

**US Route 202 South Corridor Virtual Meeting**

**Held to inform SWRPC’s update to the *Southwest Connects Long Range Transportation Plan*
Wednesday February 2, 2023 at 6:30pm**

Southwest Region Planning Commission (SWRPC) held a virtual meeting on Thursday, February 2, 2023 at 6:30 pm focused on the US Route 202 South Corridor. This corridor runs from Peterborough at the NH 101 intersection to the Rindge/Massachusetts State Line. The corridor is one of eight major transportation corridors in the Southwest NH Region as depicted in the *Southwest Connects Long Range Transportation Plan*. This is the final meeting in a series of eight that SWRPC is holding in 2022 and 2023. Each meeting focuses on one of the regional transportation corridors. The purpose of these meetings is to share information about the corridor with local communities and to collect public input for the *Southwest Connects Long Range Transportation Plan*.

The following information was covered and discussed (more detailed information is available by viewing the presentation at: <https://youtu.be/0VEBkESiyjo>

* The US 202 South Corridor is one of eight major transportation corridors in the Southwest NH Region, facilitating north-south traffic movements between Peterborough and Massachusetts. In addition to US 202, this Corridor includes portions of NH 119, NH 124, NH 137, and a few minor collectors in Jaffrey and Rindge.
* Three towns are included in this Corridor; Peterborough, Jaffrey and Rindge. It is a highly trafficked corridor that is important for commuting, tourism, commerce and other reasons.
* Between 2011-2020, there were 27 serious injuries, 11 fatalities, and 1 non-motorized fatality or serious injury within this corridor.
* Jaffrey and Peterborough have municipal complete streets policies to guide future safety improvement projects for the benefit of all road users. This includes pedestrians and bicyclists of all ages and abilities, emergency responders, freight providers and users of public transit, in addition to motorists.
* Community Volunteer Transportation Company (CVTC) serves the towns in this corridor; however, there are limited drivers available.
* New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NH DOT) has several projects associated with the US 202 South Corridor included on their 10-Year Plan for FY 2023 - 2032. Jaffrey has several projects including intersection improvements to the US 202/NH 124/NH 137 area, culvert replacement projects, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure improvements, and airport runway improvements. All of these projects are in the design phase.
* Between 2013 and 2019, significant increases in traffic volume were measured on the US 202 South Corridor occurred at all five locations in Rindge ranging between an 26.9% to 46.7% increase in traffic. The locations for these traffic counts were on US 202 and NH 119. The most recent counts conducted by SWRPC occurred in 2018 and 2019 along the US 202 S corridor. In addition to those counts, there were increases in the Jaffrey traffic counts of 7.9% and 16.1%, and a 10.3% increase in Peterborough on US 202 and NH 123 South of Sand Hill Road.
* Census based commuter in-flow/out-flow data associated with this corridor shows the numbers of workers coming to work inside the three towns, the number of workers that live and work within the corridor towns and the number of people who live within the corridor but travel out of the corridor to get to work. Approximately 4,474 commuters per day enter the corridor from outside towns; 2,144 people live and work within this corridor; and 5,177 people live in this corridor and commute to outside towns. The top commuting destinations for residents of the US 202 South Corridor are: Keene, New Ipswich, Nashua, and Bedford. The top locations for people commuting into the corridor are from New Ipswich, Keene, and Winchendon, Massachusetts.
* Although limited, this corridor contains some transportation alternatives to the personal automobile. Alternative transportation options include: sidewalks, trails and other pedestrian infrastructure as well as a volunteer driver program operated by Community Volunteer Transportation Company (CVTC).
* Population increases also have an impact on the corridor. Peterborough and Rindge experienced increases in population of 6.6% (Peterborough) and 1.4% (Rindge) during the period of 2010 to 2019 while Jaffrey experienced a decrease of 3.3%. Population projections indicate that Peterborough and Rindge are projected to see an increase of 12.2% and 5.3% while Jaffrey is projected to continue the population decline. There is an expected overall population increase in the corridor of 5% and the region of 3.7% by 2040.
* 18% of the corridor population is made up of youth. Higher percentages of youth are in Jaffrey and Rindge (20% each). This group generally does not drive yet and need to rely on others for trips or need safe pedestrian/bicycle infrastructure to travel independently.
* The percentage of young adults is 23%. Higher percentages of young adults are in Rindge (33%) and Jaffrey (25%). Today, seniors make up about 20% of the corridor population. The higher concentrations of seniors are in Peterborough (27%). Nationally, 1 in 5 seniors don’t drive.
* The percentage of low-income residents in the corridor is 13%. Individuals in this category would benefit from having alternative transportation options to meet their transportation needs.
* 13.9% of all families with children living in the corridor are headed by single parents. A higher proportion of single parent families can be found in Peterborough (15.8%). Single parent households tend to need flexible transportation options to deal with time constraints.
* Individuals with disabilities make-up 13% of the corridor population. People in this category may require specific equipment and need assistance.

There were no additional comments from the meeting participants.