



## ENERGY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE (ECC)

### AGENDA

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

8:00 AM

City Hall,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Council Chambers

#### **Members:**

Zach Luse, Chair  
Paul Roth, Vice Chair  
Diana Duffy  
Jake Pipp  
Councilor Raleigh Ormerod  
Jude Nuru  
Peter Hansel  
Clair Oursler  
Kenneth Swymer

Councilor Bryan Lake  
Lisa Maxfield  
Chuck Redfern, Alternate  
Rowland Russell, Alternate  
Michael Winograd, Alternate

#### **Staff:**

Mari Brunner, Senior Planner

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes – October 24, 2023 & November 1, 2023
3. Virtual presentation by Audrey Schulman, Home Energy Efficiency Team (HEET) – Ms. Schulman will provide an overview of networked geothermal (networked ground source heat pumps). To learn more: <https://heet.org/geo/>.
4. ECC Work Group Report Outs
  - a. Community Solar
  - b. Grants, Fundraising, and Partnerships
  - c. Education and Outreach
  - d. Legislative Tracking
  - e. Food Security
5. Letter Regarding NH DOT Route 101 Road Project
6. Update: Lower Winchester Street Project – Letter from the ECC Chair
7. Community Power Program update
8. New Business
9. Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 3, 2023 – 8:00 am
10. Adjourn

Link to ECC Google Drive Folder:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1O1WIR0fADTNijRt13v3DU7k2FwxXDcGs?usp=sharing>

1 City of Keene  
2 New Hampshire

3  
4  
5 ENERGY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE  
6 MEETING MINUTES  
7

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

8:00 AM

Council Chambers,  
City Hall

Members Present:

Councilor Bryan Lake  
Peter Hansel  
Jake Pipp  
Diana Duffy  
Clair Oursler  
Lisa Maxfield  
Kenneth Swymer  
Rowland Russell, Alternate (voting)  
Mike Winograd, Alternate (voting)  
Charles Redfern, Alternate (voting)

Staff Present:

Mari Brunner, Senior Planner

Members Not Present:

Zach Luse, Chair  
Paul Roth, Vice Chair  
Councilor Raleigh Ormerod  
Jude Nuru

8  
9  
10 **1) Call to Order and Roll Call**

11  
12 Ms. Mari Brunner called the meeting to order at 8:16 AM. She requested a motion to appoint a  
13 chair pro-tem given the absence of both Chair Luse and vice chair Mr. Roth. Mr. Jake Pipp  
14 motioned for Mr. Peter Hansel to serve as temporary chair and the motion was seconded by Mr.  
15 Ken Swymer. With all in favor, the motion was approved.

16  
17 Chair Hansel invited all alternate members to serve as voting members.

18  
19 **2) Approval of Minutes- October 4, 2023**

20  
21 Chair Hansel asked for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion was offered by Diana Duffy  
22 and the second was made by Mr. Mike Winograd. With no discussion and unanimous approval,  
23 Chair Hansel approved the October 4<sup>th</sup> minutes.  
24

25 **3) ECC Fall Retreat De-brief and Continued Work Group Discussions: Food Security,**  
26 **Legislative Tracking, and Education & Outreach**

27

28 Chair Hansel asked for thoughts on the retreat. Diana shared that she was delighted Sam Evans  
29 Brown was the speaker and enjoyed being able to ask questions.

30

31 Mr. Redfern thought the venue was lovely, to which Ms. Duffy agreed. Ms. Brunner shared that  
32 Stonewall allowed them to use the venue for free.

33

34 Dr. Russell shared that they wanted to give a lot of time to the guest speaker but given that they  
35 ran out of time for the report-outs wondered if they could have been a bit more efficient. Mr.  
36 Redfern thought that the ice breaker used up time that could have been used for report-outs.  
37 Ms. Brunner explained that the ice breaker took ten minutes out of three hours. They  
38 purposefully tried to choose an icebreaker that would not go over time. She explained that she  
39 included the ice breaker because she has consistently been getting feedback from committee  
40 members (and not specific to this committee, but across different committees) that they do not  
41 feel like they know each other well or do not feel as though they can have a candid conversation  
42 or feel that it is too stuffy or formal. The idea behind the ice breaker was to try and help people  
43 connect in a different way than just in a formal meeting. While that was her intent, she is  
44 certainly open to feedback about whether it is useful to have or whether folks feel there just is  
45 not time for them.

46

47 Mr. Winograd responded that he would suggest no ice breaker and said he did not find it useful.  
48 He said the venue facilitated communication and setting chairs up in the round helped foster  
49 community. He felt people did have good communication back and forth. He noted that Mr.  
50 Evans Brown was very engaging and extremely interesting and that was one of the reasons that  
51 the group used a lot of time on him. He personally said he profited a lot from the conversation.  
52 Dr. Russell suggested scheduling time limits on the report-outs.

53

54 Food security: Dr. Russell reported that the food security work group has had a lot of good  
55 participation with two larger focus groups. One was on community gardens and the other was on  
56 converting lawns to gardens and both have projects emerging from it.

57

58 They are talking to the city about two possible city-controlled sites on the east side of town for  
59 additional community gardens and hoping to launch one of them in this next growing season to  
60 satisfy the requirements of the grant.

61

62 There are other initiatives that are coming out (mentioned in the minutes of the last time). The  
63 most interesting aspect is that they have found a phone web app that connects people who have  
64 gardening space with those who don't have space but wish to.

65

66 There have been a couple smaller group meetings focusing on different aspects of things. They  
67 had a deeper conversation with the Community Kitchen as well as a mini forum from the

68 Antioch alums discussing food security and climate change. A couple of ideas emerged from that  
69 they are following up on.

70  
71 The most exciting thing for the group has been the future focus groups that have been planned.  
72 He shared that he is on another committee with Todd Horner and he discovered, rather  
73 accidentally, that Southwest Region Planning Commission actually has launched a regional food  
74 assessment project with grant funding. Two of his steering committee members are on that  
75 group, but it did not occur to anyone that the groups should get together. Dr. Russell, upon  
76 discovering this, invited himself to that group and he and Mr. Horner are now working together  
77 to coordinate the next four focus groups. The first will be on local sourcing for  
78 markets/restaurants and is scheduled for December 11<sup>th</sup>. They are just putting together the  
79 agenda for that. The next two in January and February will be at Stonewall and one will focus on  
80 climate resilience for farms and the other will focus on land conservation for farms, preserving  
81 and renewing agricultural land. Then, tentatively in March, they will focus on food markets  
82 including our downtown farmer's market.

83  
84 Lastly, in April, they hope to connect with the Climate Café folks to do a climate café on food  
85 security with an idea jam of people's ideas about how to address food security. He added it is  
86 great to have that collaboration and it points out the meta issue that they have been struggling  
87 with which he thinks happens across sectors. There are a lot of groups doing great things, but  
88 they don't all know each other and tend to function in a siloed way. One of the primary  
89 recommendations is how to connect those groups with each other. As part of the final report,  
90 they will be doing asset mapping, but the bigger issue is how to connect the strands.

91  
92 Mr. Hansel asked if Dr. Russell could refresh his memory as to who attends those work groups  
93 and how many people are involved.

94  
95 Dr. Russell responded that it is different for each time. The planning group met the initial time  
96 and meet asynchronously over e-mail. They will regroup after April to determine if they have  
97 covered enough ground. He added that membership is changing, especially over the last few  
98 months. While there are some shifts in membership, the core group is Amanda Littleton,  
99 Cheshire County Conservation District, Roe-Ann Tasoulis, Rachel Bryce, and Sarah Harpster.

100  
101 Legislative Tracking: Councilor Bryan Lake apologized for not making it to the retreat but  
102 shared that he was a little under the weather. He shared that they have had some difficulties  
103 meeting this year as everyone's schedules have been quite varied. It has been tough to get the  
104 group together in a consistent manner as he would have liked, and he is hoping to fix that in the  
105 coming year. With the new legislative year, there are going to be a number of bills to track and  
106 many things to be looking at in the Statehouse. They have been doing things to try and get set up  
107 for a better long-term success getting on different email lists, getting different notification  
108 streams to allow for earlier notification of both state and federal legislative ongoings, grants and  
109 that type of information. He welcomed anyone interested in joining a workgroup as they do have  
110 an opening.

111 Mr. Hansel said Sam Evans Brown had some good comments about upcoming legislation and  
112 the energy efficiency plan that is being reviewed right now and that they track them on their  
113 website. Ms. Brunner shared that by creating an account on their website, you can get access to  
114 the spreadsheet which is updated in real time as well as the policy calls that they do every Friday  
115 afternoon.

116

117 Councilor Lake shared that he got added to a federal funding opportunity list.

118

119 Ms. Brunner recently learned that the Acadia Center has a grant to help municipalities  
120 understand ISO New England and how they operate. This is going back to the retreat earlier in  
121 the year where Julia Griffin came and spoke and encouraged the group to consider trying to track  
122 what ISO New England is doing. She also mentioned a presentation from an individual from the  
123 Acadia Center who seemed really interested in coming to talk to communities and helping them  
124 to figure out what's going on there and how to get involved.

125

126 Mr. Hansel shared he saw a piece on the news about offshore energy and the fact that it could be  
127 huge, which not only generates jobs, but a large portion of the energy that's needed for New  
128 England could come from offshore energy. He was wondering if that was an area the workgroup  
129 could be keeping an eye on as well.

130

131 Mr. Winograd said he believed Virginia was starting a big offshore energy project. One of the  
132 things that Mr. Evans Brown brought up was transmission lines and Mr. Winograd stated he did  
133 not know enough about Eversource in their capability or if they encourage or don't encourage  
134 that type of activity.

135

136 Mr. Hansel said he read that Governor Sununu was encouraging the transmission line from  
137 Hydro Quebec to come through New Hampshire and enter the ISO grid, which would provide  
138 more renewable energy for our region.

139

140 Education and Outreach - Ms. Lisa Maxfield spoke as both Chair Luse and Mr. Roth were not  
141 present. She said they have been hyper focused on Energy week, which culminated last Saturday  
142 with the electric vehicle expo. They had four vehicles on display. She did contact them  
143 afterwards and both dealerships said that they appreciated the opportunity, and they would be  
144 happy to participate again next year. She did not feel they had significant foot traffic, but the  
145 dealers seemed happy with it. The next focus will be Earth Day in April. She shared that they are  
146 working more closely with the clean energy team, and the hub. She asked if another retreat was  
147 scheduled for April. Ms. Brunner said she believed that Chair Luse liked the idea of doing them  
148 every six months. She did not believe that the next one has been scheduled but anticipated it for  
149 April.

150

151 Mr. Hansel opened it up for comment.

152 Ms. Duffy announced that she is passing out post-it notes for members to write a little note about  
153 the retreat and the space. She thought a personal note from those who attended put together in a  
154 card would be a nice way to thank them for the donated use of their facility.

155

156 **4) ECC Work Group Report Outs**

- 157 A) Community Solar
- 158 B) Grants, Fundraising and Partnerships
- 159 C) Education and Outreach
- 160 D) Legislative Tracking
- 161 E) Food Security

162

163 No further report outs or updates.

164

165 **5) Keene Energy Week De-brief**

166

167 Ms. Maxfield suggested waiting until Chair Luse and Vice Chair Roth are available to discuss,  
168 which others agreed to.

169

170 Ms. Brunner wanted to thank Ms. Maxfield, Vice Chair Roth and Chair Luse along with Carolyn  
171 Jones from the Clean Energy Team for their work and time on the event.

172

173 Mr. Redfern apologized for not participating and said it was primarily due to the weather. Mr.  
174 Clair Oursler said he had just gotten out of surgery and was not able to attend either. Ms.  
175 Maxfield said it was a great way to meet fellow members.

176

177 **6) Lower Winchester Street Project ([www.LowerWinchesterStreetProject.com](http://www.LowerWinchesterStreetProject.com))**

178

179 Ms. Brunner shared that there had been a request from Councilor Lake to talk about this project,  
180 which is why she included it in the agenda packet.

181

182 Councilor Lake explained that they have an opportunity to redesign space from the roundabout  
183 essentially through the Swanzey town line. He thought it was a good opportunity for the  
184 committee to write a letter to City Council MSFI to recommend that they look at multimodal  
185 transportation such as adding some bike lanes in. He knows that it is something that the project  
186 has been looking at, but he thinks it made sense from the committee's purview to write such a  
187 recommendation.

188

189 It would not necessarily be commenting on the specific plans, but specifically the things that  
190 relate to the committee's mission. He personally recommended that the committee have the chair  
191 write a letter to the council.

192

193 Mr. Pipp said he lives in that area and personally sees what happens in that area regularly. He  
194 was in support of the letter and recommendation. He shared that they would love to walk or bike

195 rather than get in the car, but it just feels so unsafe. Having no shoulder and then there is not a  
196 good spot to walk resulting in many people walking on the road itself and in turn causing delays  
197 as traffic is not able to get around given the oncoming traffic. He said it creates an unsafe  
198 situation where people are getting passed at close proximity. He said he sees a number of people  
199 that he recognizes from around Hundred Nights Shelter walking and pushing or pulling a cart  
200 heading towards Market Basket because it is the least expensive place to buy groceries or that  
201 may be their only option.

202

203 Dr. Russell added that the connectivity with the Cheshire Rail Trail is important. He is aware of  
204 a number of people who cannot or do not drive and it takes them a significant amount of time to  
205 commute because there really is no safe way to walk resulting in them having to go out of their  
206 way. It underscores the carbon footprint benefits in that it might result in more people  
207 commuting if they felt safer.

208

209 Chair Hansel suggested adding trees as it is a pretty deserted area there.

210

211 Ms. Duffy asked what would be more impactful: letters from the committee or letters from  
212 individuals themselves who struggle to make a left in that part of town and take their lives in  
213 their hands making their commute. The response from the group was that both individual letters  
214 and letters from committees would be the most impactful.

215

216 Dr. Russell also suggested writing letters to the editor of The Sentinel to help get the word out to  
217 others.

218

219 Mr. Hansel asked Ms. Brunner whether the group had already voted to approve the letter. Ms.  
220 Brunner clarified that previously it was just asked to be put on the agenda. The project design  
221 recommendations will be going before the MSFI committee on November 21<sup>st</sup>, which would be  
222 the deadline to get the letter done.

223

224 Mr. Hansel requested a motion for Councilor Lake to draft a letter of support for this project, to  
225 be approved and submitted by Chair Luse. The letter will include sidewalks, bike lanes, support  
226 of the roundabouts and support of planting trees, all within the context of connectivity to the  
227 Cheshire Rail Trail system. The motion was put forth by Mr. Peter Hansel and seconded by Mr.  
228 Redfern. It was approved unanimously.

229

### 230 7) **Letter Regarding NH DOT Route 101 Road Project**

231

232 Mr. Redfern explained that the project will be from Optical Ave to Swanzey Factory Road and  
233 will include widening, drainage, and straightening. He explained that at one time the project  
234 included combining the whole Transportation Heritage Trail to include the bridge over 101,  
235 safety improvements to the Stone Arch Bridge, placement of the Island Street Bridge over  
236 Swanzey Factory Road and for some reason, the city whittled it down to just the abutments on  
237 101. There is a group advocating for all three. Mr. Redfern explained that he had contacted NH

238 DOT officials who were in support of all three in a “one and done” kind of project. He is not sure  
239 where it will end up. The NH DOT is in favor, but he does not know where the Transportation  
240 Advisory Committee with Southwest Region Planning stands on it. There is definitely  
241 community support for a “one and done” type of project, but the city for whatever reason is  
242 reluctant to do so.

243  
244 Ms. Brunner explained this item was put on the agenda to follow up from the last meeting where  
245 the committee authorized Mr. Redfern to draft a letter with the intent to have Chair Luse sign and  
246 submit it on behalf of the committee.

247  
248 Mr. Redfern said he would do it today. Ms. Brunner offered to look back at the minutes from the  
249 last meeting and send him what the exact discussion in the motion was.

250  
251 Chair. Hansel asked how this was relevant to the committee’s mission. Dr. Russell explained that  
252 it would lower the carbon footprint by providing safe routes for bikes and pedestrians. He  
253 mentioned that the original discussion included multi-modal facilities along Route 101 as well as  
254 creating interchanges with the rail trail that crosses over this section of Route 101. Chair Hansel  
255 said he was a little concerned that as an advisory group to the council, they would be going  
256 against what the city has already planned to do.

257  
258 Mr. Redfern said that Public Works initiated the concept. It went so far up the ladder and, while  
259 not placing blame, the City Manager did not follow up on it.

260  
261 Ms. Brunner clarified that what she understood was that these projects that get into the ten-year  
262 plan have limited funding. The state is trying to distribute those funds statewide. From DOT’s  
263 purview, the ten-year plan is for state projects and from their view, the rail trail might be  
264 considered a city project that is just adjacent to this. The city is also going after state funding to  
265 help fund the rail trail project. By combining the projects, it would reduce the overall cost for the  
266 city and she believes the city in general supports that position. She also added that this is outside  
267 what the Committee would normally do (commenting on a state project); however, she recalled  
268 that the Committee received a letter directly from the NHDOT’s consultant requesting comments  
269 on this project. That letter was included in last month’s packet, and she will re-send it by email.

270  
271 Chair Hansel said that his preference would be for the whole committee to review the letter  
272 before it is sent out.

273  
274 Ms. Duffy asked if the Bicycle Pedestrian Pathways Advisory Committee (BPPAC) also  
275 received a letter, Ms. Brunner replied in the affirmative and noted that every single board and  
276 committee in the city received one. Ms. Duffy said that she can see how this aligns with the  
277 BPPAC mission, and added that as long as this aligns with our mission, then we can tailor a letter  
278 of support that aligns with energy and climate in whatever way we can.

279



280 Chair Hansel asked the group if everyone is good with reviewing the letter at the next meeting,  
281 there was general consensus to do that.

282

283 **8) Community Power Program Update**

284

285 Ms. Brunner said as far as she knew there was an invitation sent out for new residents to sign up.  
286 There has not been an influx of calls from residents. Most of the calls she is getting about  
287 community power have been from outside areas as there's an online consumer shopping website  
288 and people from across the state are seeing Keene Community Power and want to sign up for it.  
289 She has been linking them with programs in their area and providing resources.

290

291 Chair Hansel added that the County is launching their program and said they are the first county  
292 in the state to do so. While this might be confusing for Keene residents, it is an option for  
293 residents who live in communities that don't have their own program. He asked if there were any  
294 other updates or items to add.

295

296 Ms. Brunner suggested the committee start thinking about the next iteration of the program as it  
297 is coming up and offered to start talking about that sooner rather than later. For example, during  
298 the planning phase for Community Power they talked about having a 10-cent adder and using  
299 that to fund an energy efficiency program. She does not believe it needs to be right away.

300

301 Chair Hansel asked if there was a timeframe. Ms. Brunner responded that they wanted to have  
302 the program running for at least a full year. In her view, the best time to make any changes  
303 would be at the end of this contract term and when they sign a new contract and get a new rate. It  
304 will take some time internally to figure out how that will work and how to do that.

305

306 Chair Hansel asked if it would be a contract with Good Energy and Standard Power to which Ms.  
307 Brunner responded that it is already part of the contract with them. She did not believe it would  
308 impact the contract with Direct Energy, the supplier. She did state that it would impact the rate  
309 increasing it by 1/10 of a percent (or whatever amount they decide for the adder). She said this  
310 was her reasoning for mentioning that the rate has been advertised for 30 months so they would  
311 probably want to keep it at that rate and then change it at the end of thirty months.

312

313 Ms. Maxfield asked if that falls to any specific workgroup that can work out the details and bring  
314 it back to the larger committee. Ms. Brunner said it could be either.

315

316 Chair Hansel suggested the possibility of having Standard Power come and talk to the committee  
317 about it sometime in the new year.

318

319 **9) Committee Membership**

320

321 Ms. Brunner explained that Ms. Beth Campbell resigned and Ms. Maxfield moved up to fill Ms.  
322 Campbell's spot. Mr. Winograd joined as an alternate filling Ms. Maxfield's former spot. Chair

323 Hansel has termed out and Mr. Pipp will be terming out leaving two spots open. Both gentlemen  
324 could move to an alternate spot or stay involved on a workgroup. Ms. Brunner said she hopes  
325 they will both stay involved. She continued that typically they move alternates up into the open  
326 member spots if they are interested. If not, they go to the community at large to see if folks are  
327 interested in joining. She believed Chair Luse wanted to start having those conversations now as  
328 it can take some time to get people lined up. She said sometimes, if a number of people leave  
329 over the New Year, they will not have enough people to make quorum for the first few meetings.  
330 She did not anticipate that to be an issue with this group as they have a pretty full roster of  
331 regularly attending individuals.

332

333 She reminded folks to keep in mind that there will also be a new mayor at the end of this year so  
334 if there is desire to get someone in and recommended by the current mayor, now is the time to do  
335 it. Otherwise, they would have to wait until the new mayor was officially appointed and they  
336 may have a new system for appointments.

337

338 **10) Climate Café Event- November 16 at 6:30 pm, Keene Public Library, Heberton Hall**

339

340 **11) New Business**

341

342 **12) Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 6, 2023- 8:00 am**

343

344 **13) Adjournment**

345

346 There being no further business, Chair Hansel adjourned the meeting at 9:17 AM.

347

348 Respectfully submitted by,  
349 Amanda Trask, Minute Taker

350

351 Reviewed and edited by,  
352 Mari Brunner, Senior Planner

November 29, 2023

Comprehensive Environmental, Inc  
Matthew Lundsted, P.E.

Subject: NHDOT Request for Comments on Route 101 Project

Dear Mr. Matthew Lundsted,

I'm responding to your request for comment on behalf of the Energy and Climate Change Committee regarding the Route 101 Project as it relates to the Keene's Sustainable Energy Plan (2021), Keene's Climate Adaptation Action Plan (2007), and Complete Streets Guidelines adopted in 2015.

The Energy and Climate Committee has been tasked with Keene's Energy Plan and Climate Adaptation Action Plan. Furthermore, the Sustainable Energy Plan tasks the city with ensuring the implementation of Complete Streets and Multimodal Transportation. We urge you to keep the goals in these plans in mind when considering plans for the Route 101 project.

Making Keene more pedestrian and bicycle friendly is a multifaceted approach that aligns with our commitment to sustainable and renewable energy. By investing in pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, we can contribute to achieving our renewable energy goals.

- The Sustainable Energy Plan and Climate Adaptation Action Plan both outline goals for reducing transportation emissions. Transportation is a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. By prioritizing Keene to be pedestrian and bicycle-friendly, we can encourage a shift away from carbon-intensive vehicles towards cleaner and more sustainable modes of transportation.
- City Council Adopted Complete Streets Resolution in 2015 which states, *"Complete Streets are inclusive streets that are designed, operated and maintained to enable safe access and mobility for all users, so that pedestrians, bicyclists, motorist and public transportation users of all ages and abilities are able to safely move along and across a street."* In addition, it states, *"The City will approach transportation improvements and project phases as an opportunity to create safer, more accessible streets for all users."*

To align this project with the goals of our committee to reduce vehicle congestion, improve multi-modal transportation and encourage alternative transportation, we see opportunities to prioritize:

- Multimodal transportation in the project area,
- Improvements that make Route 101 and Swanzey Factory Road more bike friendly,
- Provide safer access to the Transportation Heritage Trail from Route 101 and Swanzey Factory Road for bikes and pedestrians.

We believe these improvements will help encourage a shift away from carbon-intensive vehicles, reduce congestion and lead to a more energy efficient and sustainable future for the City of Keene, its residents, and visitors. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. Please feel free to reach out to our committee if you have any questions or would like further input as this project progresses.

Sincerely,

Zach Luse  
Chair, Energy and Climate Committee  
Resident, 317 Court St, Keene, NH  
Founder/CEO, Paragon Digital Marketing, 34 Court St, Keene, NH

DRAFT

September 05, 2023

Zach Luse  
Chair  
Energy and Climate Committee  
3 Washington Street  
Keene, NH 03431

RE: REQUEST FOR COMMENT – KEENE 41590; ROUTE 101 IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, KEENE, NH

Dear Mr. Zach Luse:

Comprehensive Environmental Inc. (CEI) is currently assisting the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) with proposed roadway improvements in Keene, NH. The Route 101 project begins east of Optical Avenue and continues approximately one mile to Branch Road (see attached location map).

The goal of the project is to provide better pedestrians and bicycle facilities, improve the Route 101 roadway structure, improve the condition of the bridge over the Branch River, and improve the safety at the intersection of Swanzey Factory Road. Route 101 upgrades may require rehabilitation/widening or replacing the existing bridge over the Branch River. According to 1933 as-built plans, the roadway base includes a 20-foot wide reinforced concrete pavement. Much of the corridor parallels, or is in the proximity of, the Branch River, and the Otter and Minnewawa Brooks.

The corridor serves as one of the gateways into the City of Keene, and the abutting properties reflect the diverse zoning along Route 101, which includes the City's industrial, commerce, high density, and rural zones. One of the primary design considerations is to improve the intersection sight distance deficiencies at the intersection of Swanzey Factory Road and Route 101. The design development will include an alternative evaluation of improving the intersection's safety and may include relocating the intersection. Swanzey Factory Road is also dedicated as a "Bicycle Street" in the City's complete streets guidelines and this project may be a means to improving bicycle operations in the area. Various alternatives for the corridor will be evaluated and will undergo a thorough review and analysis of their impact to traffic flow, right-of-way, and environmental resources.

The purpose of this letter is to solicit your initial input on the aforementioned proposed project. For your information, a Public Informational Meeting will be scheduled in the future, and you will be notified of the date, time and location. Responses are welcome prior to and/or following the Public Informational Meeting. Additional project information will be provided at the Meeting.

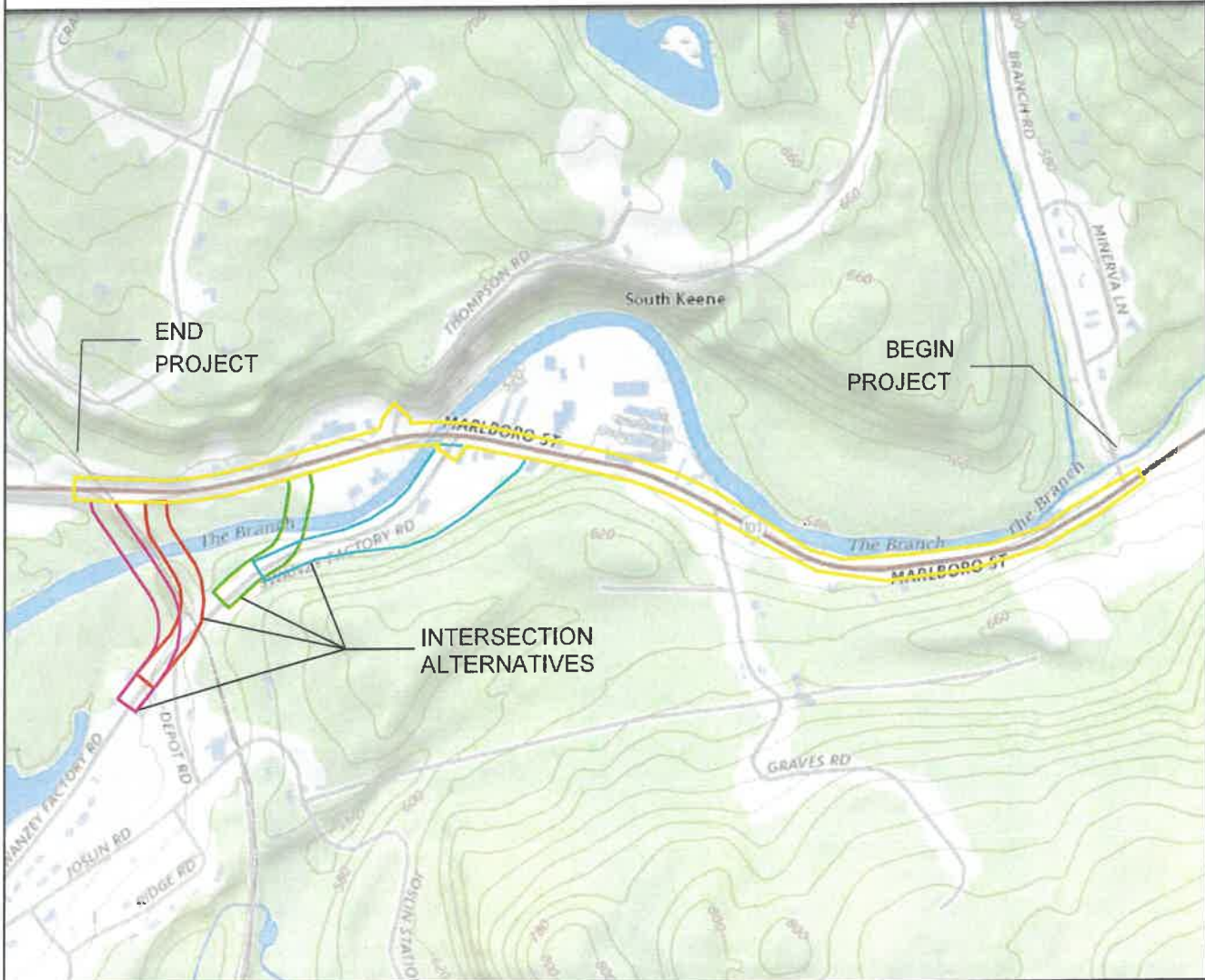
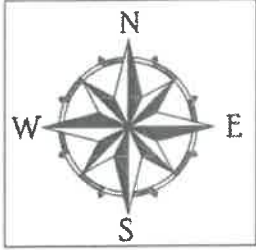
We would greatly appreciate your responding to this request and providing any comments related to the proposed rehabilitation project. We ask that you clearly identify your comments relative to each portion of the project. Please contact me if you have questions or require additional information at 603-424-8444 ext. 305.

Sincerely,  
COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL INC

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matthew Lundsted". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matthew Lundsted, P.E.  
Principal, Project Manager

Enclosure



**GENERAL NOTES**

1. Locus map based on USGS 7.5x7.5 Grid US Topo Map of Keene, NH from the USGS map webstore: <http://www.store.usgs.gov>
2. Map scale is relative to printed size

**Figure 1**  
 USGS Locus Map  
 NHDOT PROJECT NO. 41590  
 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS  
 & BRIDGE REHABILITATION,  
 ROUTE 101, KEENE, NH



**COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL INCORPORATED**

21 Depot Street  
 Merrimack, NH 03054