



NASHUA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Transportation Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 12:00 PM

### In-Person Attendance

NRPC Office Main Conference Room  
30 Temple Street, Suite 310 Nashua, New Hampshire

Participants may also attend the meeting via Zoom and members attending in this manner may vote on any action item but do not count towards a quorum. For this reason, we encourage in-person attendance at the meeting.

### Virtual or Telephone-Only Attendance

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83667455062?pwd=NDRQR3ROUWJyVU5UR093U1R4Mlkydz09>

Call-in #: 1 929 205 6099 Meeting ID: 836 6745 5062 Passcode: 975745

### AGENDA

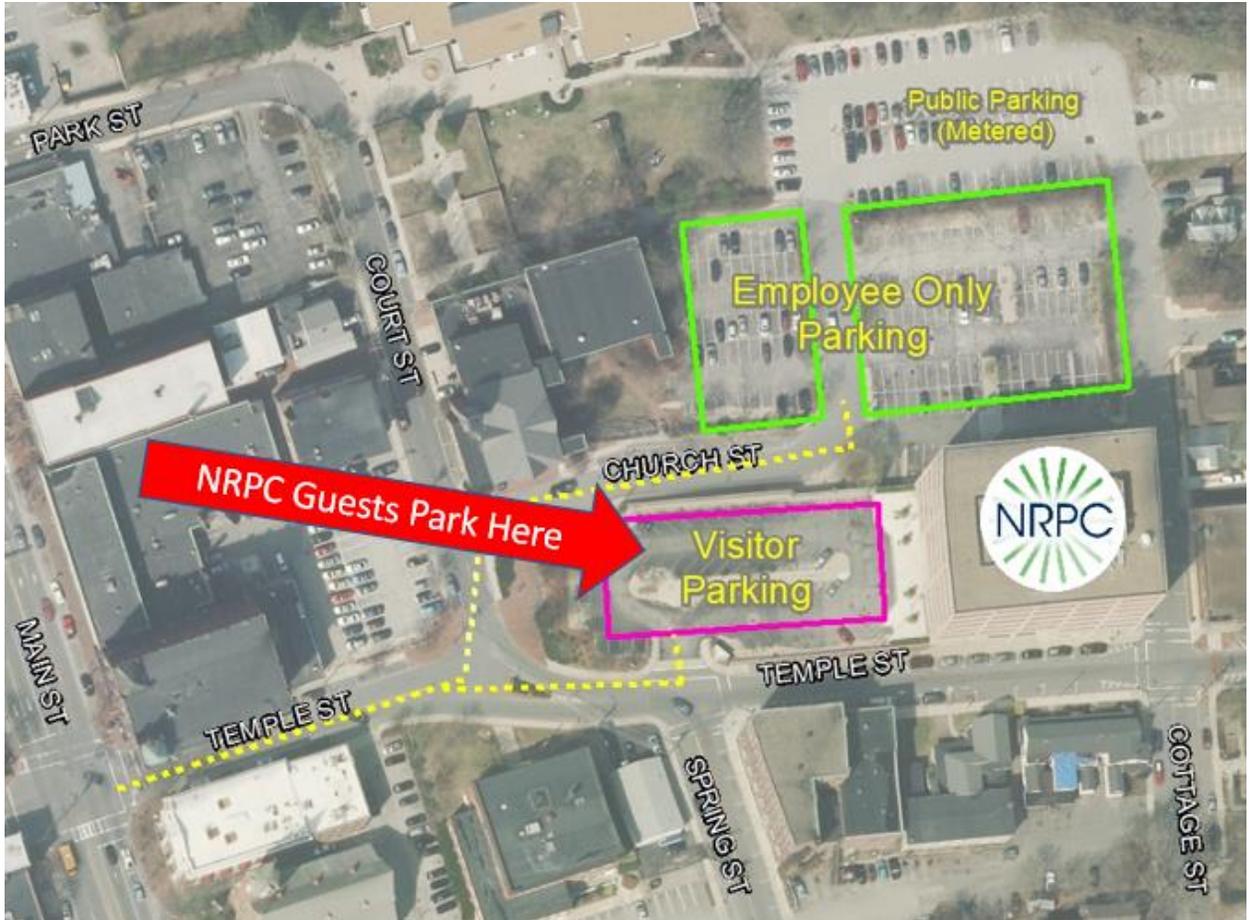
1. Call to Order and Introductions
2. Approval of the September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022, meeting minutes (Attachment 1)
3. Review project scoring for 2025-2034 Ten Year Plan project submissions (Attachment 2)  
***Action Item: Staff will be seeking a motion by the TTAC to submit this year's project proposals and rankings to NHDOT for potential inclusion in the FY 2023-2032 Ten Year Plan.***
4. Regional Transportation Model  
*NRPC staff will provide an overview of the regional transportation modelling process.*
5. Municipal, NHDOT, NHDES, FHWA updates  
*As time allows.*

**\*\*LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED\*\***

**BUILDING MANAGEMENT REQUESTS THAT VISITORS NOW PARK IN THE UPPER LOT  
(see attached)**



NASHUA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
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**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**NRPC TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**September 14, 2022**

**Members Present:**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Eric Slosek, Town of Amherst (remote)<br>Scott Butcher, Town of Brookline<br>Brian Groth, Town of Hudson<br>Mark Chamberlain, Town of Lyndeborough<br>Dawn Tuomala, Town of Merrimack<br>Camille Correa, NTS (remote)<br>John Savage, First Transit - NTS (remote)<br>Dan Hudson, City of Nashua<br>Wayne Husband, City of Nashua | Pete Kohalmi, City of Nashua<br>Matt Sullivan, City of Nashua<br>Jenn Beauregard, Town of Pelham<br>Jeff Gowan, Town of Pelham<br>Nick Germain, Town of Wilton<br>Linda Wescott, NH DOT<br>Tim White, NH DES (remote)<br>Leigh Levine, FHWA (remote) |
|---|--|

**Others Present:**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Chris Buchanan, Town of Amherst<br>Will Ludt, Town of Amherst (remote)<br>Brett Gagnon, Town of Hudson | Victor Oates, Town of Hudson (remote)<br>Connor Lauzon, VHB |
|--|---|

**Staff Present:**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Tyrel Borowitz, GIS Specialist (remote)<br>Caleb Cheng, Regional Planner III<br>Jay Minkarah, Executive Director<br>Emma Rearick, Regional Planner II | Sara Siskavich, GIS Manager<br>Matt Waitkins, MPO Coordinator<br>Kristin Wardner, Administrative Assistant |
|---|--|

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Matt Waitkins called the meeting to order at 12:07 pm and did a roll call of attendees.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 10, 2022, MEETING**

Waitkins referred to the minutes from August 10, 2022. Mark Chamberlain provided the following change:

- Page 2, Line 3, add: "Chamberlain asked if DOT and DES were addressing infrastructure needed to support EVs."

***The minutes from the September 14, 2022, meeting were accepted with changes by roll call vote, with Matt Sullivan abstaining.***

**4. NH TEN YEAR PLAN PROJECT PRESENTATIONS**

Waitkins reviewed the Ten Year Plan schedule. He explained that NRPC's on-call engineers (VHB) are now reviewing the project submissions to come up with cost estimates for the communities that do not have engineers of their own. He clarified the submission date to NH DOT is November 10<sup>th</sup>. NRPC received 18 proposals from 6 communities – 13 of which are bike/ped related, and they are being allotted 15 minutes to present their projects to the committee.

All project proposals, containing detailed information about each, can be viewed here:  
[https://cms5.revize.com/revize/nrpc/Document\\_Center/Transportation/MPO/NRPC\\_2025-2034%20TYP%20Project%20Proposals\\_V2.pdf](https://cms5.revize.com/revize/nrpc/Document_Center/Transportation/MPO/NRPC_2025-2034%20TYP%20Project%20Proposals_V2.pdf)

### Amherst

Chris Buchanan presented first for the town of Amherst. They have 8 project submissions, 7 of which are along the route of the Baboosic Greenway (an abandoned rail line running from Milford to Manchester) and one highway safety improvement (NH122 at Merrimack Road) project. He explained the Baboosic Greenway is a regional initiative that involves 5 towns: Bedford, Merrimack, Amherst, Milford, and Brookline, and the goal is to connect the communities for multimodal users. The 7 bike/ped projects will complete the segments along the Greenway with side paths and shared used paths as appropriate and the 8<sup>th</sup> project proposes a roundabout and side path at the intersection of Route 122 and Merrimack Road. The most important to the town are North-3, South-4, and South-3.

Waitkins stated the scoring committee is comprised of himself, Scott Butcher (Brookline), Nick Germain (Wilton) and Mark Chamberlain (Lyndeborough).

### Hudson

Brian Groth presented 3 projects for the town of Hudson. He explained that Hudson has a fragmented pedestrian network as a result of the town being the confluence of 3 state highways and development changes and they are looking to fill the gaps. The projects are on Route 102 (Derry Road), Route 111 and Route 3A (Lowell Road). Route 102 is the priority project which would add sidewalks from residential neighborhoods to the library and schools. The second project is an east west sidewalk connection to Benson Park with improved crossing signalization (Taylor Falls Bridge to Nashua/Souhegan Rail Trail and Benson Park). The third project would include improvements to provide safe crossings for pedestrians at 3 locations on Lowell Road: Lowell Road and Central Street, Lowell Road at Winn Avenue, and Lowell Road at Roosevelt Avenue. Brett Gagnon stated that they have letters of support from many in the community (school principals, planning board members and local political leaders) for these projects.

Buchanan asked if there has ever been any consideration given to altering or requesting altering the design of the roadways themselves. Groth stated there has not and this is a step towards that request.

### Litchfield

Jay Minkarah presented 2 projects for the town of Litchfield because they had no representatives available to attend the meeting. The first project is improvements to the intersection of NH 3A and Corning Road. It was prompted by a 64-unit development in the vicinity of Corning Road, and it would add left turn lanes from westbound Corning Road onto southbound Route 3a and from southbound Route 3a onto eastbound Corning Road; and it would realign intersection to create a T-intersection. The second project is Pinecrest Road sidewalk extension which is critical to the town. It would fill a gap in the pedestrian network linking all 3 schools, the town hall complex, the State Forest and 2 town parks. There is strong public support for the project, and it was identified as a priority in the Master Plan.

It was asked if the town had considered a roundabout for the Corning Road intersection and Minkarah stated they have not. He believes the right-of-way impact would be significant with a roundabout but he couldn't say it would be ruled out. It was asked if the town asked the developer to cover some of the costs and Minkarah stated they had not, but the developer did give a 15 ROW across the front of the property and agreed to put in sidewalk along Route 3A. The intersection is projected to be at failure under existing conditions within the next 10 years. Will Ludt asked if Litchfield had any impact fees and Minkarah stated they did which could be a source of the match. It was asked why a sidewalk and not side path is proposed. Minkarah stated it follows the same

idea of the existing sidewalk; and from a cost perspective it can be done almost entirely with existing right-of-way with almost no impacts or impediments.

### Merrimack

Dawn Tuomala, town of Merrimack, explained they originally submitted 3 projects but are only bringing forward two at this time: the Chamberlain Bridge rehabilitation and the Naticook triangle realignment. The Chamberlain Bridge is located on Daniel Webster Highway, the major north/south connection in town, and is a two-span arch bridge on the Municipal Red List with an E-2 weight restriction in place. Currently oversized and overweight trucks are diverted around the area. The east side is a granite stone arch, the western side is reinforced concrete arches and the wing walls are granite stone blocks. The project consists of rehabilitating the bridge, rather than replacing because of its historic significance; and safety improvements to include a sidewalk on the western side and upgrading the guardrails.

The second project is safety improvements to the Naticook Road and Camp Sargent Road triangle intersection. In close vicinity are Route 101A, Continental Boulevard, Industrial Boulevard, and the FE Everett Turnpike, and minor arterial roads that connect residents to the highways. The triangle has 2 landowners; there have been numerous accidents there and abutter complaints. The proposal is do a t-intersection to provide better visibility, slow traffic and create a more defined stop. In addition, it will address the failing existing drainage system and treating drainage before it gets to the lake. There have been 15 accidents there in the last 5 years. The project will be put into the town's CIP this coming year.

Minkarah stated in his experience walking on the Chamberlain Bridge can be frightening – the sidewalk is narrow, close to the road and cars come fast around the curve with limited visibility. He asked if there had been any thought into ways to slow traffic on around the curve, especially for the safety of pedestrians. Tuomala stated that would likely be addressed when the project was completed. She also stated that the 2014 TAP grant the town received addressed the sidewalk only and did not allow the town to expand it, only to fix it. The hope is with this project that will be addressed as part of the bridge rehabilitation.

### Nashua

Matt Sullivan presented Nashua's project: West Hollis Street Corridor improvements, specifically between Riverside Street and the Hollis town line, a 2.9 mile section. He explained it is a vehicle-centric corridor with limited to no bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. The project's purpose is to make corridor-length improvements to improve accommodation and safety for bicyclists and pedestrians, while maintaining or improving vehicular access and capacity for vehicles along the roadway. He explained the city would like to take a Complete Streets approach and include such things as reduced lane widths, bike lanes, protected sidewalks, more controlled access management, enhanced pedestrian connections/crossings, and more. The city has committed \$300,000 to a corridor study to begin this fall. Dan Hudson reviewed the specifics of the improvements, which are conceptual at this point. The project cost estimate is \$11.6 million.

Minkarah stated in response to Gagnon that all the communities were to submit financial information with their proposals and that as part of the process, on-call engineers (funded by NH DOT and NRPC) will review cost estimates and the scoring team will have that information. Waitkins stated the cost is not part of the scoring criteria but there is consideration because realistically there is a limited bucket of money.

### Pelham

Jeff Gowan presented the project for the town of Pelham. The purpose of this project is to provide safe and adequate pedestrian connectivity between the Town Center, municipal schools, and churches located on Marsh Road and the residential areas along Old Bridge Street with the commercial district along NH Route 38 and residential areas to the south of NH Route 38. The scope would include extending the sidewalk and constructing

a pedestrian bridge across Beaver Brook. The current bridge is a historic twin arch bridge about 21 feet wide with no sidewalks and no option to expand it. He explained that there are currently no sidewalks or crossings on Route 38. There is public support for the project and the need for sidewalk connectivity is in the old Master Plan (the town is currently in the process of updating it). In response to Gagnon, Gowan stated there will be easements required to do the project.

## **5. MUNICIPAL, NHDOT, NHDES, FHWA UPDATES**

### **Municipal**

- Lyndeborough: Mark Chamberlain stated that his BOS chairman, who used to be the Milford Chief of Police (Fred Douglas), is upset with the work on the bypass in Milford because he fought to get safety improvements there and most of them have not gone back in (reflectors in middle and rumble strips on both sides). Waitkins clarified Chamberlain is referring to the Milford bypass which had a significant portion repaved this summer. Scott Butcher stated driving in the rain without the reflectors is difficult. Linda Wescott stated she would find out more from the project manager and get back to Chamberlain.

### **NHDOT**

- No updates.

### **NHDES**

- Tim White stated that the first round of the State Clean Diesel grant program closed on September 9<sup>th</sup> and they received 10 proposals. There are still funds remaining, so another round is now open with proposals due November 1<sup>st</sup>. Information is on the website.

### **FHWA**

- No updates.

### **NTS**

- Camille Correa stated that the Transit Center construction is nearing completion; the project started last July. She said that NTS ridership has increased to 30% over this time last year, but they are not close to pre-covid numbers.

## **6. ADJOURN**

***The meeting adjourned at 2:02pm, with all in favor.***

**The next meeting will be held on October 12, 2022.**

*Respectfully submitted by Kristin Wardner, Administrative Assistant, NRPC*

**MEMORANDUM**

Attachment 2

**FROM:** Matt Waitkins, MPO Coordinator**SUBJECT:** 2025 – 2034 Ten Year Plan Project Selection Process**DATE:** October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022

In May, NRPC initiated the process of soliciting new projects from our municipalities for potential inclusion in the State of New Hampshire Ten Year Transportation Plan for the FY 2025-2034 timeframe. The biennial process provides a two-year allocation of approximately \$7.393 million in federal funds to the Nashua Region. Staff noted that these funds may be used for improvements to federal aid eligible roads, as well as non-motorized projects such as sidewalks, bicycle lanes, and multi-modal paths. Most projects require a 20% local match; however, projects on state-maintained facilities may be eligible for 100% federal funding by substituting state toll credits for the local match.

NRPC staff contacted each municipality in the region and requested assistance to:

- Identify transportation issues and needs that are important to each community.
- Review the MTP (long-range) projects in each community and provide updated information, if available.
- Submit new transportation project proposals for consideration.
- Establish the relative priority of each project.

The process and criteria by which projects were reviewed and prioritized was the same as the one that was used in the previous project solicitation round. The process and criteria were explained at the May TTAC meeting.

NRPC staff requested volunteers to serve on a project scoring subcommittee. There were three volunteers. None of the volunteers are from a community that has submitted a project proposal. There is also one NRPC staff member on the subcommittee.

Those municipalities who chose to submit projects were invited to describe their proposals at the September TTAC meeting.

A total of seventeen project submissions were received during this year's solicitation. The results of the scoring process will be discussed at the October 12 TTAC meeting. **NRPC staff will be seeking a motion by the TTAC to submit this year's project proposals and rankings to NHDOT for potential inclusion in the FY 2025-2034 Ten Year Plan.**

The following projects are being reviewed and scored. **A prioritized list will be provided at the October 12<sup>th</sup> TTAC meeting for the TTAC to consider.**

- Amherst - Shared use path along the abandoned Manchester & Milford Branch rail bed from the Bedford/Amherst T/L to Walnut Hill Rd in Amherst.

- Amherst – A side path along the north side of Amherst St (NH 122) from NH101 interchange to Courthouse Road.
- Amherst - Shared use path along the Milford and Manchester Branch rail bed from a midblock crossing at Amherst St (NH 122) south to Boston Post Rd, with a short side path along Boston Post Road to connect NH 122.
- Amherst - Shared use path along the Milford and Manchester Branch rail bed, generally alongside Beaver Brook, between Boston Post Rd and Merrimack Rd.
- Amherst - Shared use path between Merrimack Rd and Boston Post Rd (along Beaver Brook, the Souhegan River, Fairway Dr, and River Rd).
- Amherst – Shared use path along the eastern side of Boston Post Rd between River Rd & Homestead Rd, with two spurs that provide direct access to Souhegan High School and Amherst Middle School.
- Amherst – Shared use path between Boston Post Rd at Davis Witty Rd and the Buck Meadow conservation & recreation land.
- Amherst - Roundabout at the intersection of NH122 & Merrimack Rd.
- Hudson – Sidewalks along NH111 (Ferry Street/Burnham Rd and Central Street) from Taylor Falls/Veteran Memorial Bridge to Benson Park.
- Hudson - NH102 (Derry Road) sidewalks from residential neighborhoods to Hills Garrison Elementary School, Rogers Memorial Library and Alvirne High School.
- Hudson – NH3A (Lowell Rd) Pedestrian crossings at 3 intersections.
- Litchfield – Reconfigure the intersection of NH 3A and Corning Rd.
- Litchfield – Sidewalk extension on Pinecrest Road between Hildreth Drive and Albuquerque Avenue.
- Merrimack - Rehabilitation and safety improvements for the Chamberlain bridge over the Souhegan River on DW Highway.
- Merrimack – Reconfigure and improve safety at the Naticook Rd/Camp Sargent Rd triangle intersection.
- Nashua - West Hollis Street Corridor Improvements between Riverside Drive and the Hollis Town Line.
- Pelham - Old Bridge Street Sidewalk Expansion & Pedestrian Bridge over Beaver Brook.

The table on the next page provides an updated project selection timeline.

| <b>NH State Ten Year Plan (SFY 2025-34)</b>                                      |                  |
|--|------------------|
| <b>Project Solicitation/Selection Timeline</b>                                   |                  |
| Project solicitation begins  | 6/3/2022         |
| NRPC staff available to meet with communities to discuss projects                | 6/6 – 7/19/2022  |
| <b>Project proposals due to NRPC</b>   | <b>8/5/2022</b>  |
| NRPC staff summarizes project submissions in preparation for scope/cost review   | 8/5 – 8/12/2022  |
| Scope/cost review by engineering team  | 9/12 – 10/7/2022 |
| Project presentations at TTAC  | 9/14/2022        |
| Project scoring team reviews & scores projects                                   | 9/15 - 10/7/2022 |
| TTAC meeting to prioritize projects  | 10/12/2022       |
| NRPC finalizes projects for NHDOT review   | 11/4/2022        |
| NRPC candidate projects & supporting documentation due to NHDOT                  | 11/10/2022       |
| NHDOT Project Engineering & Cost Review concludes                                | 2/1/2023         |
| TTAC recommends regional project priorities for the State TYP                    | 3/8/2023         |
| NRPC Commissioners finalize regional priorities for the State TYP                | 3/15/2023        |
| NRPC submits priority projects to NHDOT for inclusion in the draft Ten Year Plan | 3/31/2023        |