

June 25, 2020 Project Updates

2021-2030 State Ten Year Plan: The Ten Year Plan was introduced in the legislature in January and has passed the Senate as a component of HB1182. In the House, the bill (HB2020) has passed out of committee and is awaiting action by the full House of Representatives. Once approved, the bill will go to a conference committee to work out differences, or to the governor if there are none. RPC priorities for the Ten Year Plan all remain in the document as proposed. The draft of the Ten Year Plan and supporting materials can be found on the NHDOT website: <https://www.nh.gov/dot/org/projectdevelopment/planning/typ/index.htm>

CommuteSMARTSeacoast – Current funding for the successful commuteSMARTSeacoast transportation management association (TMA) as part of mitigation for the Newington-Dover project will run out 6/30/2019. The service, housed at COAST, has won national awards for engaging companies around the Seacoast in commuter challenges and promoting alternative commuting options. RPC and SRPC staff will take over management of the TMA for an interim period of 18-24 months until a combination of future CMAQ funding and other sources can be secured to hire a full time Director. In the short term RPC and SRPC will use funds from the statewide CommuterSmartNH effort.

Road Surface Management Systems Data Collection: In past years, RPC has worked with NHDOT and the UNH Technology Transfer center to conduct Road Surface Management Systems (RSMS) data for interested communities to help them manage and time road surface improvements. With the current COVID-19 situation and the need for continued physical distancing, data collection is not possible at this time as it requires multiple people in the same vehicle. If conditions change and staff can safely collect data, communities will be updated and the process will be started. If interested in learning more or signing up for a future collection season, please contact Christian Matthews (cmatthews@therpc.org).

Rye Shoulder Study – Staff have completed an analysis of priorities for shoulder widening for the Town of Rye to inform local decisions on improving safety all users of local roads and state highways in Rye. The core of the project has been map development and analysis of data on crash locations (both total crashes and those involving non-motorized travelers), current travel lane width, current shoulder width, STRAVA trip volume, Level of Traffic Stress and home locations of students at Rye Elementary School and Rye Middle School. The project scope originally included a community survey to get resident input on hazard areas and shoulder widening priorities, but this has been postponed during the COVID19 crisis at the recommendation of Town Staff. The draft study report is being reviewed internally and will be sent to Rye next week. (Scott Bogle – sbogle@therpc.org)

Kittery-Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Joint Land Use Study (JLUS): The Town of Kittery and the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, with the assistance of the Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission (SMPDC) recently completed a project to define compatibility issues that could impede military operations or continued regional growth around the shipyard. The project has developed a set of strategies addressing communications, environmental and economic resilience,

transportation, housing, and other land use issues in the surrounding region and have been finalized into a series of recommendations and an implementation plan. RPC staff participated in this effort along with the City of Portsmouth, COAST, and other surrounding communities. All reports and other documents are available on the SMPDS website, www.smpdc.org, under "Special Projects." (Tim Roache troache@therpc.org or Dave Walker dwalker@therpc.org).

Coordinated Public Transit/Human Service Transportation Plan for the Greater Derry-Salem & Greater Manchester Regions: RPC and SNHPC staff are starting a process to update the regional transit coordination plans for the recently merged Region 8 (Greater Manchester) and Region 9 (Greater Derry-Salem) RCCs. These plans are a requirement under the FAST Act for regions to access FTA Section 5310 funding for transit for older adults and individuals with disabilities. The plans inventory existing transportation services in the region, identify service gaps and identify strategies for addressing those gaps. The process will involve three surveys, including one of transportation provider agencies, one of municipal human services directors and a third covering human service agencies that don't provide transportation but work with clients likely to have unmet transportation needs. Demographic analysis will draw on latest data from the American Community Survey, the NH Office of Energy and Planning and the NH Department of Health and Human Services. The respective plans for the two RCC regions were last updated in 2016. (Scott Bogle – sbogle@therpc.org)

Seacoast Transportation Corridors Vulnerability Analysis (STC): RPC is working with the New Hampshire Coastal Program, NHDOT, and other stakeholders to build on the efforts of the Tides To Storms and C-RISE studies, and the Coastal Risks and Hazards Commission to conduct an analysis of the transportation infrastructure in the seacoast anticipated to be impacted by additional flooding due to sea level rise and climate change. The project has created an advisory committee to enhance coordination across state, regional, and local entities working to address transportation networks vulnerable to coastal hazards. In addition, a vulnerability analysis is in progress and will form the basis for establishing a long-term adaptation framework to incorporate coastal hazards and prioritize resilience in state and local transportation planning and construction. That component will include some estimates regarding the costs of improvements as well as methods for assessing resiliency as part of the project selection process. While progress has been slowed somewhat due to COVID-19, the project is still expected to last approximately 18 months and conclude in Summer 2021. (Dave Walker dwalker@therpc.org).
