

September 22, 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). 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 presenting findings to the Coastal Adaptation Workgroup (CAW), the Seabrook-Hampton Estuary Alliance (SHEA), NHDOT Project Review Committee, Hampton Falls Planning Board, Hampton Planning Board, and the 2022 NH Climate Summit. (*Dave Walker dwalker@therpc.org*).

NH Seacoast Greenway: With the help of our National Park Service Team and landscape architect Bob White of GPI, RPC held a pair of Community Connections Design Workshops focused on trail access points for the NH Seacoast Greenway. A team of pro bono landscape architects, architects, engineers, and graphic designers toured the corridor, met with members of the public and town officials, and developed design concepts for trailheads and connections to key destinations in each trail host community. The first workshop was held 9/23 at Portsmouth Public Library and focused on access points in Portsmouth, Rye and Greenland. The second workshop was held 10/21 at North Hampton Town Hall and focused on North Hampton and Hampton. Work is also moving forward on the NHSG Signage Plan and organizational development for the recently incorporated non-profit NH Seacoast Greenway Alliance. (*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 on Year 1 Age Friendly Community Assessments is nearing completion. Assessment reports have been accepted by Exeter, Fremont, Portsmouth and Stratham. Hampstead's report is completed and will be presented to the local committee on Friday 10/28. Hampton held a pair of Community Forums on Wed 9/14 and Wed 9/21, and their report is nearing completion and will be presented to their local committee on Monday 10/31. Staff are currently recruiting 3-4 additional communities to participate in Community Assessments during Year 2 beginning later this fall. Staff are also accepting application letters from Year 1 assessment communities interested in RPC technical assistance to implement projects addressing needs

identified through their local assessment process. These letters are due by October 31st with technical assistance projects to begin in December. (*Scott Bogle – sbogle@therpc.org*)

Hampton 40797: The Ocean Boulevard reconstruction project continues to make progress towards construction. A Project Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting was held on October 25, 2022 where the participants discussed current progress and conceptual alternatives for the corridor. Another PAC meeting is being scheduled for November to cover conceptual alternatives for the major intersections on the corridor and discuss preferences. 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) until December 1, 2022. 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. Exeter has contacted RPC about assistance in preparing an RSA application for the NH101/NH27 interchange, and staff analysis has identified multiple other locations in the region that would be potentially eligible for NHDOT assistance on an RSA. (*Scott Bogle – sbogle@therpc.org*)

Exeter Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan: RPC is current developing a Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan for the Town of Exeter. Staff have completed existing conditions mapping including sidewalk network and condition, bicycle level of traffic stress and network connectivity, bicycle volume using STRAVA data, crash locations, and specific known hazard areas identified to date. A public survey was fielded on 10/20 and has garnered 351 responses as of 10/26. Staff will have tables to talk to the public at the final Farmer's Market on 10/27, and outside the polls on election day 11/8. We anticipate holding a focus group meeting with the local bicycling community in November, and 1-2 public forums. <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/b4756315360c4c66a87e1b475d6ea225>. Plan completion is anticipated for early 2023. (*Scott Bogle – sbogle@therpc.org*)

Coordinated Public Transit/Human Services Transportation Plan for Southeast NH RCCs: Working with SRPC, RPC staff are about mid-way on an update to the Coordinated Public Transit/Human Services Transportation Plan for the Southeast NH RCC/Alliance for Community Transportation (ACT) region. 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. Completion is anticipated in early 2023. (*Scott Bogle – sbogle@therpc.org*)
