



Program Highlights

Letter from the Executive Director: Over the last several months NRPC staff and the Executive Committee worked to draft a Statement of Strategy to guide the agency forward in a fiscally responsible and sustainable manner. Since November of 2015 we have collected input from more than 25 Commissioners and have had full participation from the NRPC staff in the plan development process. This strategic planning effort comes on the heels of the completion of our comprehensive regional plan and is well timed to help layout a means to assist member communities interested in implementing components of the plan consistent with their local values and goals.

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The main purpose of this Statement of Strategy is to provide a high-level strategic roadmap for the next five years. It discusses the historical and current mandates that define the Commission, its governance structure, its mission, vision, values, and core competencies and the current operational realities.

Work has already begun to move two opportunities identified in the Strategic Statement Document forward.

As a Transportation Management Area the NRPC now has programming authority over the allocation of Surface Transportation Program funds and Transportation Alternatives funds. NRPC has begun conversations with NHDOT, FHWA and Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission to establish a process to execute programming of projects in the Transportation Improvement Program. Once a coordination process with neighboring MPOs is defined, the NRPC would have a more immediate influence on the spending of these dollars which would usher in a new era of community empowerment and commissioner engagement.

Support for economic development initiatives was a recurrent theme throughout the present strategic planning process. Commissioners voiced this municipal need with near unanimity. Economic development programming is explicitly mentioned in the enabling RPC legislation, making it a sensible strategic area for NRPC. NRPC is currently working to build its capacity to provide new Economic Development services through a Community Development Finance Authority grant.

At this month's Commission Meeting we will discuss the TMA Programming Authority in more detail and why it is important to the region. In the coming months we will continue to work towards implementation of strategies in the document and ensure that communication between NRPC and its stakeholders is constant and mutually productive.

Tim Roache, Executive Director

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NRPC MPO Transportation Workshops Summary

The 2017 – 2026 Ten Year Transportation Plan (TYP) was signed into law on June 24, 2016, launching the next 2-year transportation planning cycle. Projects with federal funding in the first 4-years of that TYP have been compiled by NHDOT into the draft 2017 – 2020 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), released for review by NH's MPOs on September 2, 2016. The Nashua MPO will now draft its 2017 – 2020 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) by pulling regional and statewide projects from the STIP. Concurrently with the TIP update, the MPO will also be updating a prioritized and fiscally constrained project listing for a minor update to the 2017 – 2040 MTP.

To assist in the MTP project listing update, NRPC hosted transportation workshops that were open to the public in Wilton, Milford and Hudson during June to solicit input on the current project listings and identify current needs in each of the communities. A fourth session is anticipated to be held in downtown Nashua in October. An interactive exercise allowed workshop participants to select and prioritize transportation projects and general improvement types to be included in the MTP.

Top transportation projects selected included:

- ◆ Nashua 101A Widening
- ◆ Wilton to Bedford 101 Spot Improvements
- ◆ FEE Turnpike Exit 36
- ◆ Amherst 101/101A Intersection Improvements

There were some variations among the top selected projects at each workshop that include:

- ◆ TTAC: FEE Widening
- ◆ Wilton: Full 101 Widening outranked 101 Spot Improvements
- ◆ Milford: Passenger Rail
- ◆ Hudson: Northern Bridge, East Hollis St, and Circumferential Highway

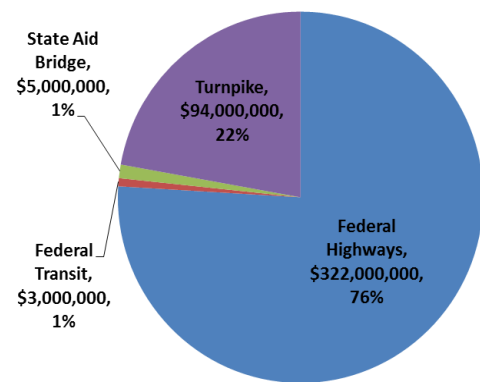
The top selected generalized transportation improvements included:

- ◆ Local (#1) and State (#3) Bridges
- ◆ Road Reconstruction
- ◆ Local Intersection Improvements

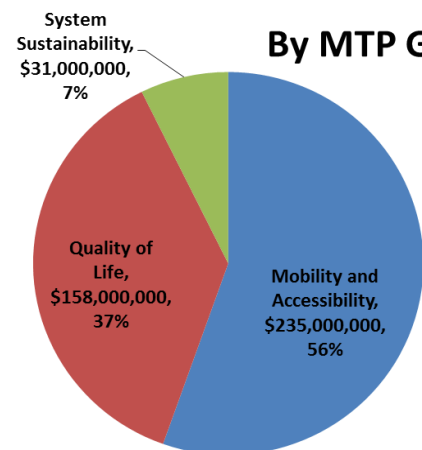
The input from the workshops will be used to prioritize the projects in the MTP under the guidance of the TTAC. The goal is to have the public comment period for the TIP and MTP in November and have the Commission adopt the plans at their December meeting.

Average Funding Distribution

By Funding Source



By MTP Goal



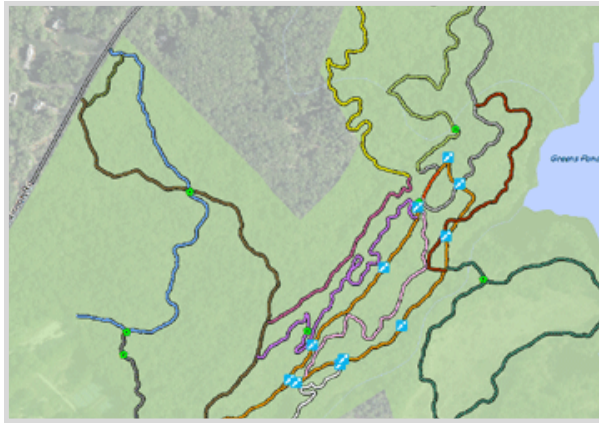
Upcoming Transportation Activities:

- North Bridge Summit–Northern Crossing of the Merrimack River
- Transportation Workshop to be held in Nashua (location TBD)

Ongoing Transportation Activities:

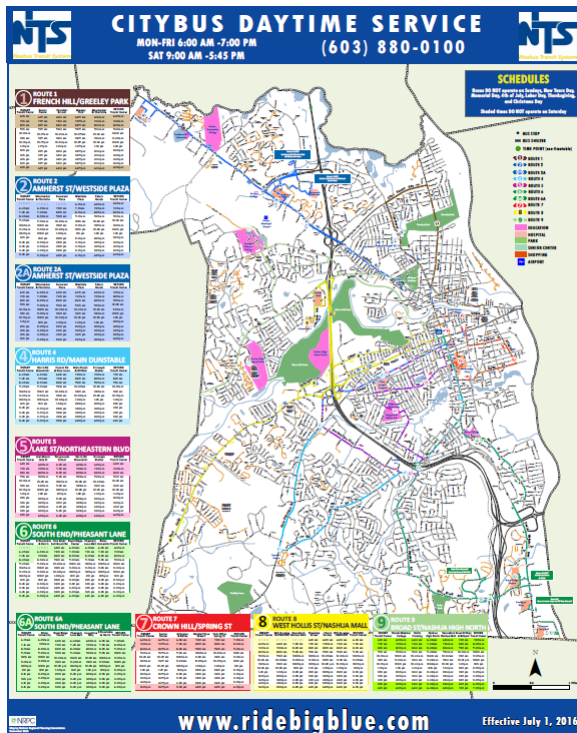
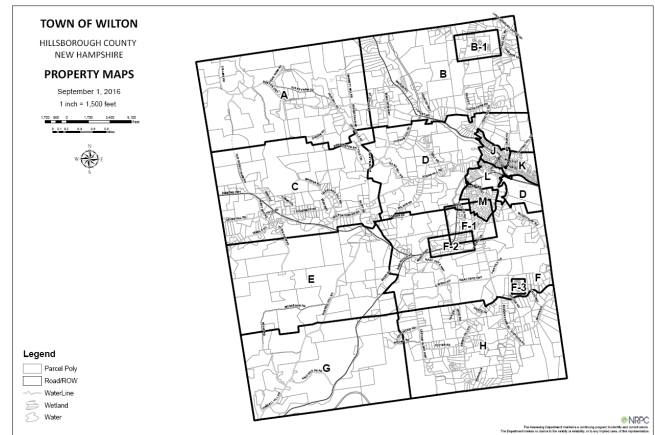
- Travel Demand Modeling
- Congestion Management
- RSMS SADES Pilot Program

Trail Mapping for Merrimack Conservation Commission



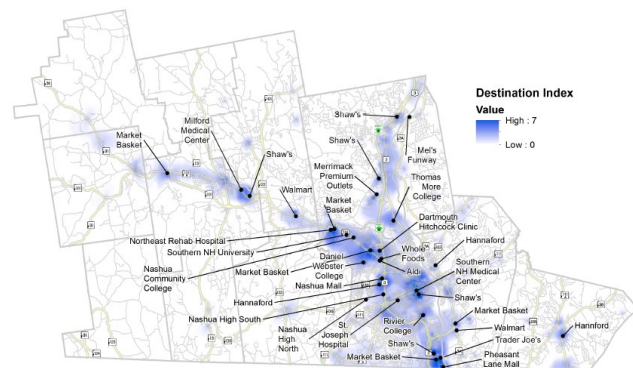
The Merrimack Conservation Commission (MCC) manages large tracts of land with extensive trails available for public enjoyment. Among the largest properties, seven are featured on the MCC's webpage www.merrimackoutdoors.org. The MCC is promoting the use of its properties using maps. Specifically, the MCC is working with NRPC to make available to the public the 1) interactive trail network maps that are viewable on the desktop or on a mobile device such as a phone, 2) static pdf maps that can also be viewed online or also printed, and 3) the raw spatial data files that can be downloaded onto disconnected GPS devices.

Wilton, NH Tax Mapping NRPC maintains up-to-date, comprehensive parcel data for each of our member communities. GIS parcels are a cost-effective way to create high quality tax maps. Now, Wilton is working with NRPC to create GIS-based tax maps. With this contract, NRPC is now proudly providing tax map services to seven of our communities including also Hollis, Mont Vernon, Amherst, Hudson, Litchfield, and Lyndeborough.



GIS Support for Nashua Transit System NRPC recently provided mapping assistance to the Nashua Transit System to reflect several recent route changes. In addition to updating their official route maps, found on posters and in ride guides at the Transit Center, NRPC also created new individual route maps and timetable graphics that provide a detailed look at the streets and stops of each route. These maps are available as printable PDFs at the [NTS website](http://www.ridebigblue.com). In addition, NRPC is providing GIS analysis to support the NTS 10-year Comprehensive Plan, including an analysis of existing and potential future ridership across the region.

SERVICE EXPANSION - RIDERSHIP WITHIN THE REGION



Upcoming GIS Activities:

- Recreational opportunities mapping including parks, playgrounds and trails
- Launch of MapGeo on a Google Platform
- Evaluation of NRPC-hosted ArcGIS for Server on the Amazon Cloud
- ESRI Story Maps

Ongoing GIS Services:

- Regional GIS Data Development
- GIS Brownbag Series
- Interactive Online Mapping
- Travel Demand Modelling
- Downloadable Data and Maps
- Custom Mapping

Climate & Health Adaptation: NRPC is partnering with the Greater Nashua Regional Public Health Network (GNRPHN) to develop a Climate and Health Adaptation Plan for the Nashua Region. Using the BRACE (Building Resiliency Against Climate Effects) framework established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, NRPC will consult a multitude of local documents, agencies and topic experts to identify potential relevant hazards due to severe weather and climate change. These hazards will be linked to associated health impacts (e.g., asthma or heat stroke) and potential intervention strategies to minimize community burdens from such events.

Household Hazardous Waste: August was a busy month for the Household Hazardous Waste Program. Every year the Nashua Region Solid Waste Management District holds a household hazardous waste collection in Nashua on the first Saturday of August. This year 276 vehicles representing 308 households participated in the collection held on August 6. In addition, the Solid Waste District held a new satellite collection in Pelham on August 27. The event was opened to residents of Amherst, Brookline, Hollis, Hudson, Litchfield, Merrimack, Milford, Mont Vernon, Nashua, Pelham, and Windham. Turnout was high, especially given that this was the first collection ever held in Pelham; a total of 172 vehicles representing 201 households participated. There are two remaining collections in the 2016 season—Saturday, October 1 and Saturday, November 5 from 8:00 AM-noon in Nashua. For more information, please visit www.nashuarpc.org/hhw.

Water Resiliency Action Plan: The NRPC wrapped up a 2 year grant from the EPA's Healthy Communities program to develop the Nashua Region Water Resiliency Action Plan. Climate change in southern NH will impact the environment, ecosystem services, economy, public health, and quality of life. According to a 2014 study by the Sustainability Institute at the University of NH, southern NH is expected to become warmer and wetter over the next century with more extreme precipitation events. This weather pattern puts significant stress on the region's already aging water infrastructure. The goal of the Nashua Region Water Resiliency Action Plan is to help municipalities become more resilient to the impacts that climate change has on their water infrastructure and vulnerable populations.

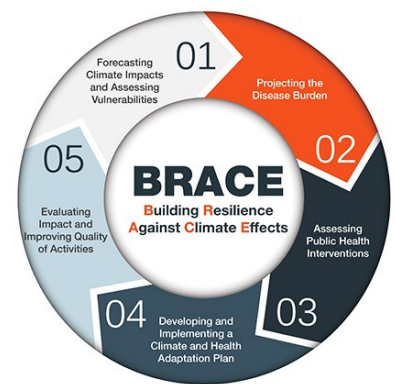
The Nashua Region Water Resiliency Action Plan modifies the existing hazard mitigation planning model to integrate climate adaptation planning. NRPC began by conducting a regional water vulnerability assessment of local assets and resources. Next, NRPC analyzed the assessment results to identify priority

assets, actions, and planning needs as well as deficits in data, information, and process. After completing the region-wide vulnerability assessment and analysis, NRPC identified a series of next steps to help municipalities develop a local climate adaptation strategy. These steps are aimed at mitigating risks to water resources associated with climate change and are designed to be incorporated into the hazard mitigation planning process. The report will be distributed to municipal officials and hazard mitigation teams in the region. For more information, please contact Jill Longval, jillL@nashuarpc.org.

Land Use & Environmental Ongoing Activities:

- Nashua Farmers Market Feasibility Studies
- Parks & Playground Mapping Guidebook
- Development Review & Planning Services to Mason, Wilton & Litchfield
- Master Plan Update Services
- Household Hazardous Waste Program
- Regional Competitive Electricity Purchase Aggregation

Building Resilience Against Climate Effects



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