



**NH OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT (OPD)  
SPRING 2026 PLANNING & ZONING CONFERENCE  
SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026**

**ONLINE CONFERENCE DETAILED AGENDA**

*(ALL SESSIONS WILL BE RECORDED AND AVAILABLE ON [OPD'S YOUTUBE PAGE](#) FOLLOWING THE CONFERENCE)*

**SPECIAL TOPICS TRACK**

**8:45 – 9:00 AM**

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

*Noah Hodgetts, Principal Planner, NH Office of Planning & Development*

**9:00 – 10:15 AM**

**COMPLETE STREETS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE**

*Gerry Bedard, Active Transportation Engineer, NH Department of Transportation  
Nick Altonaga, Senior Planner, North Country Council*

Complete Streets is an approach to planning, designing, and building streets that enable safe access for users of all ages and abilities. A key guiding principle is remembering that not everyone has access to a motor vehicle. Complete streets are not a one-size-fits-all approach. Streets that are safe for the most vulnerable road users are safe for all road users. Policies and projects will look different in every community. North Country Council Senior Planner Nick Altonaga will provide examples of how communities in New Hampshire have already adopted Complete Streets policies as a way to guide their project planning efforts and plan for growth. New Hampshire Department of Transportation Active Transportation Engineer Gerry Bedard will also review how NH DOT has recently adopted a Complete Streets Policy and is preparing procedures to help department staff implement it in their maintenance and operations.



**10:15 – 10:30 AM      BREAK**

**10:30 – 11:45 AM      REGULATORY REFORM: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES**

*Sam Dufree, Planning Manager, City of Nashua*

*Joseph Perez, Planning & Economic Development Director, Town of Plymouth*

*Judi Barrett, Founding & Managing Director, Barrett Planning Group LLC*

Hear about the experiences of the Town of Plymouth and the City of Nashua, which took opposite approaches to regulatory reform to increase housing opportunities including for missing middle housing, adopting incremental zoning changes vs. a complete zoning code rewrite. Learn about the factors that went into these communities taking two very different approaches including form of government, funding, and planning board capacity from Joseph Perez, Planning & Economic Development Director for the Town of Plymouth and Sam Durfee, Planning Manager for the City of Nashua. Judi Barrett, Founder of Barrett Planning Group LLC will also talk about the benefits and challenges of adopting incremental zoning changes vs. a complete zoning code rewrite based on her 35 years of experience working with communities on zoning ordinance updates.

**11:45 AM – 12:45 PM      LUNCH BREAK**

**12:45 – 2:00 PM      BUILDING CODE 101 FOR PLANNERS**

*Michael Hagan, MCP, CBO, CFM, Building Division Manager, City of Keene*

Not sure what building code and fire code requirements apply when reviewing a development application? In this session, Michael Hagan, City of Keene Building Division Manager and Master Code Professional will discuss the main differences between the International Residential Code, International Building Code, International Existing Building Code, NFPA 101 and NFPA 1. He will also provide an overview of what professional planners and planning board members need to know about building code and fire code requirements when evaluating site plan and subdivision applications and discuss how the International Existing Building Code can be used to lower regulatory barriers for conversion of existing buildings into new uses.

**2:00 – 2:15 PM      BREAK**



**2:15 - 3:30 PM**

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLANNING TOOLS FOR YOUR COMMUNITY**

*Nadine Miller, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer,*

*NH Division of Historical Resources*

*Noah Hodgetts, Principal Planner, NH Office of Planning and Development*

*Sarah Wrightsman, Community Engagement & Education Manager, NH Housing*

Learn how to protect historic resources while also encouraging investment in downtowns and village centers, addressing housing needs and more. The session will provide explanations of recent legislative changes, help dispel some common myths, and describe how to find the best fits for community goals.