

## January 25, 2024 Project Updates

**2025-2034 State Ten Year Plan:** GACIT submitted a draft Ten Year Plan to the Governor on November 29, 2023. The Governor made some revisions and submitted his version of the Ten Year Plan to the Legislature on January 11, 2024. There are a number of changes that impact the RPC region:

Name	Number	Project Change	Source of Change
CMAQ Projects	Various	Added 23 (Non-EV) and 15 EV projects from 2022 application round as submitted to DOT by RPC to the draft Ten Year Plan	GACIT
Corridor Study Program	Various	NH 28, NH 33, and NH 125 are listed in the RPC region as recommended studies.	GACIT
New Castle, NH 1B Causeway	44493	Advance the preliminary engineering design phase from 2028 to 2025	GACIT
Statewide	40915	Remove project to renumber Exit signs by milepost	GACIT
Portsmouth	44359	Remove multi-use path along Market Street project from Ten Year Plan	Governor
Hampton Branch Rail Trail	26485A, 43537, 42609	Add Project Funding - Add \$2.5M to three projects that are under funded to further the completion of the Hampton Branch rail trail. Hampton-Portsmouth 26485A (\$650KM), Hampton- Hampton Falls 43537 (\$1.5M) & Seabrook 42609 (\$350k)	Governor
FTA 5339	Program	Add \$3.8 million to capital projects primarily for vehicles for public transit providers and COAST Maintenance Facility	Governor
FTA 5310	Program	Add Program Funding - Add \$2.2 M to support to regional mobility management and service trips (purchase of service) enhancing the mobility of seniors and individuals with disabilities	Governor
FTA 5310	Program	Add Program Funding - Add \$1.0 M to Statewide Transportation Demand Management to facilitate, support and promote shared ride activities	Governor

**Safety Action Plan:** The MPO completed a Request for Proposals (RFP) process in November and is in the process of bringing the selected consultant under contract for the project. A draft detailed scope of work for the consultant is under review and a timeline for the project has been established. The expectation is that the project will begin in January and be completed around the end of 2024 or early 2025 which will be in time for communities to apply for implementation grant funding under the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Round 4. The Safety Action Plans will establish a goal of eliminating roadway fatalities and serious injuries for each agency and establish a planning structure and strategies for achieving that goal. The SS4A program includes approximately \$1 billion annually for roadway safety improvements that will reduce fatalities and serious injuries. (Dave Walker [dwalker@therpc.org](mailto:dwalker@therpc.org)).

**NH Seacoast Greenway:** RPC, with assistance from NHDOT and NHSGA, is developing an application for a federal RAISE planning grant to accelerate the preliminary engineering and permitting for the Hampton-Hampton Falls Marsh causeway segment of the trail. Construction for the first phase of NHSG (Hampton-Portsmouth 26485) is moving quickly. As of early January all site work, the gravel base and shoulders are completed to the northern terminus at Barberry Lane in Portsmouth. Signage and RRFBs at grade crossings will be installed in spring 2024 and a final top layer of stone dust will happen in summer/fall 2024. Overhead lighting is also being added at the crossings of Banfield, Ocean, and Breakfast Hill Roads, and the driveway crossing at North Hampton airfield. Opening anticipated in October 2024. (*Scott Bogle – [sbogle@therpc.org](mailto:sbogle@therpc.org)*)

**COAST & Wildcat Transit Stop Connections Study.** RPC and SRPC are continuing work on a study of accessibility of fixed route bus stops on the COAST and Wildcat transit 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. Staff are currently analyzing on/off counts by stop for COAST and Wildcat and have developed a model for assessing Pedestrian Level of Traffic Stress (PLTS) in bus-stop areas. A next step is data collection on specific sidewalk parameters needed for the Pedestrian LTS model. This builds on Bicycle LTS work RPC and Plymouth State University led in 2019-2020 (*Scott Bogle – [sbogle@therpc.org](mailto:sbogle@therpc.org)*)

**Exeter Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan:** Staff have presented the Draft Exeter Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan to town staff and the Master Plan Oversight Committee and are incorporating edits. The plan draws on extensive public input gathered through a community survey (800+ responses), outreach at community events, a pair of focus group meetings and input from town staff and the town's Master Plan Oversight Committee (MPOC). A community forum to present the Plan is being planned for February. (*Scott Bogle – [sbogle@therpc.org](mailto:sbogle@therpc.org)*)

**Winter Bike to Work Day & National Bike Month Planning:** RPC is working with SABR, CommuteSMART Seacoast, SNHPC and other partners to promote Winter Bike to Work Day on February 9<sup>th</sup>, and organize activities for Seacoast Bike Month in May. White Heron Tea in Portsmouth will serve as a Warming Station on February 9<sup>th</sup>, offering a free coffee or tea to bike commuters in Portsmouth who stop in on their way to or from work. RPC and SRPC have not organized the traditional bike/walk commuter breakfasts in May the past two years but will likely bring some of these events back in along with a range of other activities to celebrate National Bike Month. Planning is also underway for CommuteSMART Seacoast's May Business to Business (B2B) commuter challenge. (*Mikayla Jerominek – [mjerominek@therpc.org](mailto:mjerominek@therpc.org)*)

**Newington-Dover 11238S:** The project to rehabilitate/replace the General Sullivan bridge to maintain the bicycle and pedestrian access recently received a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant from USDOT. The grant will provide \$20 million to support the replacement of the General Sullivan Bridge with a new two-girder superstructure to re-open the multi-use path across Little Bay that provides a link between Dover and Newington and Portsmouth. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$41 million and the grant funding will replace \$20 million in Turnpike funding. (*Dave Walker [dwalker@therpc.org](mailto:dwalker@therpc.org)*).

**RPC region projects Advertising for Construction in the near future:**

Ad Date	Project Number	Description
1/9/2024	Salem-Derry 44028	Resurface NH 28
4/16/2024	Portsmouth 43760	I-95 Soundwalls/Privacy fence
3/15/2024	Salem 41750	Manchester & Lawrence Rail Line 0.3 miles of Bike-Ped trail along abandoned M&L rail line from Cluff Crossing to Rockingham Pk Blvd
4/24/2024	Salem 42884	Improve signal operation at 28 intersections
6/1/2024	Fremont 23793	Martin Rd Bridge Replacemeent over Piscassic River
7/16/2024	Newton 29617	NH 108 safety and operational improvements to Rowe's Corner
8/06/2024	Stratham 43001	Squamscott Rd Replacement of two 18" rcp culverts
8/27/2024	Rye 43002	NH 1A Replacement of 4' x 5.5' stone walled concrete deck culvert just north of Locke Road
10/15/2024	Plaistow 40645	NH 125 Signal Coordination
10/29/2024	Epping 29608	NH 125 Capacity and traffic management improvements

**Regional Master Plan Update:**

The RPC expects to begin work on an update to the Regional Master Plan in January. The updated comprehensive regional plan will integrate content from the recently updated Regional Housing Needs Assessment. regional plans will further address broadband, water and sewer infrastructure, economic investment, community development, public health, emergency preparedness, and sustainability/resiliency. RPC will develop a comprehensive, integrated plan that connects the gaps between these existing, specific planning topics to create a plan focused on identifying actions to increase the region's resiliency, vibrancy, and equity.

Look for our first work session at the March Commission meeting.