

SERVICES PROVIDED TO LINCOLN COUNTY COMMUNITIES

About LCRPC

Lincoln County has supported community planning and economic development work on behalf of the towns and County since the 1990s. The Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission (LCRPC) was incorporated as a regional planning commission in 2010, under Maine Revised Statutes Annotated, Title 30-A, Chapter 119. In 2015, the LCRPC became the Planning Department for Lincoln County. The LCRPC's Board is made up of representatives from towns across the County, who are appointed for their local community and land use planning knowledge.

The major activities in land use, transportation planning, natural resources, and economic and community development are supported primarily with County funding, with additional resources received from state and federal agencies.



Our Mission

is to provide land use, transportation, economic and community development planning, and related technical assistance to Lincoln County residents, municipal governments, businesses, and non-profits.

Our Vision

is a strong and sustainable economy, sound land use policies, and a healthy, livable, and safe environment for all.

We Value

providing sound knowledge on myriad topics relevant to Lincoln County, equitable distribution of services across Lincoln County towns, growing connections and networks, building relationships and collaborative partnerships, and working towards equitable access for residents to all aspects of community life.



Our Approach

The LCRPC's work with towns falls under three major functions: Technical Assistance, Convening, and Communication. Below are services the RPC provides to Lincoln County and its nineteen (19) municipalities:

Technical Assistance

Provide Planning Assistance

- Comp. Planning
- Land Use
- Transportation
- Strategic Planning
- Being a Resource Guide
- Capital Improvement Planning
- Downtown Planning
- Waterfront/Harbor Management Planning

Provide Tools

- GIS
- Risk Assessment
- Contractual Services

Provide Connection with State & Federal:

- Initiatives
- Regulations
- Funding Opportunities
- Legislators

Convening

Build Knowledge

Assist with the exploration of shared services and regional problem solving

Increase LCRPC capacity and expertise by leveraging existing organizations

Build Partnerships

Provide capacity for projects individual municipalities cannot do on their own

Find the right people to network with to meet the needs of a town project or sector

Partner with community (and public) organizations on educational workshops and programs

Communication

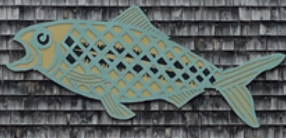
Outreach on services LCRPC provides

Informing County of LCRPC and municipal priorities

Educate select boards and town administration on value the RPC brings

Share information, resources, grant and funding opportunities, etc.





Our Strategic Plan for Lincoln County

Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission adopted its five-year Strategic Plan in April 2021. The Strategic Plan is a tool to describe the Planning Commission’s priorities and desired outcomes while continuing to illustrate the skills and value of the Regional Planning Commission as a County department. It provides a concrete vision for the work the LCRPC is looking to accomplish over a five-year horizon through 2026. The Strategic Plan is a living document, and progress is evaluated annually.

Housing



Broadband



Sustainable Economic



Transportation



Intergenerational
Community Building



Environmental
Sustainability



How we Identified our Goals

To identify how impactful the Priorities would be for Lincoln County towns and residents within a 1-2 year period, the LCRPC Strategic Planning Committee ranked each one on a scale of 1 – 10, one having the least impact and ten being the most impactful. While all Priorities will be worked on in various amounts at various times throughout the year, the ranking exercise was important for the Strategic Planning Committee to identify the value of each Priority in relation to the others, and to help inform future tasks within the work plan.

Six priority areas of work were identified during the strategic planning process: Housing, Broadband, Sustainable Economic & Community Development, Transportation, Intergenerational Community Building, and Environmental Sustainability.

The Strategic Plan provides a set of specific actions and desired outcomes for each priority area to benefit Lincoln County communities. Our Strategic Plan can be found on our website www.LCRPC.org

Our Specialties

LCRPC offers a wide variety of technical knowledge to municipalities and the County on planning, environmental sustainability, broadband, economic and community development, transportation, and assistance with grant funding opportunities.

Planning Services

LCRPC works with municipal leaders, staff, boards, and committees to develop and implement planning strategies that are unique to their town, including:

- Comprehensive Planning
- Ordinance Review and Development
- Planning Board Assistance
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Housing Studies, including the Countywide study
- Town Planner Services (contractual based)

Economic and Community Development

LCRPC provides economic development and CDBG assistance. Our work includes infrastructure projects in low-income neighborhoods, grant writing and data research for businesses and nonprofits, and brownfield grant assistance to many Lincoln County towns. The RPC connects new and existing businesses to Small Business Development Counselors and hosts monthly meetings with Lincoln and Sagadahoc workforce professionals and local agencies to discuss workforce-training needs.

Transportation

Through an annual contract with the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) we work closely with MDOT staff to provide input on their 3-year Work Plan, offer technical assistance to municipalities, including participation with town public safety and cycling committees, prepare traffic corridor studies, and write transportation comprehensive plan chapter updates for towns.

Environmental Sustainability

Lincoln County has been at the forefront of resilience planning and environmental sustainability work for decades. Work areas include sea level rise (SLR) mapping; inland and coastal flooding; adaptation and hazard mitigation planning; supporting green energy initiatives; grant assistance; and coordinating across sectors in Lincoln County's agriculture, aquaculture, and food systems.

For the past couple of years, LCRPC has been a Region 1 Coordinator and service provider for GOPIF's Community Resilience Partnership program. This work allows LCRPC to expand our role as a leader in climate resiliency by working directly with Lincoln County towns on planning, engineering, and implementing the strategies of the "Maine Won't Wait" Four-Year Climate Action Plan released by the Maine Climate Council in 2020, and expected to be updated in December 2024.

Broadband

Broadband planning work has been expanding in Lincoln County over the past several years. LCRPC staff and coastal Maine Regional Broadband (CMRB) (funded by a new initiative with the Maine Connectivity Authority) work with towns by providing broadband knowhow; grant application assistance; and collaborates with internet providers, town broadband committees, and State agencies. Digital Equity is a large focus of this work, with CMRB receiving significant funding from the Maine Connectivity Authority to support digital equity and inclusion on a regional level.



Emily Rabbe, Executive Director

Emily brings over a decade of planning, permitting, and ordinance review experience in both public and private sectors to the LCRPC, with a focus on environmental planning. She is involved in coordinating with State and federal agencies to provide planning and environmental sustainability technical assistance to Lincoln County municipal leaders, boards, and committees. Emily also provides comprehensive planning analysis, environmental planning strategy, site planning and development, and transportation planning knowhow to communities.



Laura Graziano, Community Resilience Planner

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.



Curtis Brown, Land Use and Transportation Planner

Curtis joined LCRPC with a professional background in Distribution Planning. Before joining LCRPC, Curtis worked at CHA Solutions, where he was involved in planning and permitting powerline upgrades across Maine. He is currently working on the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Thriving Communities grant to develop long-term transportation strategies for Lincoln County. In addition, he is collaborating with the town of Boothbay on updates to local ordinances and assisting Lincoln County towns with transportation chapters for their Comprehensive Plans.



Alex Zipparo, Economic & Community Development Planner

With decades of experience in community engagement, marketing, economic development, business technical assistance, and government relations, Alex works with municipalities, businesses, and nonprofits to develop and meet strategic goals. Before joining LCRPC, Alex's experience includes working in municipal government relations for Island Institute, serving on the Development Review Board in Burlington Vermont, and leading the Vermont Farm to School Program for the Vermont Agency of Agriculture.

