

January 26, 2023 Project Updates

NH Seacoast Greenway: Construction for the first phase of NHSG (Hampton-Portsmouth 26485) went to bid December and has been awarded to F.L. Merrill of Loudon, NH with a project completion date of 10/25/24. Construction will begin early this spring. The new NH Seacoast Greenway Alliance just received its Letter of Determination from the IRS certifying its status as a 501c3 nonprofit organization. Lastly our NPS team is making great progress with the NHSG Signage Plan required by NHDOT, building on sign design concepts that came out of the Community Connections Design Workshops held this fall that also generated design concepts for nine trail access points. (*Scott Bogle - sbogle@therpc.org*)

Seabrook-Hampton Bridge Replacement (15904): 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. A Project Advisory Committee meeting was held on September 28 2022 where the management team discussed progress on final design and toward advertising for construction in September 2023 with construction beginning in 2024. (*Dave Walker dwalker@therpc.org*).

Age Friendly Communities Initiative: Work has begun on Year 2 technical assistance projects, including work with Fremont to assess options for expanding transportation access in town, and work with Stratham to develop a better communication strategy for getting information out to all older residents in town. We have staff time allotted to complete three more Age Friendly Community Assessments this spring, and thus far have only confirmed participation from Kingston with a first meeting of their local steering committee this week. We have had inquiries from Brentwood, Greenland, Raymond and Plaistow. A presentation was made 1/24 to the Brentwood Recreation Committee. We are following up with the other communities and welcome interest from any other towns. Staff are determining whether to return to Point32 Health Foundation (formerly Tufts Health Plan Foundation for a third year of funding to do additional follow-up work with towns that participated in assessments in years one and two. (*Scott Bogle - sbogle@therpc.org*)

Hampton 40797: The Ocean Boulevard reconstruction project continues to make progress towards construction. Project Advisory Committee (PAC) meetings were held on October 25 and November 17, 2022 where the participants discussed project progress and conceptual alternatives for the corridor and major intersections. Preference for various types of improvements and configurations were discussed as well. There will be a **Public Open House on Saturday February 4, 2023** from 1-5 PM at the Seashell Complex Banquet Room (180 Ocean Blvd). The open house will have project layout alternatives and other information on display as well as project team members available to discuss the proposed improvement options. The project team will be using that input as a basis for finalizing alternatives. Project information can be found on NHDOT's website: <https://www.nh.gov/dot/projects/hampton40797/index.htm> (*Dave Walker dwalker@therpc.org*).

Stratham 43001 and Rye 43002: NHDOT is working with the NH Coastal Program and the Nature Conservancy to address tidal culverts that have the potential to reduce storm water flooding and improve tidal flow and aquatic species movement. In the RPC region, two projects are being advanced: Stratham 43001 which will replace two undersized culverts on Squamscott Road and Rye 43002 which will replace a deteriorating culvert on NH1A just north of Locke Road. The changes on Squamscott Road will reduce freshwater flooding upstream and significantly improve drainage. The NH 1A culvert will improve tidal connectivity between marshes, aquatic species passage, and potential for marsh migration. Neither change will have significant impact on sea-level rise related flooding. Design work has been paid for by the Nature Conservancy and NHDOT and NH Coastal Program are working on grant funding for construction. (Dave Walker dwalker@therpc.org).

Road Safety Audit (RSA) Proposal Opportunity: NHDOT is accepting applications for 2023 Road Safety Audits (RSAs). These are due 1/31/23, so there is still time to apply if RPC communities have good candidate sites. Road safety audits are funded as part of the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). Locations selected for RSAs must have a history of fatal or severe injury crashes; and the crash(es) must have been related to an infrastructure problem at the location rather than a single isolated incident or behavioral issue such as distracted or impaired driving. (Scott Bogle – sbogle@therpc.org)

Coordinated Public Transit/Human Services Transportation Plan for Southeast NH RCCs. Working with SRPC, RPC staff have just completed an update to the Coordinated Public Transit/Human Services Transportation Plan for the Southeast NH RCC/Alliance for Community Transportation (ACT) region. The plan was adopted by the RCC on 1/20/23, and will need to come to both the RPC and SRPC MPOs for ratification. 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; an analysis of trends impacting transportation supply and demand in the region; and recommendations for improving access to transportation services in the region. (Scott Bogle – sbogle@therpc.org)

COAST & Wildcat Transit Stop Connections Study. Staff worked with SRPC and COAST to submit a proposal to NHDOT for FTA Section 5305e State Planning and Research grant funding for a study looking at accessibility of fixed route bus stops on the COAST and Wildcat route networks, and how local development review policies consider transit access for multi-family develops in the vicinity of transit stops. The purpose of this project is to: 1) provide COAST, Wildcat Transit, and the communities served by the two systems with insight into the barriers that riders face in being able to safely access transit stops on foot; and 2) provide the communities with tools through the municipal land use review process to help reduce those barriers and improve access. If funds are awarded, work will happen during SFY2024-2025. (Scott Bogle – sbogle@therpc.org)
