

# RPC Transportation Project Solicitation and Prioritization

For the MPO Long Range  
Transportation Plan and State Ten  
Year Transportation Plan

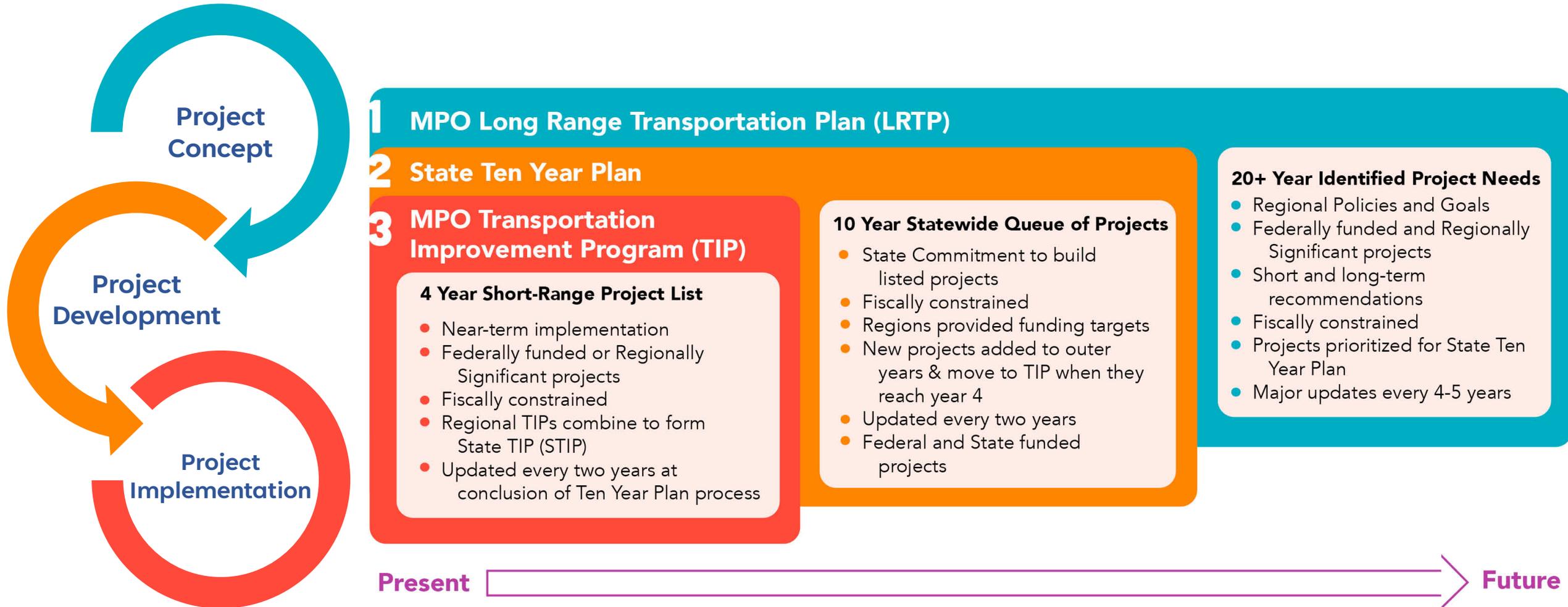
- Ten Year Plan
- Other Transpo Needs
- ▨ CART Service Area
- ▨ COAST Service Area

# DRAFT Process timeline

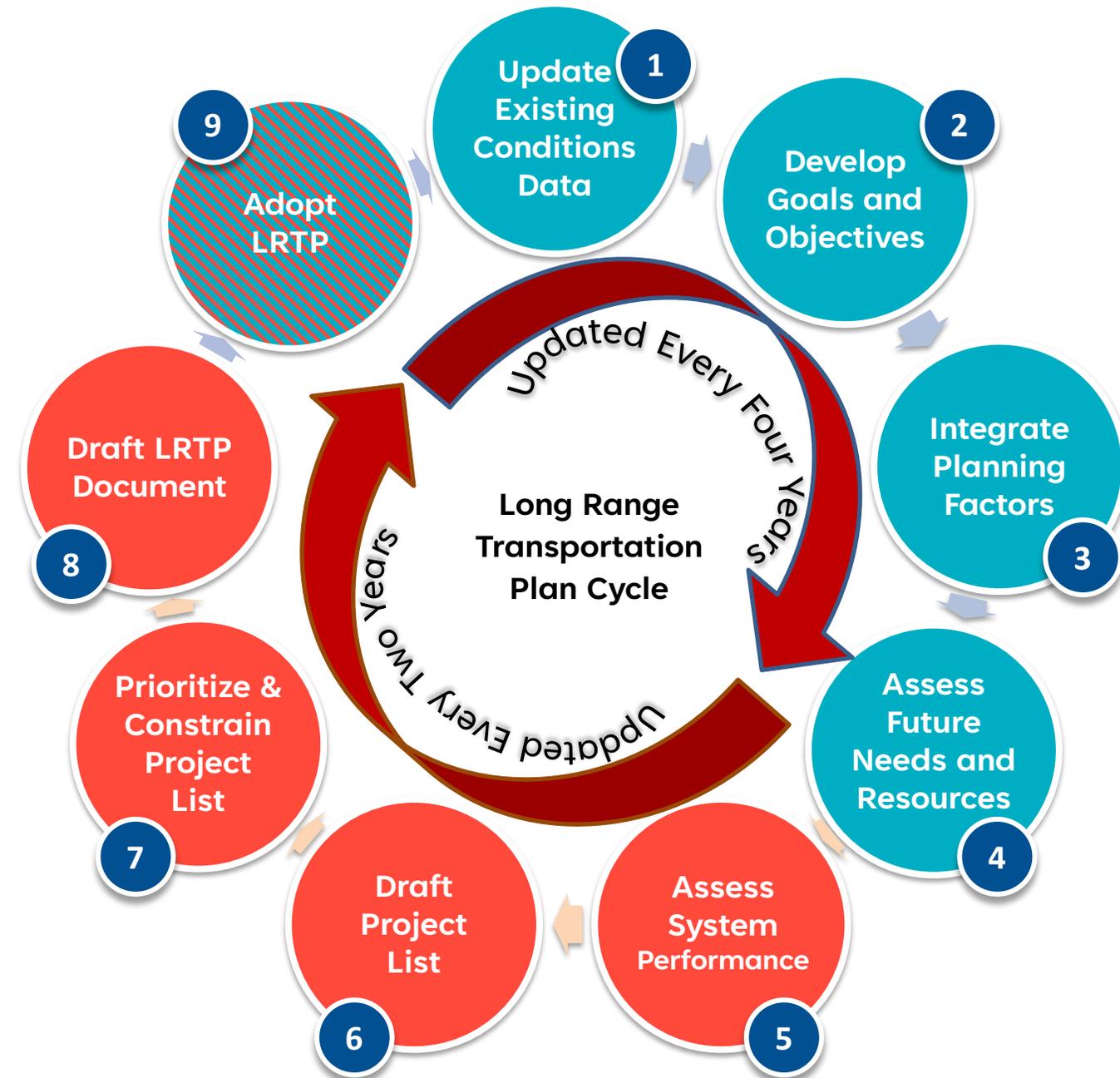
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- Candidate Projects *due* to NHDOT in early **November 2024** for engineering/estimate review.
- Finalized prioritized list to NHDOT *due* by **March 31, 2025**

# NH Transportation Planning Process



# L RTP Process



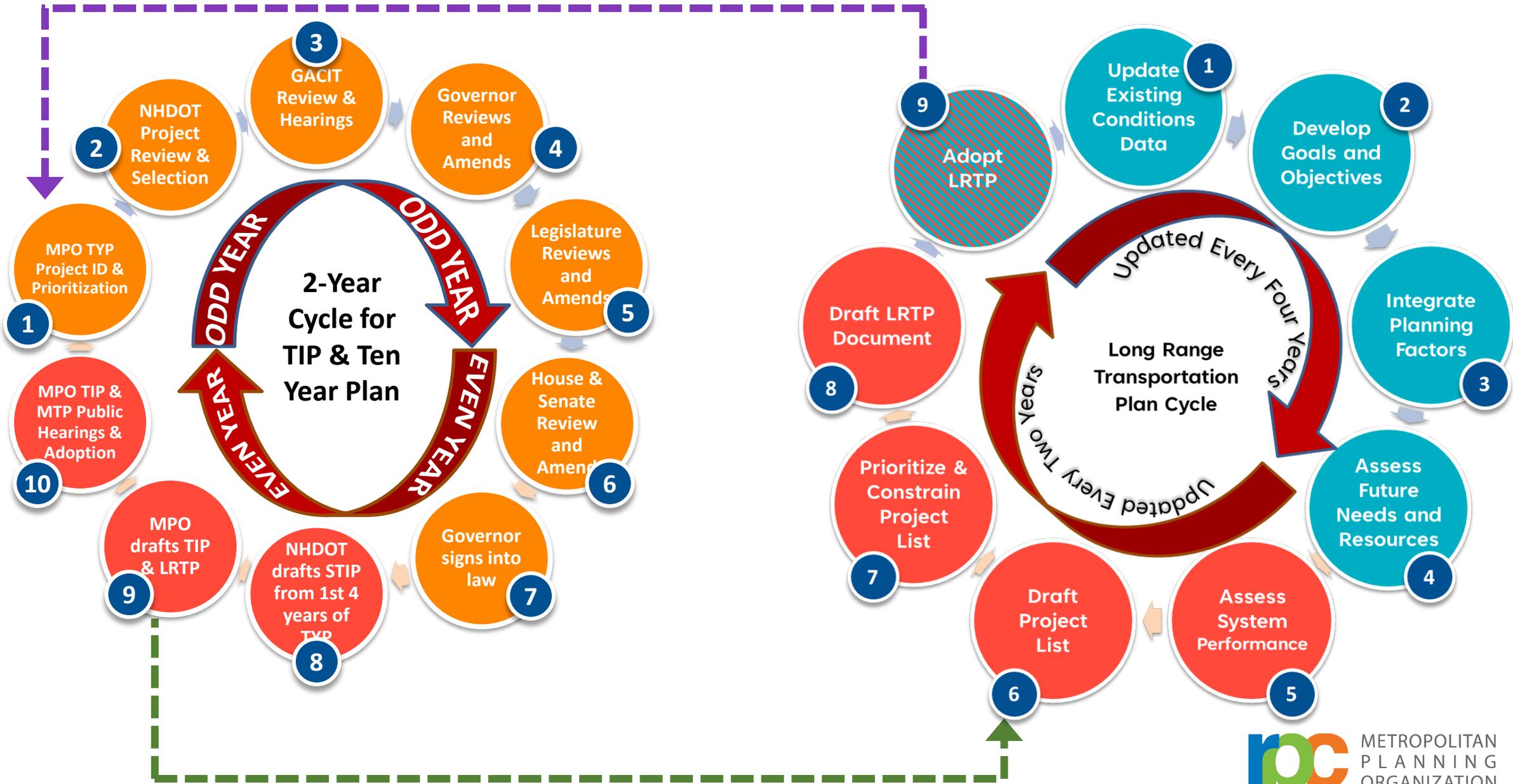
- Major Updates of all components every 4 years
- Update Project list every two years in coordination with Ten Year Plan process
- L RTP provides initial list of projects considered for the Ten Year Plan
- Prioritization process determines when a project is “scheduled” in the L RTP

# Ten Year Plan & STIP/TIP Process



- 2-Year Cycle
- MPO involved at beginning and end of process
- Governor Signing Ten Year Plan starts STIP development
- DOT builds STIP from first 4 years of Ten Year Plan and ongoing projects
- MPO builds TIP from Draft STIP released by NHDOT

# L RTP → Ten Year Plan → TIP Interaction



**MPO TYP  
Project ID &  
Prioritization**

**1**



- One step in the Ten Year Plan process
- Multi-step process for the MPO/RPC
- Approximately 1 year to complete

**RPC Project Solicitation and Selection Process**

In the Summer of even numbered years the MPO solicits surface transportation projects from communities and agencies as possible additions to the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). These new needs are combined with those already in the LRTP to form the project list that is the starting point for determining regional priorities for the State Ten Year Plan.

**1 Project Solicitation**

**2 Project Evaluation**

In the late Summer of even numbered years all projects are assessed for eligibility for federal funding, general feasibility and are classified into one of three categories based on the scale of benefits (**local, regional, inter-regional**). Projects that are eligible for federal funding, generally feasible, have a defined scope and cost estimate move to step 3 while those that do not meet those basic thresholds are set aside for future consideration.

The Statewide Project Evaluation Criteria are given weights and the RPC utilizes these weights in early Fall of even numbered years to score each remaining project against the criteria and establish relative priority. The current criteria assess project needs and impacts regarding:

- Economic Development & Goods Movement
- Equity, Accessibility, and Environmental Justice
- Mobility & Congestion
- Natural Hazards Resiliency
- Transportation Network Significance
- Safety for all users
- Infrastructure State of Repair
- Local and Regional Support

**3 Project Selection Criteria**

- Local** Safety, accessibility, and multi-modal connections within communities.
- Regional** Multi-modal connections between communities & regional activity centers.
- Inter-Regional** Mobility & intermodal improvements to ensure that the region is well connected to the rest of New Hampshire and the northeast.

**4 Project Short List**

Based on the scoring assessed in Step 3, the five top projects from each of the three categories are compiled by staff into a "short-list" that is presented to the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) for review and consideration mid-Fall of even numbered years.

Late Fall of even numbered years, the TAC recommends, and the RPC Commissioners select, a sub-set of the short-listed projects as the RPC Candidate Projects for the Ten Year Plan. This list is financially constrained to the regional budget target (\$6.7 million) plus two additional projects, and information is assembled for each project to support the NHDOT review.

**5 Ten Year Candidate Projects**

**6 Scope and Cost Review**

During the Winter of odd numbered years NHDOT reviews the RPC Candidate Projects and provides recommendations for revised cost estimates. The NHDOT review also addresses any design, scope, or other issues noted.

In spring of odd numbered years, the RPC utilizes the feedback from NHDOT to constrain regional priorities to the budget target. NHDOT includes RPC final project recommendations in the draft Ten Year Plan to start the State approval process.

**7 Ten Year Plan Priorities**



Go to [therpc.org/transportation](http://therpc.org/transportation) for more details.

1

# Project Solicitation (Spring-Summer 2024)

Request sent to communities and transit agencies

- Planned for **start of April**. Responses due in **early June (Likely 6/3/2024)**
  - Are **existing projects** in Ten Year Plan and Long Range Transportation Plan still priorities?
  - Is there **updated information** available regarding existing projects?
  - Are there **newly identified proposals** to submit?
  - Are there **other identified transportation issues** for which a project has not been explicitly developed?

## 1

# Project Solicitation (Spring-Summer 2024)

- Web-based form for submitting projects
- Edits to existing projects will need to be submitted to RPC via email due to changes in how the project portal works.
- The more information available about a project proposal the easier it is to evaluate

## Project Solicitation 2022

Please note that when completing this survey all questions are to be answered and a cost estimate is to be attached for project consideration. If a field is not applicable to the project, please type Not Applicable.

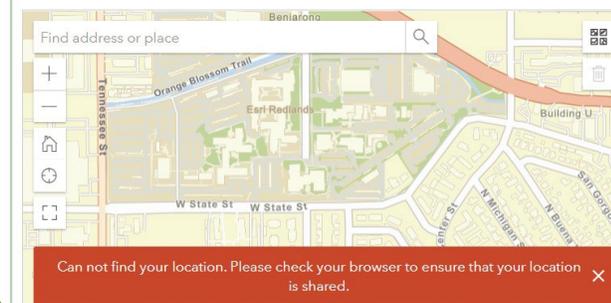
### Contact Information

Full Name:\*

Phone Number:\*

To locate the project site, you can use your mouse to scroll in and out and you can drag your cursor to move around the map. If the address or coordinates of the project site are known, type them into the search bar. Once you feel the pin most accurately represents the project location, you can move onto the next section. Note that if needed, the base map can be changed by clicking the four square icon in the toolbar to the right.

Where is this project located?\*



Esri Community Maps Contributors, Loma Linda University, City of Redlands, County of ... Powered by Esri  
Lat: Lon:

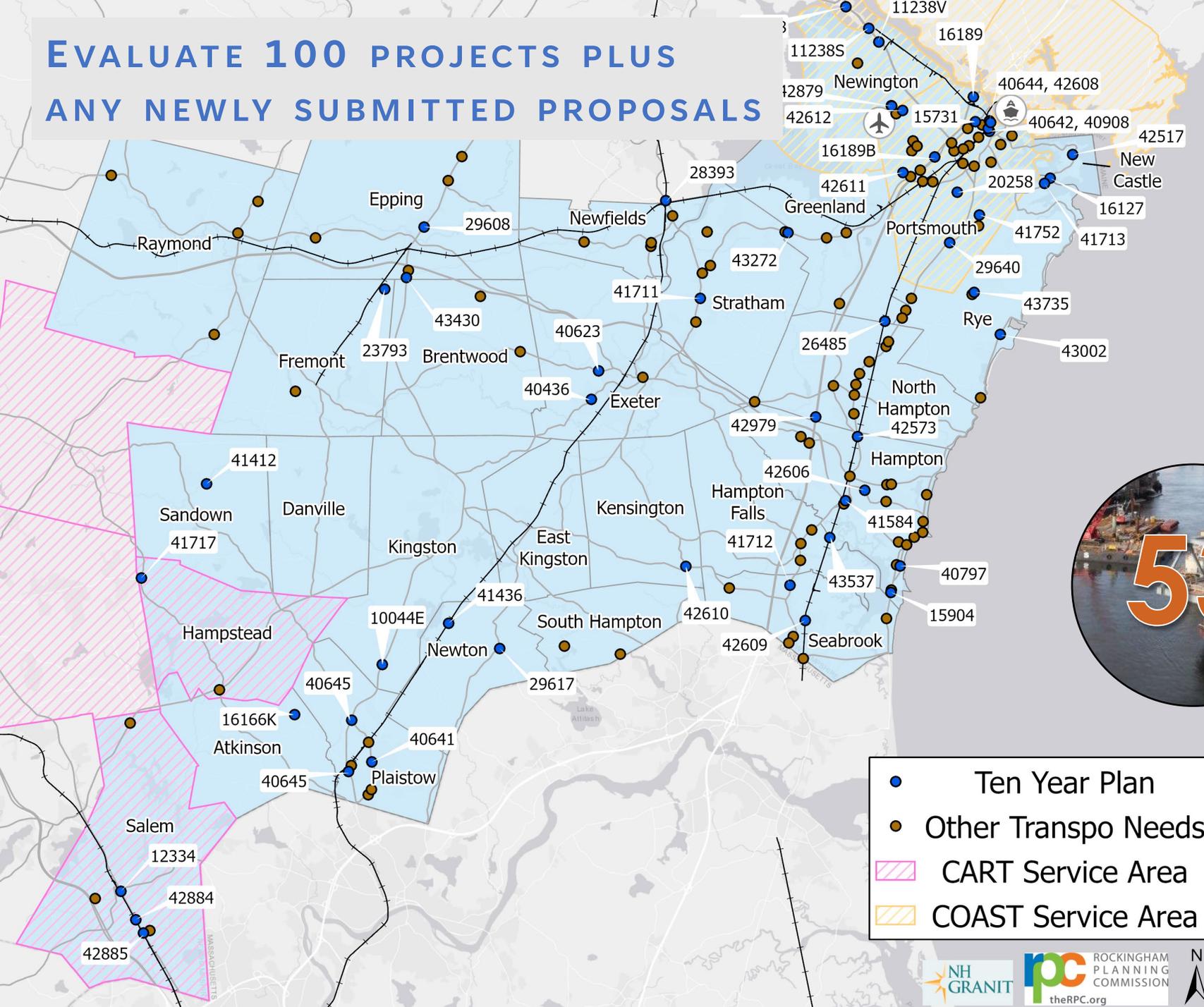


# 2

## Project Evaluation (Spring-Summer 2024)

- Review Existing Projects
  - Keep in LRTP? Consider dropping if no community input.
  - Projects without defined scope/cost may be moved to “Illustrative” category
- Check/update data for completeness
  - Detail project descriptions/scopes
  - Check costs, looking for obviously under-estimated projects
- Classify New Projects
  - Assign each to “Local”, “Regional”, and “Inter-Regional” Groups
  - Is the project a fit for the 10 Year Plan as a stand-alone project?

# EVALUATE 100 PROJECTS PLUS ANY NEWLY SUBMITTED PROPOSALS



**PROJECTS IN THE  
RPC REGION  
EST. \$1 BILLION+**



**RPC REGION  
PROJECTS IN THE  
TEN YEAR PLAN  
& TIP  
\$465 MILLION**

- Ten Year Plan
- Other Transpo Needs
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# 2

## Grouping Projects By Scale

	Local	Regional	Inter-Regional
Focus	Safety, access, and multimodal connections <u>within</u> communities	Multimodal connections <u>between</u> communities and regional activity centers	Mobility & intermodal improvements to ensure that the region is well connected <u>to the rest</u> of New England and beyond.
Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smaller scale bike/ped and transit projects</li> <li>• Highway projects on “main street” state highways and some local roads</li> <li>• Multimodal access to services for all users</li> <li>• Complete Streets and context sensitive design</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projects primarily on State Highways</li> <li>• Regional Transit</li> <li>• Regional scale bike/ped</li> <li>• Improve access to regional activity centers</li> <li>• Improve mobility</li> <li>• Address safety issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Related to National Highway System</li> <li>• Reduce congestion on critical roadways</li> <li>• Freight mobility and travel time</li> <li>• Inter-regional Bus and Rail transit service</li> <li>• Address safety problems</li> </ul>
Important Criterion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety</li> <li>• Equity and Accessibility</li> <li>• Natural Hazards Resiliency</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety</li> <li>• Economic Development</li> <li>• Mobility</li> <li>• Equity and Accessibility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety</li> <li>• Mobility</li> <li>• State of repair</li> <li>• Network Significance</li> </ul>

## Draft Project Prioritization (Summer 2024)

### 1. Project is feasible

- Project addresses a **clearly defined transportation need**.
- Proposal is a **reasonable approach** in scope and cost given existing resources.
- Project is **likely to receive required Resource Agency permits** and approvals.

### 2. Project is supported

- Project has **demonstrated local support** and matching funds (if necessary).
- Project **conforms to regulations and plans** for affected areas.

### 3. Project is **eligible for federal funding** programs

### 4. Apply Project Selection Criteria

# Project Selection Criteria

Category	Definition
Economic Development	The degree to which a project supports economic development needs and opportunities at the 1) local and 2) regional level; and 3) the degree to which the project impacts the movement of goods
Equity, Environmental Justice, and Accessibility	The degree to which a project provides a transportation option for someone who may not drive, or otherwise supports fair distribution of the benefits and burdens of the transportation system.
Mobility	The degree to which a project reduces the time needed to get from one place to another.
Natural Hazards Resiliency	The exposure of a location to risk of damage from natural hazards and the project approach to mitigating that risk.
Network Significance	The importance of the service or facility to the communities, region, and larger transportation system of the state.
Safety	The degree to which the project impacts traveler safety in relation to safety performance and the project's expected safety benefits.
State of Repair	The extent to which the project improves infrastructure condition in the project area and the degree to which the project impacts NHDOT and/or municipal maintenance requirements.
Support	The degree to which a project is supported by the MPO, locality, and feasibility of construction

## Criteria Weighting Process (Spring 2024)

Criteria weightings (2022)

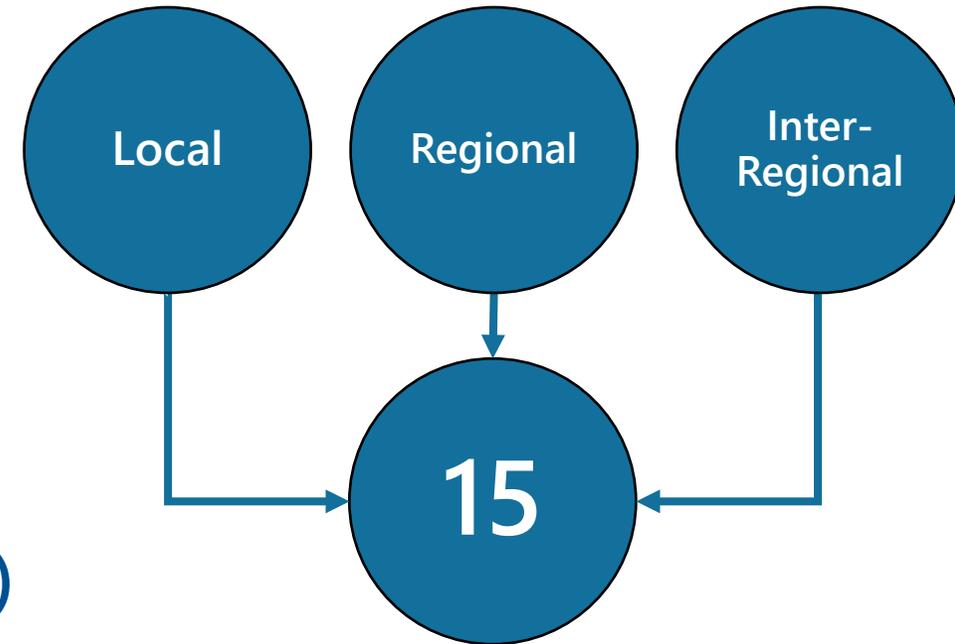
Category	Local	Regional	Inter-Regional
Economic Development	10%	13%	12%
Equity & Accessibility	17%	<u>16%</u>	18%
Mobility	11%	12%	11%
Natural Hazard Resiliency	10%	<u>8%</u>	8%
Network Significance	14%	<u>16%</u>	<u>14%</u>
Safety	17%	16%	17%
State of Repair	13%	<u>14%</u>	11%
Support	8%	7%	10%

- **Set Category Weights:**
  - Total of all Categories (Safety, Mobility, etc.) = 100%
  - Weight may differ for each scale (local, regional, inter-regional)
- **Set Criterion Weights**
  - Total within each category = 100%
  - Percentages stay the same across scales

# 4

## Develop Project Short List (June-July 2024)

- Based on Draft Prioritization in Step #3
- Top 5 projects from each category
- TAC Review and Recommends (July 2024)
- **Discuss short list with NHDOT to identify scope issues**
- Send to Consulting Engineers for Refinement of scope and estimates (July-September 2024)
- Budget will limit number of estimates that can be obtained



## Ten Year Plan Candidate Projects (Fall 2024)

- Single List of Priorities
- Sub-set of the “Short List”
  - Constrained to Regional Budget Target (~\$8.1 Million)
  - 2 Additional Project Alternatives
- TAC Recommendation (October 2024)
- Policy Committee Approval (November 2024)
- Materials Prepared for NHDOT Review
- Submitted to NHDOT in November 2024

## 6

# NHDOT Scope & Cost Review (Winter 2024-2025)

- Review Scope and Cost of Candidate Projects
- Offer recommendations for changes

Proj #	Name	Scope	Initial Estimate	NHDOT Revised Estimate	NHDOT Comments
6001019	ECG	Rail Trail over Hampton Marsh	\$5,475,209	<b>\$5,475,209</b>	Concern regarding environmental & historic resources challenges and access across a private right-of-way
6147006	Epping	NH 155/NH 125 Intersection	\$431,016	<b>\$1,791,128</b>	While a capacity analysis indicates some delay, not clear that it meets warrants for a traffic signal.
6379013	Portsmouth	Bartlett St. Bridge (Red List)	\$491,409	-	Not enough information to make an informed estimate.
6383004	Raymond	NH 27/NH 156 Intersection	\$1,036,850	<b>\$1,854,502</b>	Concern regarding purpose and need. Also concerned given proximity of adjacent development
6345011	North Hampton	US 1/NH 111 Intersection	\$1,075,528	<b>\$5,060,497</b>	Concerned regarding the narrow right-of-way
Total			\$8,510,057	<b>\$14,135,292</b>	

**EXAMPLE**

## Ten Year Plan Priorities

- Utilize NHDOT Recommendations to Set Priorities
- Constrained to Regional Budget Target
- TAC Recommends Priorities (February 2025)
- Policy Committee Approves Priorities (March 2025)
- Submitted to NHDOT by 3/31/2025

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**EXAMPLE**

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