



Southwest Region Planning Commission
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May 1, 2019

Victoria Sheehan, Commissioner
NH Department of Transportation
PO Box 483
Concord, NH 03302

Re: 2021-2030 Ten Year Plan Recommendations

Dear Commissioner ~~Sheehan~~ *Victoria*:

The Southwest Region Planning Commission (SWRPC) has completed its solicitation for the FY 2021-2030 Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan (TYP) update. In addition, the SWRPC Board of Directors has unanimously adopted the SWRPC Transportation Advisory Committee's (TAC) recommended ranking of projects for the FY 2021-2030 TYP. SWRPC's recommendations and its process for developing them are described below.

TYP Priority Project Development Process

SWRPC followed all guidance that was furnished by NHDOT regarding the TYP update process. NHDOT's guidance included the documents entitled *2021-2030 Ten Year Plan Approach* and *2021-2030 NH Ten Year Plan Regional Planning Commission Process* both dated September 4, 2018, as well as undated materials entitled *2021-2030 NH Ten Year Plan Project Ranking Criteria*, and *Projected Regional Allocations for New Projects in the 2021-2030 NH TYP*. The SWRPC TAC devoted five meetings to discussions around TYP development and took time to score projects between meetings. In separate correspondence, the following items will be provided for posting on the NHDOT Bureau of Planning and Community Assistance ftp site documenting more details about SWRPC's TYP project solicitation and project ranking process should you wish to review them:

- Sample TYP solicitation letter;
- SWRPC TAC meeting minutes from September 10, 2018, October 1, 2018, November 5, 2018, March 18, 2019, and April 1, 2019 documenting the development of criteria weights and project rankings, as well as SWRPC Board of Directors meeting minutes from April 9, 2019 documenting endorsement of the TAC's recommendations;
- SWRPC information packet submitted to the SWRPC TAC to assist in reviewing projects entitled *FY 2021-2030 Ten Year Plan Project Nomination Information*;
- Scoring information relating to newly nominated SWRPC TYP projects.

SWRPC's project solicitation process yielded four municipal project nominations, three of which were nominated two years ago for the FY 2019-2028 TYP, but were not recommended as top priorities by SWRPC at the time. With assistance from NHDOT, three of the four nominations were determined to be either not eligible or not viable for the FY 2021-2030 TYP. This included a nomination for a "light rehabilitation" treatment project for Sullivan Center Road/Centre Street in Sullivan from NH Route 10 to NH Route 9. Staff

from the NHDOT Bureau of Planning and Community Assistance notified SWRPC early in the process that the unnumbered state highway was ineligible for federal funds. A second project which involves rerouting NH 123 by developing a new bypass around Marlow village, was also screened early-on by NHDOT staff who suggested that the purpose and need for the project required more evidence to justify further consideration of the project. The third repeat nomination came from the City of Keene and proposes redeveloping West Street from School Street to the NH Route 9/10/12 bypass with complete streets treatments and access management improvements. A final nomination from the Town of Winchester was a proposal to clear trees from the right-of-way as well as address drainage and improve safety appurtenances on NH Route 10 (Manning Hill Road) from Old Manning Hill Road to Burt Hill Road. NHDOT staff informed SWRPC that the scope of work would be considered a “maintenance” project and, therefore, ineligible for federal funds.

As part of the FY 2021-2030 TYP update cycle, NHDOT made some important changes to the regional planning commission TYP development process including 1) the development of a project screening process by NHDOT staff to review project applications including cost estimate assumptions, and 2) new policy guidance that regional priority projects in the current TYP submitted by regional planning commissions that are determined to be underfunded will need to adhere to the project budget adopted for the project unless additional funding is advanced to the project through the TYP update process.

Based on these changes to the TYP development process, SWRPC submitted two projects located in Keene already in the FY 2019-2028 TYP (Projects #40666 and #41590) to undergo engineering review. The West Street project in Keene and the NH Route 10 (Manning Hill Road) project in Winchester were also submitted by SWRPC for review. As noted earlier, the Winchester project was determined to be ineligible for federal funds as proposed. With feedback from NHDOT, SWRPC was able to make its final recommendation, which is captured in the following pages.

Re-affirmation of Existing Project Priorities

SWRPC continues to support all TYP projects that were previously submitted as priorities for the FY 2019-2028 TYP. These projects are listed in Table 1 below. Two projects in Peterborough (Project #14772A and 14933), though assigned two project numbers by NHDOT, are considered to be one project by SWRPC.

Table 1: SWRPC Previously Ranked Priority TYP Projects

Ranking, Project Town and Number	Scope of Work	Updated First/Last Construction Year	Updated Cost (millions)	In 2019- 2022 STIP
1 JAFFREY (16307)	US ROUTE 202: RECONFIGURE "DOG- LEG" INTERSECTION OF US 202, NH 124, AND NH 137	2022/2022	\$15.03	YES
2 HINSDALE, NH - BRATTLEBORO, VT (12210C)	NH ROUTE 119: RECONSTRUCTION OF THE BRIDGES OVER THE CONNECTICUT RIVER	2020/2021	\$46.61	YES
3 PETERBOROUGH (14772A)	US ROUTE 202: RECONSTRUCT US ROUTE 202 @ MAIN STREET INTERSECTION INCLUDING BOULDER RETAINING WALL STABILIZATION	2019/2020	\$4.14	YES

	PETERBOROUGH (14933)	MAIN STREET BRIDGE REPLACEMENT OVER CONTOOCCOOK RIVER – 092/089 (RED LIST)	2019/2020	\$5.65	NO
4	PETERBOROUGH (15879)	US ROUTE 202/NH ROUTE 101: BRIDGE REPLACEMENT AND WIDENING FOR TCP, US 202 & NH 101 OVER CONTOOCCOOK RIVER (RED LIST)	2020/2022	\$10.70	YES
5	ROXBURY - SULLIVAN (10439)	NH ROUTE 9: RECONSTRUCT SHOULDERS AND ROADWAY, REDLIST BRIDGE	2017/2019	\$18.39	YES
6	WALPOLE - CHARLESTOWN (14747)	NH ROUTE 12: FROM NORTH WALPOLE RECONST TO NH 12A IN CHARLESTOWN, ADD SHOULDERS, IMPROVE DRAINAGE, RELOCATE RR	2019/2020	\$24.07	YES
7	SWANZEY (27692)	NH ROUTE 32: BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, BRIDGE CARRYING NH 32 OVER MARTIN BROOK, 149/072	2022/2022	\$1.80	NO
8	KEENE (40666)*	NH ROUTE 10: RECONSTRUCTION OF WINCHESTER STREET FROM NH 101 TO SWANZEY TOWN LINE	2025/2025	\$3.67	YES
9	BENNINGTON (29486)	S. BENNINGTON RD OVER RUSSELL BROOK BRIDGE REHAB OR REPLACEMENT	2024/2024	\$1.00	YES
10	KEENE (41590)*	SWANZEY FACTORY ROAD/NH 101: RECONSTRUCTION OF NH 101 FROM SWANZEY FACTORY ROAD TO MARLBOROUGH TOWN LINE	2027/2027	\$3.65	NO
TOTAL				\$134.71	

*Projects underfunded based on NHDOT's project screening process.

Unranked SWRPC Supported TYP Projects

In addition to the projects listed in Table 1, SWRPC affirms its support of several additional projects that were incorporated into the FY 2019-2028 TYP. These projects, which are listed in Table 2 below, were not ranked by SWRPC either 1) because NHDOT instructed SWRPC not to rank them (due to their funding category), or 2) the projects were introduced by NHDOT outside of SWRPC's earlier project evaluation processes.

Table 2: Other SWRPC Supported TYP Projects

Project Town and Number	Scope of Work	Updated First/Last Construction Year	Updated Cost (millions)	In 2019- 2022 STIP
KEENE (10309B)	WINCHESTER STREET: RECONSTRUCTION FROM NH ROUTE 101 ROUNDABOUT NORTH TO PEARL STREET/ISLAND STREET INCLUDING KEY ROAD INTERSECTION	2019/2020	\$8.09	YES

KEENE - SWANZEY (40100)	NH ROUTE 9/10/12/101: CONSTRUCTION OF FLOODPLAIN AND WETLAND MITIGATION FOR THE KEENE-SWANZEY SERIES OF PROJECTS	2021/2021	\$1.65	YES
MARLOW (40088)	NH ROUTE 10 & NH 123: OVER ASHUELOT RIVER - REPAIR OR REPLACE BRIDGE	2025/2025	\$1.18	NO
PETERBOROUGH (27712)	US ROUTE 202 AND NH ROUTE 123: BRIDGE REPLACEMENT OF BRIDGE CARRYING US 202 AND NH 123 OVER CONTOOCCOOK RIVER (108/116)	2025/2025	\$9.08	YES
SURRY (41470)	NH ROUTE 12: ADDRESS BRIDGE CARRYING NH 12 OVER NHRR (ABANDONED) (082/040)	2023/2023	\$1.11	YES
TROY (40370)	NH ROUTE 12: BRIDGE REPLACEMENT OF BRIDGE CARRYING NH 12 OVER S BRANCH ASHUELOT RIVER (BR NO 089/114)	2021/2021	\$4.52	NO
TROY (40371)	NH ROUTE 12: BRIDGE REPLACEMENT OF THE BRIDGE (BR NO 096/091) CARRYING NH ROUTE 12 OVER NHRR (ABD)	2021/2021	\$6.16	YES
WALPOLE-ROCKINGHAM (41720)	BRIDGE STREET: VILAS BRIDGE REHABILITATION OVER THE CONNECTICUT RIVER	2028/2028	\$6.90	NO
WALPOLE-ROCKINGHAM (42277)	CHURCH STREET: BRIDGE PRESERVATION EFFORTS ON CHURCH STREET OVER CONNECTICUT RIVER	2020/2020	\$2.25	YES
TOTAL			\$40.94	

Recommendations for 2021-2030 TYP Update

NHDOT guidance for the establishment of regional priorities for the 2021-3030 TYP update indicated a \$4.3 million regional allocation available for priority projects to be ranked in the SWRPC planning district. With this information, SWRPC developed the following ranking for NHDOT's consideration.

Table 3: SWRPC TYP Project Priorities for \$4.3 Target Budget

Priority	Project Town and Number	Scope of Work
1	KEENE (40666)	NH ROUTE 10: RECONSTRUCTION OF WINCHESTER STREET FROM NH 101 TO SWANZEY TOWN LINE
2	KEENE (41590)	SWANZEY FACTORY ROAD/NH 101: RECONSTRUCTION OF NH 101 FROM BRANCH BROOK TO BRANCH ROAD
3	KEENE (No Project #)	WEST STREET: COMPLETE STREETS AND ACCESS MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENTS FROM ASHUELOT STREET TO NH ROUTE 9/10/12

More information regarding these recommendations as follows:

Keene: NH Route 10 Reconstruction (Project #40666)

As stated earlier, this project involves reconstructing NH Route 10 from NH 10/12/101 south to the Swanzey town line. The purpose of the project is to improve safety, access and mobility on this section of the NH Route 10 highway through a combination of improving multimodal accessibility and access management. Based on the NHDOT project screening committee's analysis, it was determined that the project is currently underfunded by approximately \$2.79 million. SWRPC, therefore, recommends dedicating at least \$2.79 million of its regional budget allocation towards this project for the FY 2021-2030 TYP. During the SWRPC TAC's discussion about this project, it was determined that there might be additional costs associated with the project that were not accounted for in the NHDOT project screening process, particularly relating to aspects of the project that improve access management on the corridor. One example cited was the need to develop an engineering solution to address congestion issues at the intersection of Kit Street and NH Route 10. SWRPC has expressed to NHDOT its intent to facilitate discussions involving NHDOT and the City of Keene to better understand assumptions for the cost estimate further, perhaps in advance of the publication of the draft FY 2021-2030 TYP later this year.

Keene: NH Route 101 Reconstruction (Project #41590)

This project was originally presented to NHDOT as involving the reconstruction of NH Route 101 from the Stone Arch Bridge in Keene to the Marlborough town line. It also involved addressing sight distance issues at the intersection of Swanzey Factory Road and NH Route 101. NHDOT's project screening process determined that the budget for the project, \$3.65 million in the FY2019-2018 TYP, as significantly underfunded with an estimated shortfall of \$12.54 million. Based on NHDOT's feedback, the SWRPC TAC adjusted its recommendation to a smaller project area, capturing NH Route 101 from the Otter Brook Bridge (166/050) to Branch Road in Keene (.83 miles). This adjusted project area still captures the key needs of the highway project including addressing sight distance issues at the 101/Swanzey Factory Road intersection and reconstructing the extremely narrow and poor road base conditions of NH 101 along the Minnewawa/Otter Brook area.

As part of the NHDOT project screening process analysis, a new bridge over Otter Brook to address the current sight distance issue at Swanzey Factory Road was suggested. After further discussion and review, SWRPC believes there may be less expensive options, such as relocating the current intersection by acquiring property further east to construct a new intersection. SWRPC's budget estimate for Project #41590 is \$6.29 million in 2028 dollars, which is based on NHDOT's road reconstruction costs for .83 miles of NH 101 and .22 miles to realign Swanzey Factory Road. SWRPC's recommendation is to assign any funds remaining from SWRPC's regional budget from Project #40666 to this project. Further discussion among NHDOT, the City of Keene and SWRPC is suggested.

Keene: West Street Reconstruction (No Project Number)

This project is for reconstruction of West Street that includes multimodal and access management improvements along the corridor from Ashuelot Street to the NH Route 9/10/12 interchange (note that the City of Keene decided to shorten the eastern terminus of the project area after receiving comments through NHDOT's project screening process about the complications of ending the project at School Street). Based on discussions between the SWRPC TAC, NHDOT and the City of Keene, it was clear that the purpose and need for the proposed project was compelling, but details about project design assumptions need more thorough study and discussion, particularly between NHDOT and the City of Keene. SWRPC hopes to coordinate with the City and NHDOT to develop a clear and feasible project design concept which may result in the City of Keene re-nominating this project for the FY 2023-2032 TYP update.

SWRPC commends NHDOT for instituting a project screening review element with associated feedback and coordination as part of the TYP update process. This improves the credibility of the process for developing a FY 2021-2030 financially constrained TYP. At the same time, we believe it may suggest adjustments for the next TYP process including the amount and types of information that should be included in TYP applications and additional time for regional planning commission and NHDOT coordination.

As previously stated, SWRPC will submit its scoring and evaluation materials to the Bureau of Planning and Community Assistance, including project information forms and supporting documentation for each of the new projects considered for the FY 2021-2030 TYP update. We look forward to working collaboratively with you and your staff as NHDOT works to develop the draft FY 2021-2030 TYP for consideration by the GACIT and beyond. Please feel free to contact me or J. B. Mack if you have any questions about this correspondence.

Sincerely,



Tim Murphy
Executive Director

cc: Honorable Andru Volinsky, NH Executive Council
Honorable Deborah Pignatelli, NH Executive Council
NH Senators, SWRPC Region
NH Representatives, SWRPC Region
Bill Watson, NHDOT Bureau of Planning and Community Assistance
James Marshall, NHDOT Bureau of Highway Design
L. Robert Landry, NHDOT Bureau of Bridge Design
John Kallfelz, NHDOT District IV
Leigh Levine, FHWA NH Division
SWRPC TAC Members