program.

Representatives have the opportunity and are encouraged to participate in various North Country Councils' regional and state committees. Participation from Representatives ensures that the unique nature and challenges of the North Country are represented.

Responsibilities Of Representatives

- Oversee the Council and the Mission and keep them relevant to the needs of the region and communities.
- Review, advise, and approve the budget, work plan, regional plans, and assessments.
- Elect the Board of Directors and officers of the Council.
- Provide strategic guidance.
- Ensure financial solvency, integrity, and soundness of the organization.
- Utilize expertise and knowledge to make a positive impact.
- Act as an ambassador of North Country Council and conduit of information.
- Participate on committees as relevant.



For More Information
www.nccouncil.org

Member Opportunities



REGIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNCIL – PROVIDING BENEFITS TO ALL MEMBERS

Training on board basics & Methods, Master Planning, Flood Plains, and topics of special request.

Updates on data; population, demographics, housing, employment, transportation, and more.

Development of Regional Plans – Transportation, Master, Housing Needs Assessment and Economic

Technical assistance with geographic information system (GIS), mapping, and visual data display.

Review of developments of regional impacts when declared by municipal Planning Board.

Website & virtual library of resources, studies, guidance material, and regional land use regulations.

Review and comment on projects receiving federal aid in the region.

Assistance in coordinating regional household hazardous waste collection events.

Brownfield Program - identifying underutilized properties due to possible contamination for redevelopment.

Access to various grant funding sources to be leveraged for planning and development activities.

Informational blasts, monthly newsletters, and opportunities for regional networking.

SERVICES & ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO MEMBER COMMUNITIES

Review of zoning ordinances, subdivision, and site plan review regulations and master plans, including suggested amendments and minor revisions

Drafting or reviewing proposed land use regulations (e.g., excavation, erosion, sedimentation control, accessory apartments, home occupations, signs, parking, open space development ordinances, etc.)

Provide information on a variety of planning questions.

Assistance in reviewing unique subdivision and site plans

Short-term research projects on planning issues, data collection, and analysis

Research and preparation of grant applications.

Organizational assistance to local land use boards (e.g., rules of procedure, zoning amendment schedules, application forms, and checklists)

Computer/publication services include word processing land use control regulations, updating as necessary, and providing copies.

Bulk order New Hampshire Planning and Land Use Regulation books (estimated savings of \$70.00 per book)

Meeting Support - organization, promotion, facilitation, material preparation, note-taking, and photos.

SERVICES & ASSISTANCE ON A CONTRACTUAL BASIS

The Council can assist your community on a contractual basis for specific projects, lending municipal staffing capacity, or meeting facilitation. Assistance is available based on the scope of work and the timing of needs.

As a member community, the contractual rate is lower than that of a non-member community.

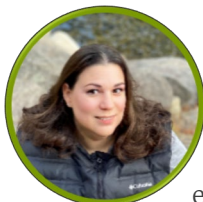
Some examples of the contractual services we can provide include the following:

- Updates of local planning documents: Master Plans, Natural Resources Inventories, Capital Improvement Plans, Hazard Mitigation Plans, and Local Emergency Operations Plans.
- Shared Planner services providing professional planning assistance directly in communities.
- Traffic studies, turning, and traffic count to support local community planning projects.
- Specific maps, data, or graphic needs for community projects.
- Initial preparation or revision of zoning ordinances, site plan review, and subdivision regulations.
- Preparation of community surveys, outreach, and public input sessions. Tabulation of results.
- Exploration and assistance with project financing tools such as TIF districts, community revitalization tax relief, and bonds
- Other Land-use studies, plans, inventories



Some of the above services are free to communities, while others are offered at a discounted member rate. This is not an exhaustive list of services; we recommend you connect with us directly to determine how North Country Council can assist your community.

Meet the Team

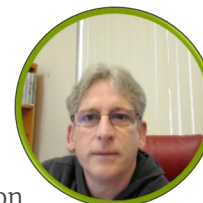


Michelle Moren-Grey, Executive Director

Michelle oversees & guides the Council's Team & organization. She provides project development, writes & administers grants, raises funds for organizational needs, conducts outreach & stays current on regional initiatives. As a lifelong resident of the region, she brings real-life experience in natural resource management, the outdoor recreation industry, and entrepreneurship to the Council. In her 11 years with the Council, she has worked in all facets of the organization, from administration to municipal planning and economic and community development. Outside of work, she can be found enjoying time outside with her husband, son, and daughter.

James Steele, Finance Manager & Special Projects Planner

James provides financial oversight to the organization and coordinates planning for special projects such as solid waste, brownfields, and GIS. James has been with the Council for over 15 years. His time with the Council provides experience and a detailed understanding of project management and grant compliance. He can be found hiking, working on his house, or enjoying an evening at a good brewpub when not at the office.



Angela Cleveland, Planning Coordinator

Angie is focused on community and economic development projects at the Council. With nearly 25 years of experience in community, economic development, and resilience planning in New Hampshire and Massachusetts, Angie brings her knowledge and passion for creating great communities for all to the Region. She has worked on master plans, housing plans, grant writing, and administration and loves community engagement. Angie has served in numerous leadership roles with the National American Planning Association and the Northern New England and Massachusetts Chapters. She is a proud mother, wife, and guardian of her animals. Angie owns a community cafe, roastery, and coworking space in Bethlehem.

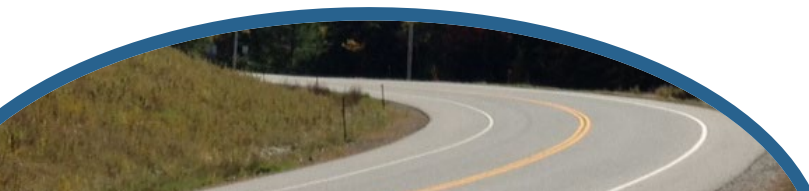
Nick Altonaga, Transportation Planner

Nick manages the Transportation Program at NCC. He has experience in community development, land use planning, and economic development that spans New England and Montana. He is passionate about using his expertise to improve the communities in the North Country. He can be found inside writing, reading sci-fi novels, and playing video games in his spare time. When the weather cooperates, he can be found outdoors camping and hiking across the region.



Cathlin Lord, Planning Specialist

Cat is the Council's Planning Specialist, focusing her work on GIS. Cat graduated from Allegheny College in 2020, majoring in Environmental Science with an emphasis on GIS. She now brings her technical skills in GIS and cartography to help create a visual understanding of what is happening in the North Country. When Cat isn't making maps, she can be found hiking, kayaking, or spending time with her nephews.



Meet the Team



Courtney Bowler, Associate Planner

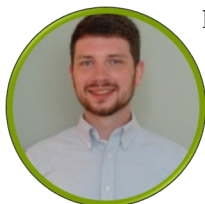
Courtney supports Council staff on planning projects across the focus areas of economic development, environmental, and transportation planning. Courtney has a BS in environmental conservation and brings ten years of experience working within the public education sphere; she is passionate about seeing the North Country flourish. Courtney enjoys weekends working with her husband to make improvements to her home and participates on the Littleton ZBA as well as the Ammonoosuc LAC.

Taylor Roy, Associate Planner

Taylor support the Council by focusing on community outreach and municipal planning services. She's a recent graduate of Plymouth State University with a Bachelors in Environmental Policy. With this, she brings knowledge from partnered projects within New Hampshire and an understanding of Western U.S. housing and policy. Taylor can be spotted camping, kayaking, or enjoying a local concert in the beloved North Country Scenery.



Kevin Driscoll, Assistant Planner



Kevin supports our Transportation Planning program, assisting in data gathering, research, and traffic count collection. He also works across the council's planning focus areas. Kevin brings his communication and coordination skills to the Council. During his off-time, Kevin can be found recreating on the water, playing with his dogs, hiking with his fiancée, and renovating their new home together.

Glenn Coppelman, Senior Economic Development Planner

Glenn works with communities, regional development corporations, and stakeholders to support economic development. He has over 40 years of development experience in the private and public sectors, more than half of which has been focused at the local and regional levels. When not working, he can be found Chairing his local Planning Board, tending to his Christmas Tree farm, or cruising around in one of his antique vehicles.



Highlights



Climate Resiliency Hub

As our region experiences more frequent and intense weather events, **it became clear during the Council's North Country Rising work that there was a need for a collection** of resources specific to Climate Resiliency. The work done in collaboration with regional and state environmental, energy, and climate partners helped form this Climate Resiliency Hub. This Hub is a collection of data, success stories, and resources compiled by the North Country Collaborative to support and provide guidance on climate resiliency measures for individuals, businesses, and communities in the region. The project's vision was to develop strategies and solutions for a more resilient, inclusive, **and caring economy that can withstand, adapt, innovate, and transform** in the face of natural and human disasters.

North Country Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Update

The 2023-2028 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) received its 2023 Annual Update and has been adopted by the Committee. This update is focused on updating data points throughout the document to be as accurate as possible for use by municipalities within the North Country Economic Development District. Click [HERE](#) to view the updated CEDS data. A significant change for the region has been a large increase in single-person families not in the labor force. For example, the Grafton RPC region saw a 5.3% increase in female single-person families not in the workforce. The overall trend in this data shows that more single female parents are not in the labor force. The full 2023-2028 CEDS is available at nccouncil.org.



Complete streets are designed and operated to provide safe access for all users. Communities wishing to increase the safety and accessibility of their streets may consider adopting Complete Streets policies. By implementing Complete Streets policies, communities can help ensure safe and accessible design measures are implemented during roadway improvement projects and maintenance activities.

Pop-Ups & Complete Streets Go Hand in Hand!

In the summer of 2023, the North Country Council and the Town of Bethlehem teamed up to make Main Street safer. By installing a downtown "pop-up," this temporary installation of visible pedestrian crossings gave the community a live example of what a safer downtown would look and feel like. Installing visible pedestrian crossings gave the community a live example of what a safer downtown would look and feel like. installing a downtown "pop-up," this temporary installation of visible crossings gave the community a live example of what a safer downtown would look like.



For More Information
www.nccouncil.org

Committee Opportunity



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

For more information
about the TAC, visit
www.nccouncil.org

or

contact Nick Altonaga at
naltonaga@nccouncil.org

The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) is a committee made up of representatives from around the region. TAC members provide input on transportation-related issues and the needs of communities in the region.

The TAC's responsibilities include assisting North Country Council staff with developing regional transportation plans, programs, and projects, identifying regional priorities for transportation funding, and serving as the point of contact between the Council, municipal officials, and the general public regarding transportation planning.

Each community in the North Country Council region may designate a TAC representative to ensure their voice is heard in the regional transportation planning process.

NORTH COUNTRY SCENIC BYWAYS COUNCIL

Nearly all the numbered state highways in northern New Hampshire are designated as either state or federal scenic and cultural byways that highlight the significant scenic, cultural, historical, and recreational resources of the North Country.

North Country Council serves as the point of contact for the five Scenic Byways overseen by the North Country Scenic Byway Council (NCSBC): Moose Path Trail, Woodland Heritage Trail, Presidential Range Trail, River Heritage Trail, and the White Mountain Trail National Scenic Byway. The NCSBC advises the North Country Council on matters related to scenic byways in Northern New Hampshire. Carl Martland of Sugar Hill currently chairs the NCSBC.

For more information about
the NCSC, visit
www.nccouncil.org

&

www.northcountrybyways.org
or

contact Nick Altonaga at
naltonaga@nccouncil.org

NORTH COUNTRY COMPREHENSIVE

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY COMMITTEE

For more information
about the CEDS
Committee, visit
www.nccouncil.org

or

contact Angela Cleveland
at
acleveland@nccouncil.org

The CEDS Committee is responsible for developing and revising the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). This committee is comprised of individuals who represent a broad range of constituencies in the region. These stakeholders include public officials, state and federal representatives, higher education institutions, workforce development, healthcare, local business owners, non-profits, and regional leaders.

The CEDS Committee reviews regional projects and activities pertaining to economic development and job creation. It meets bi-monthly to review and prioritize economic development projects and update the CEDS. Committee meetings also provide a forum for pending projects to present material to the Committee for their consideration. Pending projects to present material to the Committee for their consideration.



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