

## Sierra Club New Hampshire Office

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**What is the Sierra Club?**--The Sierra Club has more than 700,000 of your fellow Americans who are committed to leave our children a living legacy — clean air, clean water, and natural grandeur. The Sierra Club has been instrumental in preserving wilderness, wildlife and nature's most splendid wild places for over 100 years — Yosemite National Park, Grand Canyon National Park, the Florida Everglades and the Sequoia National Monument to name just a few — helping protect over 150 million acres of wilderness and wildlife habitat.

The Sierra Club is America's most effective advocate for the environment and helps protect the environment locally and globally. From community issues and action to lobbying on a national level, the club helps take action where it's needed most. In the case of this project—the widening of I-93-- this is clearly at the local level. In NH, we have over 5,000 members, many of whom live or work where I-93 impacts. We have been involved in many discussions, negotiations and, where necessary, legal actions to ensure the protections of our natural assets and help protect our health and quality of life.

**How does the NH Sierra Club advance “Smart Growth”?**--Our chapter is active politically and through lobbying efforts. We also have numerous initiatives, including a Sprawl Committee, that enable our active and concerned members to get involved in helping their towns and State implement better choices. Runaway growth is not inevitable -- we can have cleaner air and water, more choices in transportation modes and places to live, and better-protected parks, farms and open spaces.

Examples of smart-growth solutions include:

- Making significantly greater investments in clean public transportation, including modern commuter trains and clean buses.
- Planning pedestrian-friendly developments where people have transportation choices, such as trains and bus service; providing good walking and bicycling facilities around shopping and parks; and implementing traffic calming measures.
- Promoting regional and statewide planning that combines the transportation, land-use and environmental planning efforts.
- Building more affordable housing close to transit and jobs.
- Supporting greater public involvement in the transportation and land-use planning processes.
- Funding innovative, incentive based programs for encouraging alternative transportation use, such as tax credits for public transit, walking or biking, and parking cash out and parking fees.
- Requiring developers to pay impact fees to cover the costs of new roads, schools, water and sewer lines, and requiring property-tax impact studies on new developments.

**How Can NHSC help this program?**--We can provide examples both of growth efforts that haven't worked nationally as well as those that are “*best practices*”. We have access to experienced professionals who can help our process succeed. We can provide statewide members to help educate the community leaders in the impacted towns. We can provide a “grassroots” involvement to ensure the final conclusions are sound, pragmatic and lead to a healthier, more livable New Hampshire.

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