

Northern New England Planning Conference: Speaker Bios

Price Armstrong, AICP, AECOM

Price is the Multimodal Planning Lead for New England in AECOM's Transportation Planning Group, focusing on Complete Streets, transit operations, strategic planning, and safety. Prior to his time in consulting, he worked at transit agencies, state departments of transportation, and in the nonprofit sector. Price also served on the Holyoke Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee and Conservation Commission, giving him a firsthand understanding on the importance of municipal planning. He is an avid multi-day bicycle tourist, having recently circumnavigated Lake Ontario by bike.

Rain Bates (They/Them), Urban Tree Ambassador, City of Manchester

Rain was raised in the lakes region of New Hampshire where they developed a love for the land and everything that inhabits it. Inspired by nature they first pursued art, before going back to college to study Environmental Science. Rain is an artist, barista, and gardener, motivated to find solutions for the climate crisis. They've been living in Manchester for the past six years and are excited to be more involved in planning a greener future for the community.

Alex Belenz, SE Group

Alex works with communities, regions, and land managers to deliver excellent outdoor recreation experiences, promote equitable community development, and find a sustainable balance between the two. An interdisciplinary planner, he offers a blend of creative and analytical abilities to each planning project. Alex continually challenges himself and those around him to think beyond "business as usual" when working to develop plans that are actionable and effective. Alex joined SE Group in 2022 and brings a unique blend of planning experience. He spent five years as a regional planner in northern New Hampshire and has worked with public land managers across the country on issues of recreation, transportation, and visitor use management.

Kristin Bixby, Planning & Community Development, City of Manchester

Kristin Bixby is a Senior Planner for the Planning & Community Development Department for the City of Manchester, NH. A New Hampshire native and Keene State College alum, she got her start in planning through an internship with the Town of Peterborough, NH, where she remained post-graduation as a planner. When she started with the City of Manchester in 2020, she was tasked with re-districting Manchester's voting wards and was involved in the final drafting of Manchester's latest master plan. These initial assignments aided in her becoming the project lead for the brand-new Land Use Code, which has since been adopted and went into effect on March 1, 2026. Kristin also serves as staff liaison to the Manchester Conservation Commission and provides guidance on projects in front of the Manchester Planning Board. She lives in the heart of downtown Manchester, where she enjoys going to shows and tasting new cuisines, and continues to proselytize the importance of walkable communities to her family, friends, and anyone else who will listen!

Renee Bourdeau, Geosyntec Consultant

Clients seek out Renee to find solutions for their critical stormwater and surface-water needs, recognizing her in-depth knowledge of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting; municipal stormwater program planning and operations; and stormwater best management practices (BMPs). For much of her career, she has worked closely with public and private clients on tasks related to stormwater and industrial NPDES permit compliance. As a stormwater planner, Renee provides technical assistance to various clients on regulatory issues, including developing and evaluating conceptual BMP plans and assessing the significance of potential water-quality impacts. She has prepared nutrient-control plans for both nitrogen and phosphorous on behalf of numerous municipalities throughout New Hampshire and Massachusetts. She has also supported clients in the Great Bay Watershed as they plan for and implement nonpoint-source controls to reduce nitrogen loads. With years of experience managing water-quality projects, Renee is adept at organizing and leading technical discussions, overseeing contracting, and managing complex projects to meet budgets and schedules.

She is recognized as a clear communicator of technical subject matter, and she writes and edits technical memos, reports, and manuals that are geared to their intended audiences.

Dan Bourque, York Creative Collective

Dan is the Head of Hospitality and Events for Queen City Center, one of Manchester's newest hospitality destinations. He is responsible for bringing the property to life through events, entertainment, and collaboration with the incredible group of individual Queen City Center businesses (Harpoon Brewery, Clyde's Dessert & Wine Bar, Ornate Beauty, Barre Life, Wicked Joyful, City Club Golf, and The Gardens at Queen City Center). His role focuses on finding creative ways to use the property, building strong partnerships, and creating engaging experiences for the local community. With more than a decade of experience in hospitality and venue operations, Dan is tasked with helping Queen City Center grow into a vibrant destination and gathering place, becoming an important part of the continued energy and growth of downtown Manchester.

Steffan Brown, General Manager, The Mall at Rockingham Park

Steffan oversees the overall operation, performance, redevelopment, and strategic direction of one of New Hampshire's largest retail destinations. He has spent more than a decade leading and supporting properties within Simon Property Group, an S&P 100 company, and global leader in retail real estate whose portfolio includes approximately 235 properties, and growing, across North America, Europe, and Asia. Prior to Rockingham Park, he served as General Manager of The Mall of New Hampshire in Manchester and previously held Area Director of Operations roles for Simon. Throughout his career, he has led major operational and capital initiatives, supported redevelopment projects, and worked closely with national retailers, contractors, municipal officials, and community partners.

Amanda Bunker, Retired Planning Consultant

Amanda is a former planning consultant with over 18 years' experience as a project manager and on project teams in Maine, having worked with municipal, non-profit, and private clients. Her professional experience and background include comprehensive plans and master plans, land use ordinances, downtown plans, facilitation and community participation, strategic plan development, partnership-building, project funding through state and local programs, and project implementation. She has more recently been on the Board of the Maine Association of Planners (including as President) for more than 10 years and has served for many years on the NNECAPA Executive Committee.

Kate Burch, AICP, Senior Planner, CommunityScale

Kate specializes in housing policy, zoning, and spacial analysis. At CommunityScale, she helps communities develop data-driven strategies to address housing, land use, and economic development challenges, drawing on municipal planning experience to create actionable, accessible plans. She has a BFA in Fine Arts from New York University and a Masters in Community Planning from the University of Southern Maine.

Aqsa Butt, Senior Planner, Public Engagement & Outreach Specialist, BSC Group

Aqsa is a planner with over 10 years of experience leading and supporting public engagement, outreach, and planning initiatives for diverse communities. She develops public involvement strategies that create meaningful opportunities for both in-person and online participation, including multilingual outreach and engagement with Environmental Justice populations. Her experience includes facilitating interactive activities such as dot voting, participatory mapping, and conceptual design workshops to identify community priorities, build consensus, and inform planning recommendations and implementation strategies. Grounded in strong spatial analysis, visualization, and planning expertise, Aqsa specializes in translating complex information into accessible, engaging processes that support informed decision-making and inclusive outcomes.

Amber Nicole Cannan (She/Her, They/Them), Founder of Unchartered Tutoring in Manchester

Amber Nicole Cannan is the founder, leader, muse, web designer, project manager, video talent, lesson, and grant writer for Unchartered Tutoring. She is a biomedical artist, science and art teacher and general community

member. She serves as a board member at the SEE Science Center and is an actual exhibit at the same institution. She serves on the Manchester City Department of Public Works Commission, The Manchester City Library Foundation and The New Hampshire Creative Club, New Hampshire's oldest professional arts organization. Amber Nicole's degree is in fine arts from the Cleveland Institute of Art (CIA), one of the top 5 art schools in North America. She has a strong background in science and anatomy from Case Western Reserve University and CIA's Biomedical Art program. This scientific background helps her connect with "nontraditional" thinkers.

Chris Chop, Transportation Director, GPCOG

Chris is the Transportation Director at the Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG), a regional planning agency serving Maine's Greater Portland and Sebago Lakes areas. Prior to joining GPCOG in 2020, Chris served as the Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Program Manager at Maine Medical Center and as a project manager at Michael Baker International in Richmond, Virginia. Chris earned his Masters in Planning at Virginia Tech. He currently lives in Portland, Maine with his wife, two kids, and giant Newfoundland dog.

Nikki Conant, PE, Vice President of Project Delivery, Sebago Technics, Inc.

Nikki is Vice President of Project Delivery at Sebago Technics, Inc., where she leads a multidisciplinary team managing projects from initial planning through final construction across the firm's civil, transportation, and land development practices. She joined Sebago Technics in 2018 as a Transportation Engineer and has since built extensive experience in roadway and multimodal design, traffic signal design, traffic permitting, and planning studies. Her project work spans locally administered and municipal partnership initiatives, including sidewalk and shared use path design, traffic calming and ADA-compliant pedestrian improvements, and downtown corridor planning studies across Maine. Nikki has led right-of-way coordination, public engagement, and Council presentations and is well versed in communicating the visual for the projects through both planning and engineering. She holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Maine, is a licensed Professional Engineer, and serves as Secretary and Board Member of WTS Maine.

Monique Cornett, Director of Economic & Community Development, City of Westbrook

Monique works to advance business growth and community revitalization. Her work focuses on public-private partnerships and connecting businesses and developers to the resources they need to succeed. Prior to joining the City, Monique spent a decade across the nonprofit industry, public media, and an early stage start up. She brings a relationship-driven, collaborative approach to economic development.

Caleb Dobbins, DPW, City of Manchester

Caleb Dobbins is currently the Chief Highway Engineer for the City of Manchester, NH Department of Public Works with responsibilities for the Engineering and Traffic sections of the Department. Prior to joining the DPW in 2022, he had been employed with New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) for 33 years, serving as the State Highway Maintenance Engineer from 2006 to 2022 and was responsible for the administration of the Bureau of Highway Maintenance, encompassing the Headquarters section based in Concord, NH as well as the operation of the 6 highway districts located throughout the state. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Carnegie-Mellon University and is a licensed professional engineer in the State of New Hampshire.

Ellen Douglas, Ph.D., AECOM

Ellen is a senior civil and resiliency project manager based in the AECOM Chelmsford, Massachusetts office. With a background as a hydrologist and engineer, she possesses extensive proficiency in the comprehensive analysis of water-related challenges. As a part of the Joint Land Use Study, Ellen led the development of multiple sea level rise scenarios for southern Maine and coastal resilience solutions for particularly vulnerable parts of Kittery.

Matt Drost, Regional Planner, MaineDOT

Matt Drost is a Regional Planner with the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT), where he serves as a vital link between state transportation initiatives and the communities they serve. In this role, Matt builds and sustains relationships with municipal leaders, regional associations, and local stakeholders throughout Maine—listening closely to community needs and connecting them with the resources, programs, and expertise of MaineDOT. A native of Maine, Matt holds a community planning and development master’s degree from the Muskie School of Public Service at the University of Southern Maine. He also serves as a Trustee for the local water district, coaches the high school golf team, and has served for more than a decade on Randolph’s Select Board where he lives with his family.

Jeff Dube, PLA Landscape Architect and Community Development Professional, Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development

Jeff works on housing and community revitalization initiatives across the state. His work focuses on aligning design, infrastructure, and implementation strategies to support vibrant, walkable neighborhoods, and expanded housing opportunities. Jeff serves as a lead on Vermont’s 802 Homes initiative, helping advance a statewide portfolio of pre-designed homes intended for modular and panelized construction. He works closely with designers, municipalities, developers, and state agencies to support practical, scalable approaches to small-scale housing production and community-centered development.

Sam Durfee, Planning Manager, City of Nashua

Sam Durfee, AICP, is the Planning Manager for the City of Nashua, where he is leading a comprehensive rewrite of the city’s land use code aimed at expanding housing opportunities and strengthening Nashua’s position as a vibrant place to live and do business. His background includes planning work at the local and regional levels, as well as nonprofit leadership, serving on the boards of Plan New Hampshire and the Northern New England Chapter of the American Planning Association.

Katy Easterly Martey, Executive Director, Community Development Finance Authority

Katy provides leadership and strategic direction across CDFA’s programs. CDFA works with partners to advance new ideas and innovation in community development, economic development, and clean energy throughout New Hampshire. Katy fosters effective communication with the Board of Directors, community leaders, legislators, and other stakeholders to achieve strategic and annual goals adopted by the Board. Katy has strong roots in Manchester; she grew up in Manchester and currently lives in the city with her family.

Julie Elwell – Data/GIS Specialist, Town of Peterborough

Julie Elwell serves as the Data/GIS Specialist for the Town of Peterborough, where she manages and maintains critical geographic and municipal data that support a wide range of planning and operational initiatives. Her work spans everything from digitizing new parcel data to asset management, ensuring that the Town’s information remains accurate, accessible, and up to date. Julie played a leading role in the development and launch of Peterborough’s first virtual Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) mapping tool and has created updated trail maps that feature many of her own photographs. She also develops both virtual and print maps for events hosted by the Office of Planning & Building. Julie’s expertise in data management is integral to major municipal planning efforts, including the Hazard Mitigation Plan, Master Plan, and zoning updates. Outside of work, she enjoys hiking, playing softball, and kayaking.

Jackson Evans, Chair, Snowsville Community Trust / Field Service Representative, Preservation Trust of Vermont

Jackson lives in Braintree, Vermont, about a mile from the historic village of Snowsville. He has worked in historic preservation and preservation-adjacent fields for nearly 20 years, both at a desk and with a hammer in hand. Since 2022, he has worked as a Field Service Representative for the Preservation Trust of Vermont, travelling around the State to provide technical assistance to projects in Vermont’s downtowns, village centers,

and backroads. Jackson is the Chair of the Snowsville Community Trust, supporting the redevelopment of the historic Fan House into multi-family housing.

Meredith Farrell Goldstein, Orr & Reno

Meredith advises clients on a range of civil litigation matters, including commercial disputes, residential real estate disputes, and land use and development litigation. As a litigator, Meredith enjoys helping her clients solve problems and resolve disputes. She represents clients in both federal and state litigation, as well as in front of local Planning Boards and Zoning Boards of Adjustments. Meredith is a graduate of the University of New Hampshire School of Law and the Daniel Webster Scholar Honors Program. Meredith completed legal residencies at the United States Attorney's Office for the District of New Hampshire, BAE Systems, and with the Honorable Judge Joseph Laplante in the United States District Court for the District of New Hampshire. While in law school, Meredith and a fellow University of New Hampshire law student were selected to compete in a Northeast Regional Moot Court competition and won Best Oral Argument. A lifelong resident of New Hampshire, Meredith enjoys travel, running, and spending time with her husband and their dog, Ellie.

Annemarie Fortune, AICP, Brownfields Program Manager, Stone Environmental, Inc.

Annemarie Fortune is a Senior Planner and Brownfields Program Manager at Stone Environmental, Inc., where she supports community redevelopment projects across Vermont. Her work focuses on integrating environmental due diligence, historic preservation, and practical redevelopment planning. She works closely with municipalities, developers, and regional partners to navigate EPA brownfields requirements, NEPA, and complex environmental challenges, translating complex environmental regulations and technical findings into clear, actionable decisions for project teams, local officials, and the public. Her role often begins at project scoping, helping communities define viable paths forward and coordinate the wrap-around services needed to move projects from early assessment through reuse.

Her experience connects site-level assessment with broader planning efforts, including resilience and flood mitigation considerations, to support redevelopment outcomes that are both feasible and community-driven.

David Gamble, Gamble Associates

David Gamble is an architect and urban planner and Principal of Gamble Associates, based in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The firm focuses on urban revitalization and community development. A current Lecturer in Urban Design in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning at MIT, he is former Chair of the American Institute of Architects Regional and Urban Design Committee and the Urban Design Committee of the Boston Society of Architects. His research looks at the catalytic effects of urban design and planning projects with a focus on the creative design and implementation strategies to enable redevelopment. David is editor of *"Idea City"* (UMass Press, 2023) and co-author of *"Rebuilding the American Town"* and *"Rebuilding the American City"* (co-author Patty Heyda), published by Routledge Press in 2025 and 2016. The research probes the catalytic effects of urban design and planning projects with a focus on creative implementation strategies that overcome barriers to redevelopment. He was inducted as a Fellow in the American Institute of Certified Planners in 2026.

Jason Garnham, AICP, Town of Kittery

Jason is the Director of Planning & Development for the Town of Kittery, ME, where he is focused on a variety of housing, transportation, and resiliency initiatives and is currently leading the Town's Comprehensive Plan update. He brings a varied background to his role, including 15 years in the construction industry, nearly 5 years of conservation non-profit experience, and 8 years of municipal planning experience in the Seattle area. A New Hampshire native and UNH alum, Jason lives in Kittery with his family and enjoys playing outside with friends, cooking (especially pizza!), and talking with colleagues about how weird planning is in Maine.

Kevin Geiger, AICP CFM, Chief Planner, TRORC

Kevin is one of the most senior planners in Vermont, having worked in regional planning for over 80 towns in Vermont since 1990. He specializes in land use planning and regulation, brownfield assessment, water quality, housing, climate change, and emergency management. Kevin has served on several boards and commissions in Vermont. He has done presentations at the municipal, regional, state, and national levels. He is an adept facilitator, Certified Flood Manager, a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners, and has a MS in Resource Management and Administration from Antioch New England Graduate School and a BA in Human Ecology from College of the Atlantic.

Margo Ghia, AICP, Natural Resources & Senior Planner, Windham Regional Commission

Margo joined the Windham Regional Commission (WRC) in 2019 as the Natural Resources Planner. Working with 27 rural communities in southeast Vermont, she loves facilitating conversations, bringing stakeholders together to discuss issues, connecting communities and people with resources, and managing projects. Excited by new learning opportunities, Believing in interdisciplinary planning, she has been particularly excited to broaden her scope of work to include town planning, emergency management, transportation, energy planning and special projects (thanks Covid). Margo comes to WRC with a broad range of professional, educational, and volunteer experiences. Working for a Natural Resources Conservation District, she worked with communities and landowners to address a wide array of natural resource concerns including water quality, agricultural best management practices, and education. As a non-profit director, she led an arts organization through a significant physical and programmatic growth. With a background in Environmental Education, she developed education programs in regional schools, libraries and for the general public. With a strong commitment to her community, she has volunteered on school and library boards, a development review board, and multiple non-profit boards. All of these experiences help broaden and strengthen her work as a regional planner.

Joanne Glode, The Nature Conservancy

Joanne Glode is the Southern New Hampshire Stewardship Ecologist for The Nature Conservancy in New Hampshire. In this role, Joanne is responsible for managing 15 nature preserves, totaling over 6,000-acres, in Southern New Hampshire. On these lands, Joanne has focused on managing habitats for climate resilience and advancing equitable access to nature. Joanne led the project team responsible for the design, community engagement, and construction of the All-Persons Trail at The Nature Conservancy's Manchester Cedar Swamp Preserve, which opened on Earth Day 2022.

Nicole Gratton, Field Services Representative, Preservation Trust of Vermont

Nicole Gratton is a Field Services Representative for PTV. She holds a BA from the University of Vermont, an M.Ed. from Lyndon State College, and a Master of Urban Planning from McGill University. Prior to working for PTV, Nicole worked as a regional and municipal planner supporting towns and villages throughout the Northeast Kingdom (NEK). Nicole loves working with small communities to help them identify and lean into their own unique assets and identities to create a realistic and actionable plan that guides and supports implementation. Nicole lives in the NEK with her husband and two daughters in a 1900 farmhouse with stunning views of Jay Peak. Nicole loves reading and discussing books, Nordic skiing and mountain biking, and making dinner with her family.

Laura Graziano, Community Resilience Planner, Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission

With her extensive background in geographic information systems (GIS), Laura provides mapping expertise to Lincoln County, including GIS services to comprehensive plan updates and coastal resiliency work. Laura's past work experience as a consultant with the Army Corps of Engineers and 99th Readiness Division provides a solid basis for the hazard mitigation planning and coastal resiliency work the RPC perform. In addition to mapping skills, Laura assists towns with comprehensive planning, public engagement, community climate

resilience, environmental sustainability, and publishes “LCRPC Interprets!”, a monthly e-newsletter on climate change.

Chloe Gross, Planner, Southwest Region Planning Commission

Chloe Gross is a Planner at Southwest Region Planning Commission in the Monadnock Region of New Hampshire. At SWRPC she is involved in a variety of projects including the Monadnock Accessory Dwelling Unit Design Challenge, Timber for Transit, Citizen Planner Peer-to-Peer Roundtables, Regional Plan update, energy efficiency and conservation, transportation, and food systems. Prior to her current position, Chloe attended the University of New Hampshire and earned a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Conservation and Sustainability.

Kaziah Haviland, Village Trust Program Director, Vermont Council on Rural Development

As Director of the Village Trust Initiative at VCRD, Kaziah brings a wealth of design experience to the public engagement processes she co-designs with communities. Her past architectural and engagement work has explored community driven design processes, social wellbeing, and sustainability. She received her Masters in Architecture from the University of Texas, and has worked in the Field of Architecture, Planning and Development for over 17 years. Prior to her work at VCRD she worked to manage and develop multi-family affordable housing at Downstreet Housing and Community Development in Barre, VT. Before this, she served as an Enterprise Rose Fellow, working as the Director of Design and Planning at Thunder Valley CDC on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

Jacob Hemmerick, AICP, Community Planning + Policy Manager, Vermont Department of Housing & Community Development

Jacob works in the Division of Community Planning + Revitalization – a team that uses a place-based approach to land-use planning and community development to empower state and local leaders to plan for and build vibrant, inclusive, and resilient downtowns, villages, community centers and neighborhoods. Jacob’s work focuses on the Vermont Municipal and Regional Planning Act and the Community Investment Program, administration of regional and municipal planning grants, administration of the State designated centers & neighborhoods, and special projects. Jacob holds a Master of Public Administration, and his prior work includes service as a park ranger, ICMA management fellow, local planning and economic development director, development review planner, planning commissioner, city councilor, mayor, and non-profit board president.

Ben Hebert, SNHPC

Ben Hebert joined SNHPC in May 2021 as a Planning Intern. His main line of work involved traffic counting, stream crossing assessments and building permit data collection. He started full-time in June 2022 as an Assistant Planner before taking on the responsibility as Region 8's Mobility Manager in August. A Pennsylvania native, Ben studied at UNH and earned a bachelor’s degree in Community and Environmental Planning. His main topics of interest include public transportation, equity, affordable housing, clean energy urban design and landscape architecture. In his free time, Ben enjoys hiking, running, collecting records and playing bass guitar.

Emily Innes, Innes Land Strategies Group

Emily Innes, AICP, LEED AP ND is an award-winning planner with over fifteen years of experience in planning and urban design. In 2020, she founded Innes Associates, now Innes Land Strategies Group, to help communities make informed decisions on land use, and understand the implications of those decisions on the social, economic, and environmental health of the community. She has spoken on zoning, design, and housing issues for the Citizen Planner Training Collaborative, the Massachusetts Municipal Lawyers Association, and the Urban Land Institute (ULI). She also serves on the ULI Boston/New England Real Estate Advisory Committee, Climate Resiliency Committee, and the Urban Development Council.

Amanda Kidd-Kestler, New Hampshire Art Association

Amanda Kidd-Kestler is an artist, arts administrator, and community organizer. She currently serves as the Executive Director of the New Hampshire Art Association (NHAA), where she champions the visual arts and provides support for emerging and established local artists. She is a dedicated advocate for the arts, previously serving on the Worcester Arts Council from 2017 to 2019 and on the Cultural Plan Subcommittee for the City of Portsmouth from 2023 to 2024. She received her BA from Clark University, where she studied Studio Art and Geography.

Jennifer Ladd, Engineering Manager, Toole Design Group

Jennifer is a Senior Engineer with strong experience in the planning and design of municipal transportation projects. She has provided more than fifteen years of coordination between public and private stakeholders, advocates, utilities, contractors, and the general public in order to successfully modernize multimodal networks. Jennifer specializes in bicycle and pedestrian facilities, ADA design and compliance, construction and maintenance feasibility, creative funding strategies, and alternative design and cost analyses.

Jacob LaFontaine, Planning Director, Town of Salem

There he oversees the Town's Planning Department and provides staff support to various land use boards. He recently facilitated the Town's first comprehensive master plan update in over 20 years and has provided development review of Tuscan Village, a 170-acre mixed use development. He previously worked for the Town of Tilton in the Land Use Department and Town Administrator's Office. He serves on NHPA's executive committee, the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission and previously served on the Planning Board in Milford, NH. He holds a Masters of Public Administration and a Bachelors in Political Science.

Cathy LaFata, AICP CTP, HDR Engineering

Cathy is a Principal Consultant at HDR Engineering, inc. with over 30 years of experience in both transportation and environmental planning and project management. Cathy spent 5 years as HDR's global Transportation Equity / Community Transportation Strategy Director and she now leads Transportation Planning and Cross Sector Services in New England.

Katie Lamoureaux, AICP, Senior Scientist and Planner with Geosyntec Consultants

Katie, AICP, is a Senior Scientist and Project Manager with more than 20 years of experience supporting municipalities with stormwater management, watershed planning, water quality protection, climate resilience, and environmental regulatory programs. She helps communities develop practical solutions that integrate technical analysis, code and ordinance updates, infrastructure management, stakeholder engagement, and public outreach to improve environmental outcomes and regulatory compliance. Katie holds a B.S. in Marine and Freshwater Biology from the University of New Hampshire and an M.A. in Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning from Tufts University.

Janel Lawton, Director, New Hampshire's Office of Outdoor Recreation Industry Development

Janel is Director of Outdoor Recreation Industry Development at the New Hampshire Department of Business and Economic Affairs. She leads statewide efforts to strengthen the outdoor recreation economy by partnering with businesses, nonprofits, and government agencies. She coordinates outdoor recreation policy with partners across state government and the outdoor recreation sector as her work advances sustainable recreation, community well-being, conservation, and economic development. Previously, she served as BEA's Rural Economic Development Administrator.

Colin Lentz, Transportation Planner, Strafford Regional Planning Commission

Colin Lentz doesn't know how he ended up as a transportation planner, but he loves it. Following a master's program at UNH in Natural Resources and Public Policy, he started working at Strafford Regional Planning Commission as a data collection intern. That was 12 years ago. SRPC has given him the opportunity to directly

help communities plan for the future they want. Transportation touches so many aspects of people's lives so that makes for an interesting, diverse job. Colin lives in Rochester NH with his wife and 5-year-old son. He can usually be found woodworking or puttering in his crazy garden.

Erik Lesniak, Business Liaison, City of Manchester

Erik Lesniak is a passionate community and economic development professional who believes strongly in the power of relationships, connections, and helping others succeed. As Business Liaison for the City of Manchester, NH Economic Development Office, Erik works closely with businesses, entrepreneurs, property owners, developers, and community partners to connect them with resources, opportunities, and the people who can help move their goals forward. A proud husband and father, Erik is deeply committed to his community and brings the same energy and passion to volunteering, coaching, and supporting others. At his core, Erik believes in meeting people where they are, building genuine relationships, and making sure people feel supported, valued, and appreciated.

Jeff Levine, AICP, Owner & Principal, Levine Planning Strategies

Jeff Levine, AICP, is an urban planner who has worked in New England for 30 years. Currently, he is a Professor of the Practice in the Department of Urban Studies & Planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is also the Owner and Principal of Levine Planning Strategies, a small consulting firm that specializes in bridging the gap between the development community and city planners. In addition, he teaches Planetizen's AICP Preparation course. From 2012 to 2019, he was the Director of Planning & Urban Development for the City of Portland, ME. Prior to working in Portland, Jeff worked in the City of Somerville (MA), where he developed plans for the redevelopment of the Assembly Square district as well as for extension of an existing light rail line through the city. He also served as the Director of Planning & Community Development for the Town of Brookline (MA) where he worked on several affordable housing developments and completed their Comprehensive Plan. Jeff also is the President of the Northern New England chapter of the American Planning Association and the Chair of the GrowSmart Maine Board of Directors. His book *Leadership in Planning: How to Communicate Ideas and Effect Positive Change* (Routledge) was published in July 2021.

Derek Lick, Director of the Litigation Department at Orr & Reno

Orr & Reno is a prominent, full-service commercial law firm based in Concord, New Hampshire, that provides strategic legal representation across a wide array of practice areas, including business law, energy, government relations, and litigation. A seasoned litigator, Derek has more than 25 years of experience representing clients in a variety of complex legal matters, including, among other things, business, real estate, construction, and property tax disputes. Derek has represented clients in federal court, in all eleven of the state's superior courts, as well as multiple times before the New Hampshire Supreme Court. He also represents clients throughout the State of New Hampshire in land use matters before local Planning Boards and Zoning Boards of Adjustment. In his spare time, Derek enjoys accompanying his travel-agent wife on the many jet-setting adventures, voyages and explorations she arranges for their family. Closer to home, he also spends his time biking on various back roads and trails on his fat-tire e-bike.

J.B. Mack, Southwest Region Planning Commission

J. B. Mack is the Assistant Director at Southwest Region Planning Commission (SWRPC), which is located in Keene, NH. SWRPC is an organization that provides a variety of local and regional planning services to a thirty-four town planning district in southwest New Hampshire. Among other responsibilities, J. B. manages the agency's Brownfield Assessment Program--the oldest regionally administered program in NH--personally overseeing more than 40 brownfields projects since assuming management responsibilities in 2007. He finds brownfields projects are consistently among the most interesting and rewarding planning related work that he's experienced in the field, helping towns achieve community and economic development goals while ensuring

our environment and human health is protected. J. B. has a Masters of Regional Planning degree from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Alexis Mann, Director of Housing Policy, Midcoast Council of Governments

Alexis has twenty years of experience advancing family economic well-being in Maine and across the country by bridging research, policy, and practice. Her work spans academia, philanthropy, and local government, where she has focused on identifying and aligning leverage points across sectors to drive systemic change, including co-designing and implementing policies that promote more equitable family well-being, particularly in rural communities and smaller cities. Alexis holds a PhD in Social Policy and Sociology from the Heller School for Social Policy and Management.

Kate McCarthy, Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission

Kate brings over 16 years of experience working across Vermont as a land use planner and community development professional. She is passionate about connecting communities with resources and facilitating conversations about solutions that help build healthy human and natural communities. Kate joined the (CCRPC) in 2024. She provides communities with planning and zoning support, project management services, and guidance implementing strategies that promote strong, equitable places. Before joining CCRPC, Kate worked in southeastern Vermont at the Windham Regional Commission. She then directed the Sustainable Communities Program at the Vermont Natural Resources Council for ten years before joining the Vermont Community Foundation as a grant maker. Prior to coming to Vermont, she worked in international education as a study abroad advisor and director at Central Washington University. She holds a Masters of Regional Planning from Cornell University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Cultural Anthropology from Rice University.

Renee McIsaac, Planner with City of Rochester

Renée (she/her) works for the City of Rochester as a Planner and staff liaison for the Conservation Commission. Prior to joining the City, she had more than a decade as a professional working in environmental testing and compliance. She loves serving her community, is a frequent volunteer, an organizer of Rochester Pride, a long time vegan and slowly learning Japanese.

Joseph McLoughlin, LEP, LSP, BETA Group, Inc.

Joe McLoughlin is a Vice President and Director of Environmental Services for BETA Group, Inc. Joe has more than 30 years of experience providing environmental consulting services throughout New England, including environmental site assessment, remediation, brownfields redevelopment, regulatory compliance, and remedial system design. He is currently serving as the Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) for several EPA-funded Brownfield assessment programs including for the Southwest Region Planning Commission (SWRPC). Joe has a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute and a Master's Degree in Water Resources from Stanford University.

Sarah McShane, Planning & Zoning Director, Town of Stowe, Vermont

Sarah leads the Town's comprehensive planning and development review programs. With nearly two decades of experience, Sarah has worked with local governments throughout Vermont and the Mid-Atlantic region on land use and transportation planning, development review, historic preservation, and community engagement initiatives. Growing up on a dairy farm in rural Maine, Sarah developed a strong connection to small-town life and the importance of community. Her passion for people and places led her to a career in municipal government, where she is known for building strong relationships and helping communities navigate complex challenges. Sarah holds a Master of Science in Geo-Environmental Science from Shippensburg University and a Bachelor of Arts in Geography-Anthropology from the University of Maine at Farmington. In her personal time, Sarah is a busy soccer mom with two sons and enjoys spending time with her family, being outdoors, and listening to music.

Catrina Meyer, AICP, GISP, Planning Manager, Toole Design Group

Catrina is an experienced transportation planner and certified GIS professional with a demonstrated history of working on multidisciplinary teams. Catrina has led aspects of safety studies, regional mobility plans, transit market analysis studies, and multimodal evaluation projects. Catrina is skilled in project management, data analysis, and engagement and is passionate about collaborative processes across both planning teams and the community, combined with data-driven decision-making to affect change and improve mobility.

Danica Miller – Director of Planning & Building, Town of Peterborough

Danica Miller serves as the Director of Planning & Building for the Town of Peterborough, where she also fulfills the roles of Floodplain Administrator and Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District Administrator. In her position, Danica provides staff support to numerous boards and committees, including the Planning Board, and leads key municipal planning initiatives. Her responsibilities include overseeing the development and implementation of the Town's Master Plan, managing projects within Peterborough's TIF Districts, coordinating the annual Capital Improvement Program (CIP) process with the Finance Director, and facilitating the Town's five-year Hazard Mitigation Plan updates. Through her leadership and coordination efforts, Danica helps guide long-term community planning, resilience, and economic development initiatives. Outside of work, she enjoys fishing, hiking, and spending time with her two fluffy dogs.

Luke Mitchell, Massachusetts Planning Team Leader at VHB

Luke advises public and private sector clients throughout New England on planning, development, and economic growth initiatives. He specializes in master planning, comprehensive planning, economic development strategy, and community engagement, helping communities navigate complex land use and policy challenges. Luke holds a Master of City Planning degree from the University of Pennsylvania and has professional experience working in the United States, Europe, and Asia.

Thomas Morley, AICP, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard

Thomas is the Community Planning Liaison Officer (CPLO) for Naval Support Activity Maine, home of Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine. He is responsible for implementing compatible land-use strategies through effective community outreach and engagement. As CPLO, he serves as a bridge between the Navy installation and the community, working with local government and private stakeholders to review and ensure compatibility of development projects. Thomas serves as the Commanding Officer's representative at local and regional government meetings, providing expertise on land use planning issues across the Installation's Area of Responsibility, covering Navy bases across Northern New England.

Zoë Mueller, AICP, Senior Planner and Associate Principal, Utile Architecture & Planning

Zoë manages projects and leads teams that address the intersection of our economic, housing, and mobility needs. She specializes in long-range municipal comprehensive planning, zoning for housing production, economic opportunity, and flood resilience, and policy and design work to revive missing middle housing. She led the consultant team for both the Vermont Homes for All Toolkit and the 802 Homes Catalog. Zoë's work weaves together spatial analysis, feasibility research, and community visioning to resolve trade-offs and deliver compelling arguments that drive implementation.

Jodie Nazaka, Director of Economic Development, City of Manchester

Jodie leads initiatives that strengthen the city's economy, attract investment, and advance community revitalization. With more than a decade of experience in municipal and community development, Jodie has played a key role in positioning Southern New Hampshire as a national leader in regenerative medicine and biomanufacturing through the region's \$44 million federal Build Back Better Regional Challenge award. She holds a Master of Public Administration from Southern New Hampshire University and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners. Jodie is recognized for building partnerships, supporting business growth, and shaping strategies that drive long term economic opportunity and civic pride.

Charlotte Nutt, GIS and Data Planner, Midcoast Council of Governments (MCOG)

Charlotte has been with MCOG for four years conducting analyses on many topics related to planning and economic development across Midcoast Maine. Her work ranges from large-scale transportation analyses to housing studies for offshore island communities of less than 100 year-round residents. She holds a BS in Earth Science and a BA in Economics from Dartmouth College, and an MS in Public Policy from the Muskie School of Public Policy and Management.

Matt Panfil, AICP CUD, LEED AP BD+C

Matt is a Senior Planner at Sebago Technics, Inc. With twenty years of experience in planning at the municipal and regional levels, as well as his current work for a private consulting firm, Matt is guided by the belief that the built environment shapes how people live, connect, and thrive. He is driven by the conviction that thoughtful planning can expand opportunity, foster equity, and create communities where people and places flourish together. An AICP-certified planner with an Advanced Specialty Certification in Urban Design (CUD) and a LEED AP BD+C credential, he brings technical expertise to environmental, transportation, and land use planning projects. Originally from Chicago, Matt has a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Illinois: Champaign-Urbana and a Master's of Urban Planning and Policy degree from the University of Illinois: Chicago.

Joseph Perez, Director of Planning and Economic Development, Town of Plymouth

Joseph serves as Director of Planning and Economic Development for the Town of Plymouth, New Hampshire. He has held a range of planning roles in municipalities across New Hampshire and Alabama, with experience spanning current planning, comprehensive plan implementation, housing, and community development. Previously, Joseph served as a Planner for the City of Decatur, Alabama. He later returned to his home state of New Hampshire, where he worked for the City of Manchester as a Planner and Housing Initiatives Manager responsible for the City's Lead Hazard and Healthy Housing grant, focusing on improving the health and safety of the City's housing stock. Now working in the small yet vibrant community of Plymouth, his responsibilities extend beyond traditional planning and zoning to include housing, economic development, infrastructure, and transportation initiatives. He also serves as vice chair of the Transportation Advisory Committee for the Lakes Region Planning Commission; as a member of the New Hampshire Planners Association Executive Committee; and on the board of directors for the Grafton Regional Development Corporation.

Liz Pieroni, Founder/Volunteer Executive Director, Mosaic Art Collective

Liz is the Founder and Volunteer Executive Director of Mosaic Art Collective, a grassroots nonprofit gallery and studio she launched in September 2022 to create an inclusive space where artists could thrive and collaborate. She leads every part of the organization, from strategic governance and fundraising to daily operations, staying true to Mosaic's mission of supporting diverse artistic voices in Manchester. Since opening, Mosaic has worked with more than 400 artists, 95% of whom identify as women and/or minorities, returned 75% of sales directly to artists, and built over 40 community partnerships, including programs with Webster House, Equality Health Center, and the Holiday Painted Windows initiative. Liz holds a BFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art and maintains her own studio practice in mixed media, drawing on themes of liminality, grief, and transformation.

Brian Pratt, PE., Fuss & O'Neill

Brian is a Senior Project Manager/Civil Engineer with Fuss & O'Neill focusing on private land development Manchester and all of New Hampshire. He has over 23 years of experience working on a large variety of commercial, residential, industrial, and mixed-use projects. Until the merger with Fuss & O'Neill, Brian previously worked for CLD Consulting Engineers, a well-known, staple in Manchester's AEC world. Brian leads a team of engineers, scientists, landscape architects, surveyors, planners, and subconsultants. He presents to planning boards, coordinates with clients and colleagues, and enjoys the fast-paced work the private sector demands. Brian serves on the Board of Directors for a NH Non-Profit organization, Plan NH, where he focuses

his time on the Community Design Charrette Program helping NH communities redevelop and expand their downtowns. Brian is an avid hiker. He lives in downtown Manchester (in a project he designed!) and enjoys the live-work-play lifestyle that Manchester has to offer.

Amy Regan, See Saw Art

Amy Regan is a New Hampshire based curator. In 2008, Amy earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts, with a concentration in fine art photography, from the New Hampshire Institute of Art in Manchester, New Hampshire. In 2011, she became a founding board member of the Rochester Museum of Fine Arts, a community art initiative dedicated to the accessibility of contemporary artworks made by regionally, nationally, and internationally recognized artists. The Rochester Museum of Fine Arts works to enrich people's lives through the presentation of fine art. The permanent collection and other temporary exhibitions are prominently displayed in the halls and Suite 135 of the James W. Foley Memorial Community Center and Rochester Public Library. In 2022, Amy opened See Saw Art, a contemporary exhibition space in Manchester, New Hampshire. See Saw Art hosts invitational and open call group exhibitions on a monthly basis, with goals centered around creating opportunities for artists, art accessibility, community engagement, and presenting high quality artwork in a traditional, welcoming gallery environment. Through her work in curation, Amy has produced exhibitions each month since 2011. Amy has worked with over 1,200 local, national, and international artists at all stages of their careers, at a variety of spaces, from local coffee shops to museums. Creating exhibition opportunities in both traditional and innovative spaces is foundational to Amy's overall mission. Amy believes that high quality fine art should be accessible by everyone. Amy also believes the art community is filled with talented, generous artists who work on their craft each day. Being able to showcase and uplift this work is Amy's greatest pleasure, as well as meeting and learning from so many genuine people along the way.

Jeff Sauser, Principal and Co-Founder of CommunityScale

CommunityScale is an urban planning firm based in Massachusetts that specializes in housing analysis, market studies, and zoning for communities nationwide. He brings over 15 years of experience and holds degrees from New York University and the Georgia Institute of Technology. At CommunityScale, Jeff leads municipal and regional housing studies that combine data-driven analysis with local engagement to support housing and economic development goals

Chip Sawyer, Director Planning & Development, City of St. Albans

Chip Sawyer is the Director of Planning & Development for the City of St. Albans. There he oversees the City's land use planning and permitting, community development, downtown program, stormwater planning, property valuation, and special projects. Chip is a member of the team that has brought unprecedented redevelopment to the City through infrastructure investment, public-private partnerships and numerous funding methods. He holds Master's degrees in Public Administration and Natural Resource Planning from the University of Vermont. Chip grew up in the City of St. Albans and lives there with his family today.

Chris Shaheen, Town Planner, Jericho, Vermont

Chris is an urban planner with over 30 years of experience helping communities address housing, zoning, public space, and community development challenges. He currently serves as Town Planner for Jericho, Vermont, where he works with residents, local boards, regional partners, and state agencies on village center planning, housing initiatives, zoning updates, and infrastructure planning. His work focuses on creating walkable villages and preserving Jericho's rural character. Before coming to Vermont, Chris spent more than two decades with the DC Office of Planning, where he served as Lead Community Planner in the Urban Design Division. His work included neighborhood planning, public space/streetscape design, and green building policy. He contributed to planning initiatives throughout DC, including streetscape guidelines and development of one of the nation's earliest municipal green building laws. His professional experience also includes planning work with Arlington County, Virginia, the National Park Service, and private-sector design firms. Chris holds a Master of American

Studies with a concentration in Historic Preservation from George Washington University and a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning from Ball State University.

Heather Shank, NH Department of Business & Economic Affairs

Heather Shank is Director of the Division of Planning and Community Development at the New Hampshire Department of Business and Economic Affairs. She oversees statewide initiatives including InvestNH, broadband expansion, and planning programs that support municipalities with technical assistance, training, and infrastructure development. Previously, she served as City Planner for Concord, New Hampshire.

Ally Snell (She/Her), Community Partnerships Manager, The Nature Conservancy

Ally Snell is the Community Partnerships Manager for The Nature Conservancy in New Hampshire, bringing over 20 years of experience spanning the nonprofit, public, and higher education sectors. Her career includes leadership roles in federal service with the Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, and the USDA, as well as work in higher education and statewide education initiatives. She has led programs supporting schools and communities across New Hampshire and is a certified trainer in cultural intelligence and intercultural communication. Ally holds degrees from Beloit College and Southern New Hampshire University and serves as Co-Chair of the Volunteer NH Board of Directors.

Mistaya Smith , Recreation Planner, CRO Planning & Design

Mistaya Smith, based in Burlington, VT, US, is currently a Recreation Planner at CRO Planning & Design. Mistaya Smith brings experience from previous roles at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Bureau of Land Management, Adirondack Park Agency and Bolton Valley Resort. Mistaya Smith holds a 2023 - 2025 Master in City Planning @ Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Mistaya Smith has 1 emails on RocketReach.

Michelle Spohnheimer, Adaapta

Michelle Spohnheimer leads Adaapta's planning practice, bringing over 25 years of experience in municipal service and government programming. As Adaapta's Planning Director, Michelle manages multiple projects focused on planning and brownfields technical assistance. She was formerly the Housing and Community Development Director for the City of Marshalltown, Iowa, before joining Adaapta and moving to Vermont. Her municipal experience included planning and community development; the enforcement of building, rental housing, nuisance, and zoning codes; management of regional HUD Section 8 HCV and Lead Based Paint programs; disaster recovery; brownfields development; grant writing and administration; and community and public engagement. Michelle holds a degree in Community and Regional Planning from Iowa State University.

Renee Theall, UVLSRPC

Renee joined UVLSRPC in January 2023 as the Housing Navigator/Associate Planner. Through the InvestNH Planning & Zoning Grant, the Navigator position is a two-year program with a focus on three communities (New London, Newbury, and Wilmot). Her goal is to have a significant impact on their individual and collective capacity to build common ground and advance solutions that address each community's local housing needs. Prior to joining UVLSRPC, Renee has a strong customer service management background and loves getting to know people and their story. She is looking forward to building relationships, across sectors in each community, and helping to push the needle forward in each community to implement housing solutions

Alison Tobey, Senior Consultant, BerryDunn

Alison Tobey is a Senior Consultant in BerryDunn's Local Government Practice Group and leads the Planning and Development Services Practice. She supports a wide range of municipal planning and development functions, partnering with communities to advance comprehensive and long-range plans, improve development review processes, and guide technology modernization efforts. Alison works with municipalities across the country to develop actionable recommendations that align planning goals with day-to-day operations through rigorous data analysis and goal setting, meaningful community engagement, and implementable policy, plan, and process development.

Tiffany Tononi McNamara, Executive Director of Plan NH

Plan NH is a nonprofit dedicated to advancing excellence in planning, design, and development across New Hampshire's built environment. In this role, she carries forward the organization's long-standing commitment to impactful, community-centered programming, including the Plan NH Fall Conference, the Community Design Charrette Program, and the Plan NH Scholarship Fund. Tiffany holds a master's degree in Community Development from the University of Detroit Mercy and has built her career around stakeholder engagement, participatory planning, and fostering vibrant communities. Her experience spans the nonprofit, municipal, and philanthropic sectors, where she has worked to bring people together around shared visions for stronger, more resilient places.

Jamel Torres, SMPDC

As the Land Use Division Director at the Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission (SMPDC), Jamel brings his extensive experience in municipal and regional planning to southern Maine. His experience includes managing long-range planning projects, municipal regulatory development, inclusive community engagement, and the review of complex development projects. He manages SMPDC's planning program and provides assistance to the sustainability and transportation programs at the organization. He holds a community planning and development master's degree from the Muskie School of Public Service at the University of Southern Maine and a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Vermont.

James Vayo, Principal Planner, Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission

James Vayo is a principal planner with the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission. His work for the commission focuses on long-range transportation planning, regional land use planning and helping municipalities in the region explore opportunities for housing expansion.

Liliana Vornehm, Assistant Planner, Southern NH Planning Commission

Liliana leads the Bus Buddy Program, a travel training partnership between the SNHPC and Manchester Transit Authority that uses existing organizations and networks to spread knowledge of how to use the public bus system. In addition to her transportation-focused projects, Liliana has experience with comprehensive planning, housing guide development, and Age-Friendly initiatives. As a lifelong learner, Liliana is completing a Master's of Public Administration, and (separately) learning how to ride the unicycle.

Matt Walsh, Deputy City Manager for Development, City of Concord

Matt Walsh is a New Hampshire native with nearly 30 years of experience in community development. For the past 25 years, he has served in a variety of roles with the City of Concord, and currently serves as the City's Deputy City Manager for Development. In this position, he serves as the Department Head of the City's Community Development Department, where he is responsible for managing four Divisions (Administration, Code, Engineering, and Planning), 38 employees, an annual operating budget of \$5M, 60+/- capital improvement projects, as well as staff support to 30 boards and commissions. In addition to overseeing all aspects of the City's private development permitting and economic development initiatives / programs, the Community Development Department manages special projects (such as a new \$48M police station), preparation of the capital improvement program (\$500M / 10 Years), the City's energy and sustainability initiatives, as well as the City's airport and parking system. Matt serves as the Secretary of the Capital Regional Development Council's Board of Directors and is a member of the NH Community Development Finance Authority's Community Development Advisory Committee. He was the Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce's 2017 "Young Professional of the Year" and is a member of the Union Leader's "40 Under 40" Class of 2017. Matt holds a BS in Community Development with a Minor in Resource Economics, as well as a Master's degree in Public Administration; all from the University of New Hampshire.

Ralph Willmer, Ethics Officer, American Planning Association (APA)

Ralph Willmer, FAICP currently serves as the AICP Ethics Officer for the American Planning Association (APA). In 2022, he retired as the Technical Assistance Program Manager and Principal Planner at the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), the regional planning agency serving 101 cities and towns around Boston. He has over 35 years of planning experience, focusing on the preparation of community master plans, open space and recreation plans, housing production plans, and the drafting of zoning codes. Most recently, he managed the \$1.25 million MAPC Technical Assistance Program. Prior to working for MAPC, Ralph worked as a planning consultant for VHB and McGregor & Associates. Mr. Willmer is the Past-Chair of the Regional and Intergovernmental Planning Division of APA and serves as the Legislative Policy Officer for the MA Chapter. He is the Chair of the Citizen Planner Training Collaborative, an organization that provides Massachusetts planning and zoning officials with the tools to make effective decisions regarding their community's current and future land use. He has also served as Chapter President for the MA Chapter of APA and as a member of APA's national Board of Directors. Ralph has a B.S. in Environmental and Resources Management from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry and a M.A. in Urban and Environmental Policy from Tufts University.

Sarah Wrightsman, Manager of Community Engagement and Education, New Hampshire Housing

Sarah is the Manager of Community Engagement and Education at New Hampshire Housing. Sarah supports communities across the state on all things housing providing education, technical assistance, and community engagement support. Prior to joining the team at New Hampshire Housing, Sarah was the executive director of the Workforce Housing Coalition of the Greater Seacoast. She holds a master's degree in public policy from the Carsey School of Public Policy at the University of New Hampshire. A resident of Newmarket, Sarah serves on the regional planning commission's board of commissioners and is president of her favorite ultimate frisbee organization.

Christopher Yuen, AICP, Community Development Director, City of Essex Junction, Vermont

Christopher leads the City's land use, zoning, and transportation planning work. He recently guided the Connect the Junction Transit-Oriented Development Master Plan through adoption, a city-center plan focused on walkable, bikeable, and transit-friendly growth that is now moving into zoning and design implementation. Over the past three years, Chris has led two rounds of zoning reform: first to meet and exceed Vermont's HOME Act requirements, and then to make further technical adjustments to design and dimensional standards that practically enable more infill and missing-middle housing to be built. Essex Junction is now one of three statewide "Development-Ready" Community Partners for Vermont's 802 Homes initiative. Before joining Essex Junction, he worked at Jarrett Walker + Associates, where he developed a deep understanding of how transit networks shape land use and development patterns across North American cities and towns.

Erin Zwirko, AICP, LEED AP, Director of Planning & Development, Yarmouth

Erin Zwirko, AICP, is the Director of Planning & Development for the Town of Yarmouth, Maine. In this role, Erin oversees both planning and code enforcement functions for the Town, primarily leading on long-range planning and implementation, housing planning, bike and pedestrian transportation planning, and historic preservation planning. Erin has served Yarmouth since 2021, following a variety of planning positions in both the public and private sector in Massachusetts and New Jersey. Erin received a master's degree in urban and environmental policy and planning from Tufts University and a bachelor's degree in human ecology from College of the Atlantic.