

## June 23, 2022 Project Updates

**Seacoast Transportation Corridors Vulnerability Analysis (STCVA):** RPC has completed work on the STCVA and the final document has been uploaded to the website ([www.therpc.org/stcva](http://www.therpc.org/stcva)). This project worked with the New Hampshire Coastal Program, NHDOT, and other stakeholders to conduct an analysis of the impacts of sea-level rise related flooding on the transportation infrastructure in the seacoast. The vulnerability analysis will form the basis of a long-term adaptation framework incorporating coastal hazards and prioritizing resilience in state and local transportation planning. A webinar on March 31 provided an overview of the project as well as discussing findings and recommendations and can be viewed on YouTube (<https://youtu.be/UI3SToZ4xsY>). Staff has also been presenting project findings to the Coastal Adaptation Workgroup (CAW) (3/17), the Seabrook-Hampton Estuary Alliance (SHEA) (4/19), NHDOT Project Review Committee (4/20), Hampton Falls Planning Board (4/26), and Hampton Planning Board (5/18). (*Dave Walker [dwalker@therpc.org](mailto:dwalker@therpc.org)*).

**Coordinated Public Transit/Human Services Transportation Plans.** Working with SNHPC, RPC staff are nearing completion of a full draft of the Coordinated Public Transit/Human Services Transportation Plan for the Greater Manchester-Derry-Salem (Region 9) RCC. This plan is a prerequisite for the region to receive Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 funding for transportation services for older adults and individuals with disabilities. The Plan includes an inventory of transportation services currently available in the region; an assessment of unmet need drawing data from the Census, American Community Survey, NHDHHS and a range of surveys and interviews; an analysis of trends impacting transportation supply and demand in the region; and a prioritized set of recommendations for improving access to, and coordination of, transportation services in the region. The Region 9 Plan is being undertaken as part of the UPWP, while a separate plan for the Greater Seacoast/ACT region (Region 10 RCC) is being undertaken with SRPC and COAST with a separate FTA planning grant. The Region 9 plan will be completed this summer, while the Region 10/ACT plan will be completed next spring.

**Age Friendly Communities Initiative:** Community surveys are nearing completion in five of the six assessment communities and thus far have garnered over 1350 responses. Staff have been analyzing survey data and working with local steering committees to plan Community Forums for May-July where survey results will be shared and public input gathered on strategies to address needs identified in the surveys. Thus far Forums have been held in Exeter, Stratham and Fremont with events planned in Hampstead on 6/25 and Portsmouth on 7/12. Unsurprisingly transportation has emerged as one of the greatest concerns for survey respondents. In response to the question “What concerns you most about growing older in your community”, by far the most comment answer in all six communities was “Having transportation options once I stop driving”, selected by 63% of respondents. In some communities this was over 70%. Staff are targeting completion of draft Assessment reports for Exeter, Fremont, Hampstead, and Stratham by 6/30. Revisions will happen during the summer along with continued data collection in Portsmouth and Hampton. (*Scott Bogle - [sbogle@therpc.org](mailto:sbogle@therpc.org)*)

**Hampton Falls (29610):** This study that considered options to address congestion on US 1 through the town center in Hampton Falls was recently completed. An advisory committee was formed and

met several times to discuss various aspects of the project. Two public information sessions were held, and a final public meeting is planned to cover the recommendations. Based on feedback from the community, widening of US 1 through the Hampton Falls village is not desired and other methods to try and address the congestion will be prioritized. The final report is available on the RPC website: [www.therpc.org/corridorstudies](http://www.therpc.org/corridorstudies) (Dave Walker [dwalker@therpc.org](mailto:dwalker@therpc.org)).

**Seabrook-Hampton Bridge Replacement (15904):** The Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project was submitted to FHWA for review and permitting and on March 30, 2022 the Federal Highway Administration issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the project. NHDOT is proceeding with final design of a replacement that is fixed (non-movable), is 48 feet off the water, aligned to the west of the current structure, and would widen the navigational channel to 150 feet. The bridge itself will be 50 feet wide with two travel lanes, 8-foot shoulders, and 6-foot sidewalks with bump outs at some piers. Private property impacts are minimal although there are some environmental impacts to be mitigated. The life-cycle cost of the new structure is estimated at \$71-\$75 million and the project would take approximately 3 years to construct. The additional funding identified in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will allow this project to proceed more rapidly and without requiring any bonding. The project is anticipated to advertise for construction in September 2023 with construction beginning in 2024. (Dave Walker [dwalker@therpc.org](mailto:dwalker@therpc.org)).

**Hampton 40797:** The Ocean Boulevard reconstruction project continues to make progress towards construction. A Project Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting was held on May 26, 2022 where the participants discussed basic improvement options and alternatives for the corridor. The project team will be using that input as a basis for development of more robust alternatives. Project information can be found on NHDOT's website: <https://www.nh.gov/dot/projects/hampton40797/index.htm> (Dave Walker [dwalker@therpc.org](mailto:dwalker@therpc.org)).

**Statewide Assessment of Senior Transportation Needs:** Staff are working with the State Commission on Aging, the Alliance for Healthy Aging, TransportNH and SNHPC on a scope of work and budget for a statewide assessment of transportation needs for older adults in New Hampshire over the next 20 years. This has been recommended by the State Commission on Aging to the Governors Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR) for funding with dollars received by the state under the American Rescue Plan. The project has grown out of the thumbnail Transit Needs Assessment RPC developed with COAST in late 2019. While that initial assessment relied on national assumptions from AARP and CTAA on the percentage of non-driving seniors and estimated trip frequency, the goal of this project will be to develop New Hampshire specific needs and strategies. GOFERR appears to be supportive and the proposal is the next step. Staff have been conferring with UNH Survey Center and the NH Fiscal Policy Institute about interest in participation.

**NH Seacoast Greenway:** – Staff from RPC and the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (NPS/RTCA) have been meeting with municipal officials in the NHSG corridor communities about potential connections between the rail trail and key destinations in each town. The most recent meetings in May have been in Greenland and North Hampton. Greenland is interested to create a trailhead at the crossing of Breakfast Hill Road. NHDOT identified new State owned land here that came with the rail corridor purchase that can support a small trailhead parking area. Staff will work with NHDOT and Greenland to address encroachment issues here. In April staff gave a presentation on the NH Seacoast Greenway at the NH ACEC Technology Transfer Conference jointly with staff from NHDOT and GPI. Staff also submitted a letter to Congressman Pappas' office supporting the City of Portsmouth's Community Project (earmark) request for funding to construct two trailheads with parking and pave the trail within City limits. (Scott Bogle – [sbogle@therpc.org](mailto:sbogle@therpc.org))

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