

2025-2034

NEW HAMPSHIRE TEN YEAR PLAN TRANSPORTATION PROJECT NOMINATIONS IN SWRPC PLANNING DISTRICT

PROJECT OVERVIEWS

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PROJECT 1 – HINSDALE FORT HILL BRANCH RAIL TRAIL TRESTLE BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS

LOCATION

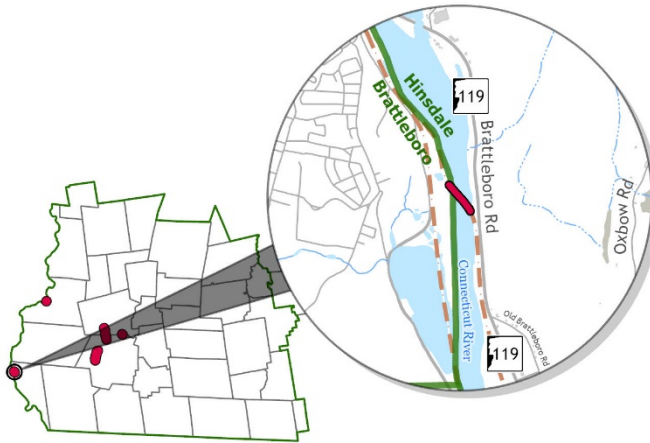


Figure 1 - Photo by Henry Underwood (November, 2020)

PROJECT TYPE(S)

Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements (sidewalks, bike trails, multi-use paths, traffic calming improvements)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this project is to support connection of the New Hampshire and Vermont rail trail systems.

NEED

In Hinsdale there are few low stress places to walk or bicycle safely. The rail trail system is a great option, but it isn't connected to Brattleboro, VT. Route 119 is a high traffic area. Many people commute to Brattleboro VT for work and if they chose to walk or bicycle they have no other means except to utilize the road. Currently the rail road trestle bridge crossing the Connecticut River is not accessible to pedestrians or bicyclists. If the bridge was decked and safe, it would allow pedestrians, bicyclists and even fishermen to use the bridge. The NH rail system stretches to Keene NH. With Hinsdale as a border town to Brattleboro, VT, this bridge would open up opportunity to travel on to the West River Rail Trail System in Brattleboro, VT as well.

DESCRIPTION OF SCOPE

The proposed improvements would involve re-decking the bridge, improvements to the trail surface in the vicinity of the abutments, and the creation of a combination parking area and connection between the trail and NH 119. Cost information was not provided with the nomination.

PROJECT 2 – KEENE NH 12 & 32 INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

LOCATION

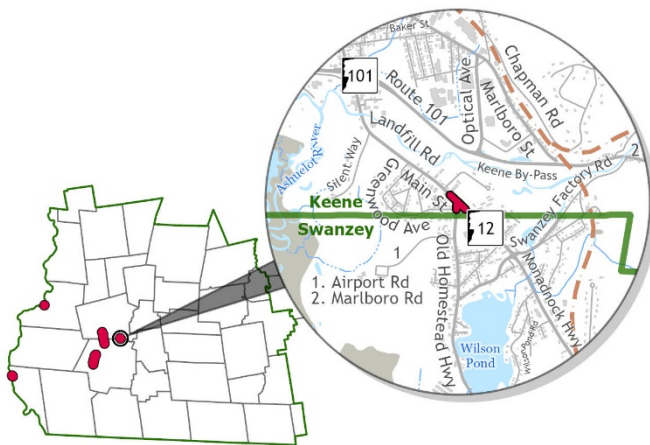


Figure 2 - Photo by Google (November, 2019)

PROJECT TYPE(S)

Highway Improvements (operational improvements, access management, intelligent transportation systems, widening, technology operation improvements)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this project is to create a safe, efficient intersection at the Junction of Rt. 32 (Old Homestead Highway) with Rt. 12 (Main Street).

NEED

The junction of Rt. 12 and 32 is currently configured as a “Y”, with an angle of approximately 45°. This makes it very difficult for north-bound motorists on Rt. 32 to appreciate north-bound traffic on Rt. 12. In addition, the volume of traffic on Rt. 12 makes it challenging for vehicles to enter during peak hours. As part of the project, the intersection will be evaluated to determine if a signalized intersection or some other type of control would improve overall efficiency. The project will also alleviate a significant safety concern. In the last ten years, Keene Police have recorded approximately 20 motor vehicle accidents resulting in 5 injuries at this location.

DESCRIPTION OF SCOPE

Re-align the intersection to create a 90° Tee. If warranted, install efficiency improvements (e.g., traffic signal, roundabout, etc.). Reconstruct the roadway for approximately 300 feet in each direction. Cost information was provided with the nomination and was estimated to be \$2,190,000 in 2034 dollars based on a 3% annual inflation rate without a signal. The City of Keene is also developing a separate cost estimate for a roundabout, which it intends to submit to SWRPC in the coming days.

PROJECT 3 – KEENE-SWANZEY BASE HILL ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

LOCATION

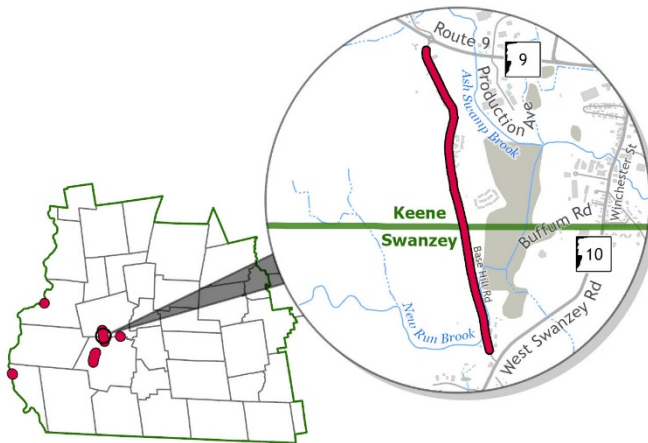


Figure 3 - Photo by Google (November, 2019)

PROJECT TYPE(S)

Highway Improvements (operational improvements, access management, intelligent transportation systems, widening, technology operation improvements)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this project is to improve the alignment, width, drainage and safety of Base Hill Road, between Rt. 9 and Rt. 10, to handle the increased traffic and heavier loads that it has carried in recent years.

NEED

Over the last several years, the City of Keene and Town of Swanzey has observed increasing traffic counts on Base Hill Road. In particular, heavy truck traffic has become routine. Most of this increase appears to be due to increases in through traffic traveling between Rt. 10 and Rt. 9, rather than development along Base Hill Rd. itself. Base Hill Road was not constructed with adequate structural fill or drainage features to handle these heavy loads. As a result, the pavement is in a poor state of repair and municipal maintenance efforts offer only short-lived relief. In addition, the narrow width of the roadway leaves no safe accommodation for pedestrians or bicyclists. Over the past 10 years, Keene Police have recorded over 80 motor vehicle accidents resulting in 29 injuries.

DESCRIPTION OF SCOPE

This project proposes to widen approximately 1.5 miles of Class V highway to a consistent cross section of 32 feet. This will allow for 12 foot travel lanes and 4 foot shoulders on each side. It is believed that most of the existing road base is not constructed with adequate structure. Therefore, existing base will be improved or replaced with property specified gravels. Design alternatives will evaluate the use of imported virgin material, full depth reclamation with soil amendment and/or the use of reinforcement geotextiles. In addition, roadside drainage ditches and culverts will be constructed to prevent saturation of the base material.

PROJECT 4 – SWANZEY NH 10 WEST SWANZEY IMPROVEMENTS

LOCATION

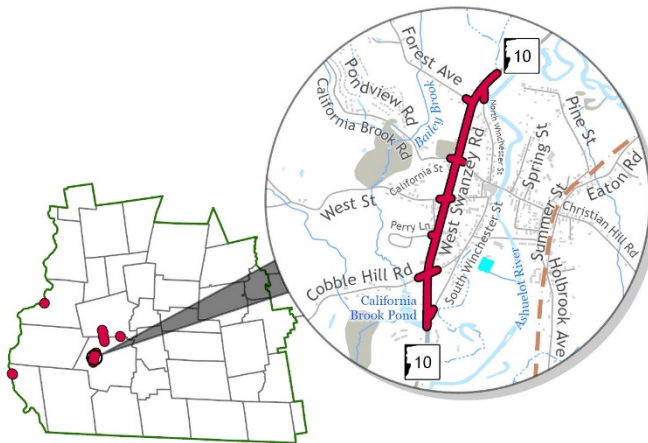


Figure 4 - Photo by Google (November, 2021)

PROJECT TYPE(S)

- Highway Improvements (operational improvements, access management, intelligent transportation systems, widening, technology operation improvements)
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements (sidewalks, bike trails, multi-use paths, traffic calming improvements)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this project is to provide access management, traffic calming, intersection improvements, and complete streets improvements to increase non-motorized activity and protections for pedestrians on West Swanzey Road (NH 10) between North and South Winchester Street. There are three existing, one under construction, and one proposed multi-family developments within the proposed project area. These improvements will accommodate safety measures for the increased population density and serve existing and future economic development.

NEED

This section NH 10 bifurcates the community resulting in unsafe conditions for cars, pedestrians, and other non-motorized travel. It is an area of mixed development with several multi-family housing developments and a concentration of commercial and community activity. This portion of the corridor represents the heart of West Swanzey Village, home to the highest population density along the RT 10 corridor between Keene and Winchester. Introducing traffic calming measures and improving pedestrian safety would increase resident access to local community and recreational assets and will increase economic activity along the corridor. The Swanzey NH RT 10 Corridor Study identified 86% of traffic exceeded the posted 40 mph speed limit at the West St intersection with NH 10. There are limited, unconnected sections of sidewalk in the proposed project area and there are no crosswalks providing safe passage for pedestrians across NH 10.

DESCRIPTION OF SCOPE

Install crosswalks with rapid flashing beacons at the intersections with California St, West St, Cobble Hill Rd, and South Winchester St. Install a vegetative median with left turn pockets in place of the existing two-way left turn lane between California St and Cobble Hill Road. Install other streetscaping and traffic calming infrastructure. Make improvements to intersections. Extend / install sidewalks south to the Evergreen Knoll development and north to California Street on east and west sides of NH 10. Cost information was not provided with the nomination.

PROJECT 5 – WESTMORELAND RIVER ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

LOCATION

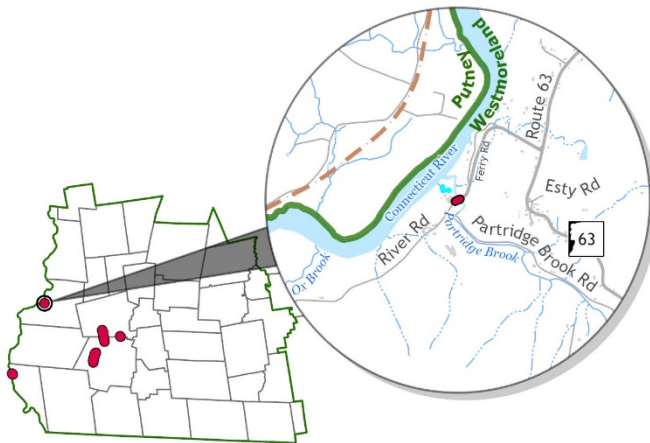


Figure 5 - Photo by NHDOT (July, 2011)

PROJECT TYPE(S)

Asset Management (bridge rehabilitation, bridge replacement, pavement repair/replacement)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this project is to replace bridge 89/100 that was placed on the NHDOT red list in 1996.

NEED

Bridge 089/100 is a major access route to the Cheshire County Nursing Home (Maplewood Nursing Home) and River Rd. NHDOT red listed the bridge in 1996. The Westmoreland Board of Selectmen placed a 10-ton weight restriction in 2013.

DESCRIPTION OF SCOPE

The bridge needs replacing to once again be safe for commercial traffic and for access to the Cheshire County Nursing Home. Cost information was not provided with the nomination.