

# MRTMA

## FACTS & INFO



### What is the MRTMA?

- The MRTMA is a developing coalition of private and public stakeholders interested in a better transportation future for the Monadnock Region.
- It is guided by a vision for an improved transportation system that is affordable, accessible and energy efficient, whereby residents and visitors to the region can move conveniently and safely, with or without personal automobiles.
- It believes that having alternative transportation options can lead to improved air quality, healthier communities, and long-term savings by reducing the number of vehicles on the roadways and by increasing travel choices available to residents and visitors.

### Why is it important?

There is a growing need in the Monadnock Region for improved transportation services and infrastructure. Transportation policies and investments have a real bearing on a number of basic human needs including affordability, accessibility, personal health, a clean environment, energy security and sense of community.

- **Affordability.** Driving a vehicle is not cheap! In 2002, the average commute to work in the Southwest Region was 22 miles. Using this average and the estimated national average driving cost for 2009 of 56.6 cents per mile, a Southwestern NH resident can expect to pay \$24.90 for each daily commute. The poorest fifth of the population spends on average 30 cents of every dollar on transportation items including but not limited to fuel, insurance, registration fees, inspection and maintenance costs. (Sources: US Census Bureau, American Auto Association, and US Department of Labor)
- **Accessibility.** By the year 2030, 43% of NH's population is projected to be either under eighteen (21.6%) or over sixty-five (21.4%). (Source: US Census Bureau). Most non-drivers fall into these age groups. At the same time, most of the Monadnock Region is rural in nature and many residences rely on personal vehicles to get to shopping, medical, work and other important destinations. Without personal transportation it can be incredibly difficult for non-drivers to access needed goods and services.
- **Personal Health.** According to 2008 NH Department of Health and Human Services data on Monadnock Region adults, 35% of the population is overweight and an additional 32% is considered obese. Being overweight and obese are both linked to a number of chronic diseases, including coronary heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and some cancers. Twenty-four percent of adults report that they have had no physical activity in the past month. Integrating physical activity in daily travel is a practical way to reduce personal weight while at the same time saving on health care costs.
- **Clean Environment.** Did you know that transportation sources accounted for 29% of total U.S. greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in 2006? According to EPA, it is the fastest-growing source of GHGs in the U.S., accounting for 47% of the net increase in total U.S. emissions

since 1990. Transportation is also the largest end-use source of CO<sub>2</sub>, which is the most prevalent greenhouse gas.

- **Energy Security.** Increased use of automobiles and trucks nationwide has led to significant dependence on non-renewable resources, much of which is only available from foreign nations. In the Monadnock Region, transportation accounts for 43% of the Region's energy use - about 10% more than the national average. (Source: Cool Monadnock's Regional Assessment, 2005)
- **Sense of Community.** Most Monadnock drivers' travel experiences take them outside of their home community and lack interaction with other people. ~80% of the region's residents drive to work alone. In the Monadnock Region, the average time per day spent commuting is roughly 40 minutes. (Source: 2006-2008 American Community Survey, US Census Bureau).

### **How can the MRTMA help?**

- The MRTMA will help address these issues by providing a framework for the public and private sector to build consensus on transportation needs and develop solutions. In addition, the MRTMA will be able to offer technical assistance, education services, and promotion on ways to improve transportation.
- Through leadership and education, the MRTMA promotes all modes of transportation that enhance the environmental, economic, and physical health and wellbeing of the Monadnock Region.

### **How can you help?**

- To learn about how you can help improve the region's transportation systems visit the coalition's award winning website at [www.monadnockTMA.org](http://www.monadnockTMA.org).
  - *This site highlights regional opportunities for changing your travel behavior and provides information on the multiple benefits that can be received from alternative transportation.*
  - *In addition, this website includes information and resources for residents, visitors, employers, and municipal officials on how to support the development of improved and alternative transportation systems.*
- **Join the MRTMA coalition.** Membership is free and being a member means communicating with your personal and business associates about the impacts of our existing transportation system and opportunities for a future transportation system.

For more information, contact the Southwest Region Planning Commission at:

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