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MEMORANDUM

To: MPO Policy Committee
 From: Scott Bogle, Senior Transportation Planner
 Date: October 1, 2018
 RE: **Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Proposal Evaluation**

September 7th was the deadline for submittal of proposals for the third funding round of the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). Three full proposals were received from Exeter, New Castle and Portsmouth. In aggregate these proposals request \$1,874,400 in federal funding and have a total project cost of \$2,543,000. The proposals were reviewed by a scoring committee of TAC members and staff, and the TAC adopted preliminary rankings at their meeting on July 27th. At the October 10th MPO meeting we will ask the Policy Committee to adopt final regional project rankings which will be forwarded to NHDOT. The process to date is summarized below.

Statewide 38 applications were submitted requesting \$22.6 million in federal funding. This compares to the approximately \$5.3 million pool available statewide for the two-year funding round. If divided equally among the nine planning regions, this would equate to approximately \$600,000 per region, though there is not an explicit criterion for geographic distribution in this funding round, and relatively little weight is placed on regional project rank.

Traditionally staff have done an initial review of project proposals and brought staff rankings to the TAC. This cycle three volunteers from the TAC agreed to participate in the initial review. The statewide ranking system is much the same as in the last round, summarized in the table below:

Category		Criterion	Weight
Potential for Success	37%	Project Readiness	13%
		Financial Readiness	17%
		Feasibility	7%
Safety	22%	Stress Analysis	13%
		Improve Safety Conditions	14%
Project Connectivity	18%	Project Connectivity	18%
Socioeconomic Benefits	12%	Low Income Communities	12%
RPC/MPO Rankings	6%	RPC/MPO Rankings	6%
			100%

As with prior rounds of TAP and CMAQ funding, staff have prepared individual summary/scoring sheets for each project, including staff and TAC comments, information on projects' consistency with or listing in local and regional plans, and local support. A map for each project is on the back side of each summary sheet. A table summarizing the three projects, their budgets and TAC ranking is also attached.

Because some of the proposals are very long (30+ pages) we are not making copies of full proposals for each Policy Committee member. However, the original documents are available for review on the MPO website at: <http://www.rpc-nh.org/transportation/transportation-alternatives>. If you have questions in advance of the October 10th Policy Committee meeting please contact me at 658-0515 or sbogle@rpc-nh.org.

Requested Action

Staff ask MPO Policy Committee members to review the project summary sheets and TAC rankings and develop your own project rankings for discussion at the October 10th MPO meeting. Final regional rankings adopted at the MPO meeting will be forwarded to NHDOT for consideration in the Statewide ranking and project selection process.

Transportation Alternatives Program 2018 Application Round

Full Applications Received from RPC Region Communities

#	Municipality	Description	Estimated Project Cost	Federal TAP Funds Requested	TAC Score	TAC Ranking	Policy Committee Ranking
RPC-TA18-2	New Castle	Construct approx 670' of shoulder bicycle route and sidewalk on NH1B/Wentworth Road between Beach Hill Road and Pit Lane. This is Phase 4 of New Castle's SafePath project, connecting to earlier phased funded with TE and private dollars. This segment of NH1B is US Bike Route 1, the NH Coastal Byway and the on-road route for the East Coast Greenway. Called for in New Castle's SafePath Plan, the NH Coastal Byway CMP, and the MPO LRTP.	\$ 403,000	\$ 322,400	83.0	1	
RPC-TA18-1	Exeter	Build 4170' of sidewalk on Epping Road from just south of Industrial Drive to All Town convenience store near Exit 9 for NH101. This will connect to sidewalk currently under construction funded in TAP Round 2, and serve existing pocket neighborhoods and commercial development as well as 116 new residential units and upcoming new commercial development. Called for in the Town Master Plan, Exeter CIP and the Epping Road Access Management Study.	\$ 940,000	\$ 752,000	78.4	2	
RPC-TA18-3	Portsmouth	Construct approx 11,200' of sidewalk as well as traffic calming measures in Portsmouth's Elwyn Park Neighborhood surrounding Dondero Elementary School. Specific roadways include McKinley Road, Harding Road, Van Buren Road, Wilson Road and Filmore Road. Sidewalks will improve access to Dondero Elementary School as well as shopping destinations on Lafayette Road/US1. Called for in Portsmouth's City Bike/Ped Plan, SRTS Action Plan, and CIP.	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 800,000	76.0	3	
Totals			\$ 2,543,000	\$ 1,874,400			

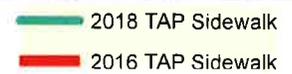
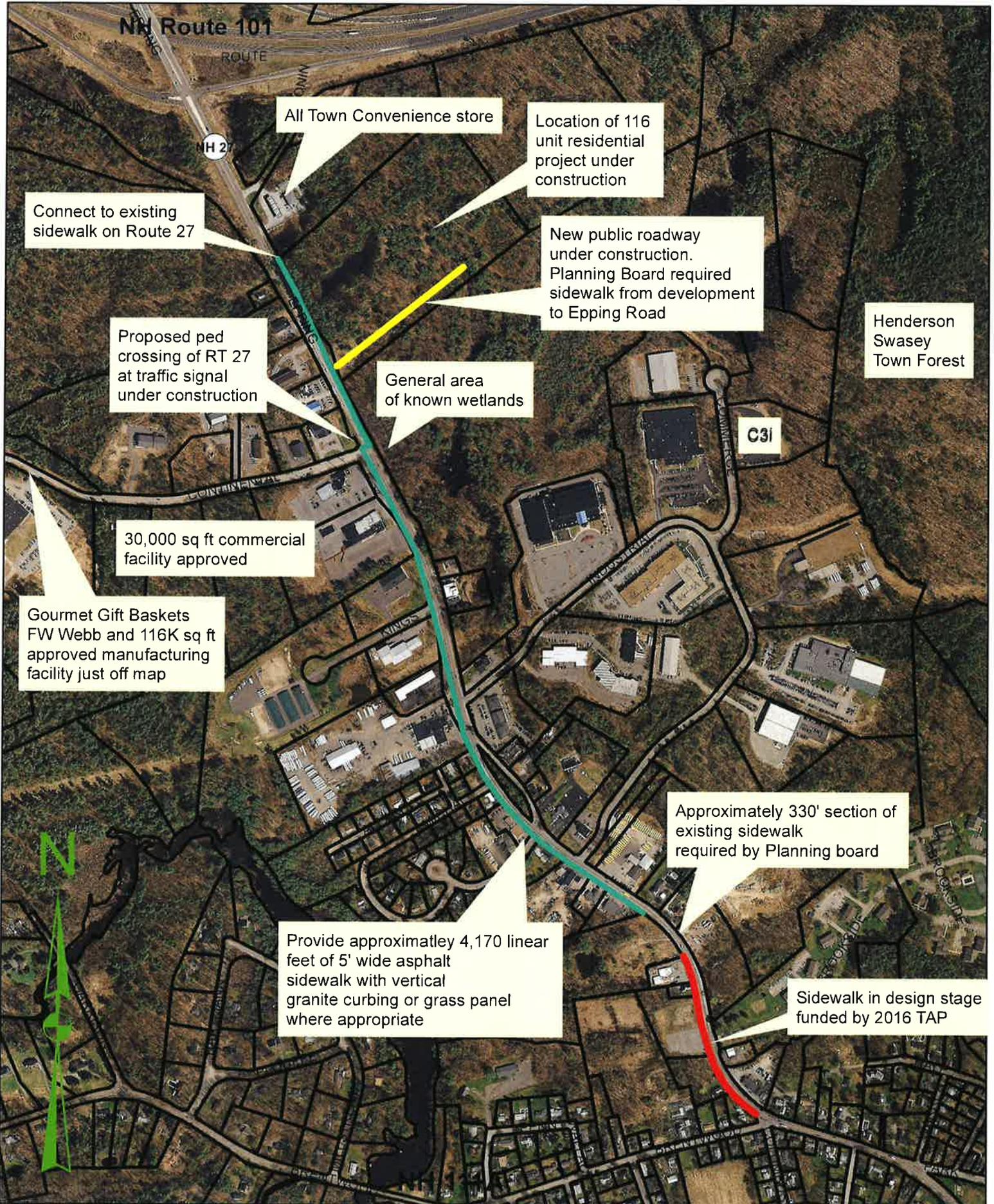
**Transportation Alternatives Program Round 3
RPC Region - Preliminary Project Scoring**

Criterion	Exeter	New Castle	Portsmouth
1. (13pts) Project Support	12.2	12.6	12.2
2. (17pts) Financial Readiness	13.4	14	15.4
3. (7 pts) Feasibility	5.8	5.8	6.2
4. (13 pts) Safety - Stress Analysis	11	11.4	8.8
5. (14 pts) Improve Safety Conditions	13	13.2	10
6. (18 pts) Project Connectivity	15	17	15
7. (12 pts) Socio-Econ Benefits	5.4	5.8	5.8
8. (6 pts) RPC/MPO Rank	2.6	3.2	2.6
Total	78.4	83	76

**Rockingham Planning Commission
2018 Transportation Alternatives Program Project Summary and Evaluation Sheet**

Evaluation (See Criteria Sheet)			Project Location: Exeter	Project ID: RPC-TA18-1
Criterion	TAC Score	Your Score	Project Title: Sidewalk improvements on Epping Road	
1. (13pts) Project Support	12.2		Applicant: Town of Exeter	
2. (17pts) Financial Readiness	13.4		Brief Project Description: As part of a town wide pedestrian improvement project, Exeter is seeking to build 4,170' of 5' wide asphalt sidewalk to connect existing segments of sidewalks on Epping Road (NH 27). The project builds on segments of sidewalk constructed by abutting developers and by the town with a 2016 TAP project. The general goal of this project is to eliminate gaps in existing sidewalks that will enhance and promote pedestrian use and safety. The proposed sidewalk will connect several residential developments and commercial/industrial destinations along Epping Road to the town's existing sidewalk network and ultimately to downtown. The sidewalk will also narrow the openings at several driveways with wide curb cuts to improve safety of turning movements.	
3. (7 pts) Feasibility	5.8			
4. (13 pts) Safety - Stress Analysis	11			
LTS Now		LTS After		
5. (14 pts) Improve Safety Conditions	13			
6. (18 pts) Project Connectivity	15		Total Project Cost: \$940,000 [\$752,000 Federal]	
7. (12 pts) Socio-Econ Benefits	5.4		Source of Match: \$188,000 (Selectmen commit to 2019 warrant article)	
8. (6 pts) RPC/MPO Rank	2.6		Federal Percentage: 80%	
			Non-Federal Percentage: 20%	
			Municipally Managed? Yes	
Total	78.4		Other Comments:	
TAC Ranking	2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project is specifically listed in the Town Master Plan, the 2019-2024 Capital Improvement Program and the Epping Road Access Management Study conducted by RPC in 2012. Letters of support from Planning Board and Select Board. Wetlands are present adjacent to the roadway. Extent of potential impact is not yet known without survey and design work. 	
Your Ranking				

Exeter TAP 2018 Sidewalk Project Map



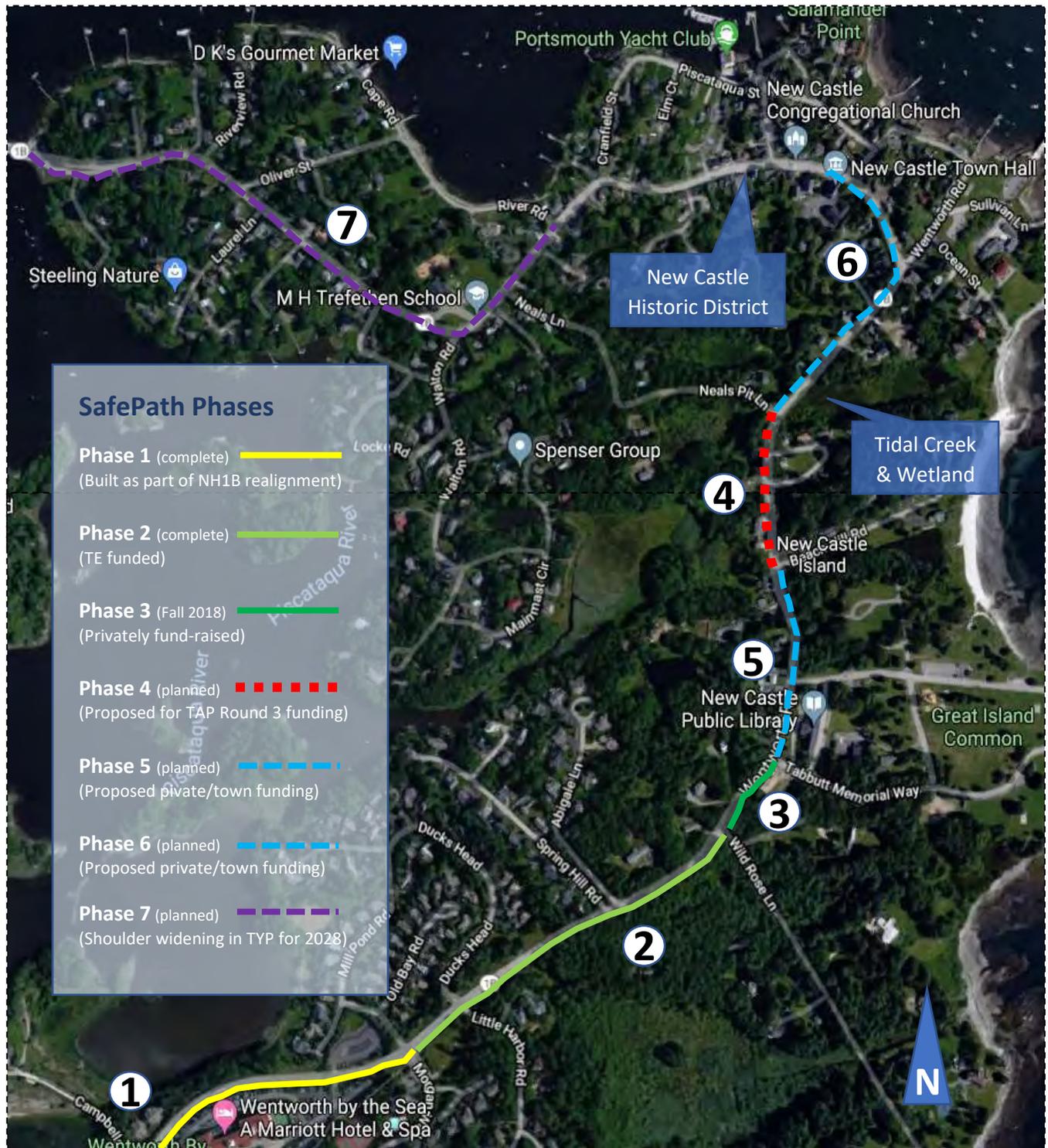
**Rockingham Planning Commission
2018 Transportation Alternatives Program Project Summary and Evaluation Sheet**

Evaluation (See Criteria Sheet)			Project Location: New Castle	Project ID: RPC-TA18-2
Criterion	TAC Score	Your Score	Project Title: Route 1B SafePath Phase 4	
1. (13pts) Project Support	12.6		Applicant: Town of New Castle	
2. (17pts) Financial Readiness	14		<p>Brief Project Description:</p> <p>Project adds approx 3' feet of shoulder width to both sides of Wentworth Road/NH1B from Beach Hill Road to Neals Pit Lane to achieve a consistent 4' width; plus a 4' wide asphalt sidewalk with granite curbing on the west side of Wentworth Road along that same segments (approx. 670 feet). The proposed project builds on three prior segments of New Castle's SafePath – a combination of sidewalk and side path along NH1B from the Wentworth Hotel to Rogers Blvd at New Castle Common. A connecting segment between Rogers Blvd and Beach Hill Road will be constructed separately with municipal and private funding.</p> <p>The purpose of the project is to improve safety for all users of the state highway, and particularly vulnerable road users including the many people walking, running and riding bicycles along the corridor. In addition to adult walkers and riders, elementary school students attending Trefethen school will benefit, as the sidewalk will connect to Neals Pit Lane, a narrow stone-dust lane that cuts across the island and rejoins NH1B at Trefethen School. Pit Lane provides traffic separated access to school for students on the west side of the island.</p> <p>Total Project Cost: \$403,000 [\$322,400 Federal] Source of Match: \$80,600 (Selectmen will support warrant article)</p> <p>Federal Percentage: 80% Non-Federal Percentage: 20% Municipally Managed? Yes</p> <p>Other Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NH1B is a State Bicycle Route, U.S. Bicycle Route 1, the New Hampshire Coastal Byway, and the on-road route for the East Coast Greenway. Based on the StravaMetro data on bicycle and running/walking use purchased by NHDOT this is one of the most heavily traveled bicycle routes in New Hampshire, second only to adjoining segments of Route 1A in Rye. Identified in NH Coastal Byway CMP (2015), NHSG Conceptual Design (2009), RPC MPO LRTP (2017), SafePath Plan (2018). Letters from Selectmen, Consv Comm, Heritage Comm, Police Dept., Health Dept, School, SABR, ECGA, NHSGA, Sen. Dan Innis, Rep. Kate Murray. 	
3. (7 pts) Feasibility	5.8			
4. (13 pts) Stress Analysis	11.4			
LTS Now LTS After				
5. (14 pts) Improve Safety Conditions	13.2			
6. (18 pts) Project Connectivity	17			
7. (12 pts) Socio-Econ Benefits	5.8			
8. (6 pts) RPC/MPO Rank	3.2			
Total	83			
TAC Ranking	1			
Your Ranking				

Transportation Alternatives Program Application

New Castle SafePath Construction Phases

The goal of the New Castle SafePath Initiative is to complete safe facilities for walking and bicycling across heavily traveled New Castle Island for use by residents as well as users from surrounding towns and the broader region. Phases of the project already constructed as well as planned are shown on the map below. Phase 4, highlighted in red, is proposed for funding in this application.



**Rockingham Planning Commission
2018 Transportation Alternatives Program Project Summary and Evaluation Sheet**

Evaluation (See Criteria Sheet)			Project Location: Portsmouth	Project ID: RPC-TA18-3
Criterion	TAC Score	Your Score	Project Title: Elwyn Park Neighborhood Sidewalk Improvements	
1. (13pts) Project Support	12.2		Applicant: City of Portsmouth	
2. (17pts) Financial Readiness	15.4		Brief Project Description: The proposed project will construct approx.. 11,200' of sidewalk as well as traffic calming measures in Portsmouth's Elwyn Park Neighborhood surrounding Dondero Elementary School. This subdivision was built in the 1970s and largely lacks sidewalks. Specific streets proposed for sidewalk installation including McKinley Road, Harding Road, Van Buren Road, Wilson Road and Filmore Road. The proposed sidewalks will improve safe access for students walking to Dondero Elementary School, as well as to shopping destinations on Lafayette Road and recreation destinations such as the Urban Forestry Center.	
3. (7 pts) Feasibility	6.2			
4. (13 pts) Stress Analysis	8.8			
LTS Now		LTS After		
5. (14 pts) Improve Safety Conditions	10			
6. (18 pts) Project Connectivity	15		Total Project Cost: \$1,200,000 [\$800,000 Federal]	
7. (12 pts) Socio-Econ Benefits	5.8		Source of Match: \$400,000 in CIP and approved City Budget	
8. (6 pts) RPC/MPO Rank	2.6		Federal Percentage: 67%	
			Non-Federal Percentage: 33%	
			Municipally Managed? Yes	
Total	76			
TAC Ranking	3		Other Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project is specifically identified in City Capital Improvement Plan FY2019-2024, City Bike/Ped Plan (2014), and Portsmouth Safe Routes to School Action Plan (2010) • Will improve safe pedestrian access to Dondero Elementary School for Elwyn Park neighborhood residents, as well as improved access to nearby shopping and recreation. • No known natural, cultural or archaeological resources or hazardous materials. 	
Your Ranking				



PEVERLY HILL RD

LAFAYETTE RD

ELWYN RD

WILSON RD

TAFT RD

1

Elwyn Park

VAN BUREN
AVE

MCKINLEY RD

HARDING RD

LAFAYETTE RD

Dondero
School

FILLMORE RD



0.1 0.05 0 0.1 Miles

