



April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Ms. Victoria Sheehan, Commissioner  
New Hampshire Department of Transportation  
7 Hazen Drive  
Concord, NH 03302

**Re: FY 2021-2030 Statewide Ten Year Transportation Plan Project Priorities – North Country Council Planning Region**

Dear Commissioner Sheehan,

North Country Council Regional Planning Commission (NCC) has completed its process to solicit and prioritize projects for inclusion in the FY 2021-2030 Ten-Year Transportation Improvement Plan (TYP). This process was led by NCC staff and overseen by NCC's Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), with NCC's Commissioners providing final approval of regional priorities. For reference, I have also submitted to you NCC's *FY 2021-2030 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)*, which provides additional information about the process used to develop regional priorities for the FY 2021-2030 TYP.

**Regional Priorities - Existing Projects in the FY 2019-2028 TYP**

As part of the solicitation of project priorities for the FY 2021-2030 TYP, communities and NCC's TAC were asked to identify any projects in the FY 2019-2028 TYP that were no longer local or regional priorities for completion. Through subsequent discussions with communities and NCC's TAC, it was determined that all projects included in the FY 2019-2028 TYP are priorities for inclusion in the FY 2021-2030 TYP. As such, **NCC supports the inclusion of all regional FY 2019-2028 TYP projects in the FY 2021-2030 TYP.** Table 1 of NCC's *FY 2021-2030 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)* provides a list of all regional projects included in the FY 2019-2028 TYP, including programmatic projects.

**Regional Priorities – NCC Regional Funding Allocation for New FY 2021-2031 TYP Projects**

The NCC planning region was provided a \$6,106,086 funding allocation for new projects in the FY 2021-2030 TYP. In order to prioritize projects for this funding, NCC worked with its TAC to assign weights to the statewide project ranking criteria that were provided by NHDOT. The resulting criteria weights place a primary emphasis on proposed projects that would improve the safety and/or natural hazard resiliency of regionally-important transportation facilities. This process is defined on page 8 of NCC's *RTIP*.

As part of the project solicitation process, NCC received five project proposals from four communities totaling \$34,628,843. NCC worked with its TAC to develop project scores using the weighted evaluation

criteria in order to develop a ranked list of project proposals. From the pool of project proposals, **Gorham’s NH 16 project** and **Shelburne’s US 2 project** were identified as the two highest-priority projects within the funding allocation for the NCC planning region. The total combined cost of these two projects is estimated to be \$6,115,636. While this figure slightly exceeds NCC’s regional allocation of \$6,106,086, proposing both projects for inclusion in the FY 2021-2030 TYP is within the spirit of fiscal constraint at this stage in the process.

A summary of the regional project priorities for the FY 2021-2030 TYP that are within NCC’s regional funding allocation is provided below:

Community	Project	Estimated Timeline & Regional Budget Impact <sup>1</sup>	Regional Priority	Project Score
Gorham	Replace failing retaining wall with new retaining wall (approximately 500’ long and 4-6’ high) and provide proper drainage offset on NH 16/Glen Rd curve approximately ¼-mile south of Libby St.	<b>PE:</b> \$286,945 (FY 2025) <b>ROW:</b> \$65,601 (FY 2027) <b>CON:</b> \$3,104,532 (FY 2029) <b>Total:</b> \$3,457,078	1 (tie)	7.3/10
Shelburne	Replace undersized (6’) round pipe culvert carrying Josh Brook under US 2 with a larger box culvert.	<b>PE:</b> \$436,656 (FY 2025) <b>ROW:</b> \$131,203 (FY 2027) <b>CON:</b> \$2,000,699 (FY 2029) <b>Total:</b> \$2,658,558	1 (tie)	7.3/10

<sup>1</sup> Cost estimates and project timelines provided by NHDOT, March 2019. Presented figures reflect estimated year-of-expenditure costs factoring in 2.55% annual inflation.

***Gorham – NH 16/Glen Rd retaining wall and drainage improvements***

- ***Current conditions:*** NH 16/Glen Road approximately one-quarter mile south of Libby Street in Gorham has a sharp curve and failing crib retaining wall with drainage issues. The poor condition of the crib wall presents a risk to regional mobility should it fail and block NH 16. The lack of proper drainage infrastructure at the base of the retaining wall causes water to run across NH 16 at the curve. This creates a safety issue and persistent maintenance challenge for NHDOT District 1, particularly in the winter months when icy conditions form as a result of the drainage issues. There is also a history of crashes during snowy and/or icy conditions on this curve.
- ***Proposed project:*** Replace the failing crib wall with a new retaining wall (approximately 500’ long and 4-6’ high). Move the new retaining into the hillside in order to provide a proper ditch offset between the retaining wall and roadway for improved drainage.

***Shelburne – US 2 culvert upgrade (Josh Brook)***

- ***Current conditions:*** Severe rain events have caused significant damage to culvert and bridge infrastructure on US 2 in the Androscoggin River Valley, with impacts to local and regional mobility. This is a mountainous area with high potential for damaging floods during rain events.

The round pipe culvert carrying Josh Brook under US 2 is undersized, with evidence of significant downstream erosion and road bed damage from previous flood events. A 2018 assessment of the culvert found that the culvert was significantly undersized compared to the bankfull width of Josh Brook.

- **Proposed project:** Replace the 6’ round culvert carrying Josh Brook under US 2 with a larger box culvert that spans the bankfull width of the stream, including necessary relocation of adjacent aerial utilities.

**Additional Regional Priorities for New FY 2021-2031 TYP Projects (Not Within Regional Funding Allocation)**

In addition to the two projects listed above, three additional project proposals were submitted by communities in the NCC planning region. NCC’s regional allocation for new projects is not adequate to support the inclusion of these projects in the FY 2021-2030 TYP. NCC would support the inclusion of these projects in the FY 2021-2030 TYP if additional funds for the NCC planning region were to become available. A summary of additional regional priority projects for the FY 2021-2030 TYP is provided below:

Community	Project	Estimated Timeline & Regional Budget Impact <sup>2</sup>	Regional Priority	Project Score
Berlin	Rehabilitate NH 16 from the Berlin city line to Hutchins Street. Reconstruct NH 16 from Hutchins St to Exchange St, incl. Exchange St and NH 16/Pleasant St. Replace sidewalks.	<b>PE:</b> \$749,404 (FY 2024) <b>ROW:</b> \$419,848 (FY 2027) <b>CON:</b> \$8,263,200 (FY 2030) <b>Total:</b> \$9,432,452 <sup>3</sup>	3 (tie)	6.9/10
Littleton	Reconstruction of western Main St and Meadow St with pedestrian and curb improvements. Intersection improvements at Bridge St/Meadow St after Town realigns Saranac St/Bridge St.	<b>PE:</b> \$424,692 (FY 2024) <b>ROW:</b> \$229,008 (FY 2027) <b>CON:</b> \$2,799,724 (FY 2029) <b>Total:</b> \$3,453,424 <sup>4</sup>	3 (tie)	6.9/10
Berlin	Rehabilitate NH 110 from the end of the Phase II NH 110 project to the current urban compact line. Full road reconstruction from the current urban compact line to Jericho Lake Rd (new proposed urban compact line), including shoulder widening.	<b>PE:</b> \$1,180,068 (FY 2024) <b>ROW:</b> \$262,405 (FY 2027) <b>CON:</b> \$10,963,389 (FY 2029) <b>Total:</b> \$12,405,862 <sup>5</sup>	5	5.7/10

<sup>2</sup> Cost estimates and project timelines provided by NHDOT, March 2019. Presented figures reflect estimated year-of-expenditure costs factoring in 2.55% annual inflation.

<sup>3</sup> The proposed NH 16 project in Berlin exceeds NCC's regional funding allocation for new FY 2021-2030 TYP projects. Since this project is located in an Urban Compact area, the City of Berlin would be responsible for a 20% match, if funded. The total year-of-expenditure project cost estimate is \$11,790,565.

<sup>4</sup> The proposed Littleton project is recommended to be structured as a municipally-managed Local Public Agency project; therefore, the Town would be responsible for a 20% match, if funded. The total year-of-expenditure project cost estimate is \$4,316,780.

<sup>5</sup> The proposed NH 110 project in Berlin exceeds NCC's regional funding allocation for new FY 2021-2030 TYP projects.

### ***Berlin – NH 16 roadway reconstruction and rehabilitation***

- ***Current conditions:*** NH 16 is the southern gateway to the City of Berlin and an important commuter, tourist, and freight route. Pavement condition is in mostly in fair or poor condition between the Berlin/Gorham town line and Hutchins Street, and is in poor condition between Hutchins St in Exchange St. Drainage infrastructure under the roadway is aging and in need of replacement. Sidewalks along this stretch of road are in poor condition, have lost grade separation with the roadway, and are in need of improved ADA access.
- ***Proposed project:*** Mill and overlay NH 16 from the Berlin/Gorham town line to Hutchins Street. Reconstruct NH 16 from Hutchins St to Exchange Street, including Exchange Street and NH 16/Pleasant Street. Replace sidewalks and improve curb ramps and grade separation.

### ***Littleton – Main Street Phase II***

- ***Current conditions:*** A significant roadway and pedestrian infrastructure improvement project was previously completed on the eastern end of Main Street (US 302/NH 18). This project was originally proposed include all of Main Street, but had to be scaled back due to projects costs. These improvements are proposed to be extended down Main Street and Meadow Street (US 302). The western portion of Main Street and Meadow Street both currently suffer from poor roadway condition, insufficient sidewalk and curbing infrastructure, and long pedestrian crossings, despite significant pedestrian activity. Additionally, the intersection of Meadow Street and Saranac Street has a severely acute turning angle and limited sight distance that is dangerous for drivers.
- ***Proposed project:*** Reconstruction of western Main Street (starting at Green Street) and Meadow Street to the intersection with Bridge Street with pedestrian and curb improvements, including curb bump-outs to reduce pedestrian crossing distances and calm traffic speeds. Additionally, the Town has plans to re-route Saranac Street to Bridge Street and close the dangerous intersection of Saranac Street and Meadow Street. While this portion of the project would be funded locally, part of the TYP request includes intersection improvements at Bridge Street/Meadow Street after Town completes the realignment of Saranac Street.

***Berlin – NH 110 roadway reconstruction and rehabilitation***

- ***Current conditions:*** The City of Berlin desires control and maintenance responsibilities for this corridor in order remain responsive to new development, as well as to permit year-round access for OHRVs/ATVs traveling to Jericho Mountain State Park. Prior to the transfer of control, the roadway is proposed to be improved to address variable roadway conditions and tie into the NH 110 Phase II project that was completed in 2017. Additionally, pavement and aging drainage infrastructure is in need of improvement.
- ***Proposed project:*** Mill and overlay NH 110 from the end of the Phase II NH 110 project (near Rocky Lane) to the current urban compact line. Full road reconstruction from the current urban compact line to Jericho Lake Rd (new proposed urban compact line), including widening shoulders to 4 feet. Shoulder widening will necessitate widening of southern Jericho Brook bridge near St. Laurent Lane.

**Next Steps**

NCC looks forward to assisting NH DOT through the remainder of the process to develop the draft FY 2021-2030 TYP for consideration by the Governor’s Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT). Please do not hesitate to contact me at (603) 444-6303 or [abelenz@nccouncil.org](mailto:abelenz@nccouncil.org) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



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