

NHDOT Highway Tiers – Definitions

System Strategies

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) is focused on managing the state's road network as efficiently and effectively as possible. While every road is critical to the people and businesses that rely upon it, each road also serves a different number of users and provides different levels of mobility. Grouping based on similarities such as connectivity, regional significance, and winter maintenance requirements provides a common framework for analysis of condition and performance, investment levels, and operation and maintenance levels. To strategize the investment of scarce resources, the Department has categorized New Hampshire's road system into the following Tiers.

Tier 1 – Interstates, Turnpikes, and Divided Highways

Interstates, Turnpikes, and NH Route 101 between Bedford and Hampton support the highest traffic volumes and speeds in the entire state. These multi-lane, divided highways convey the majority of commuter, tourist, and freight traffic throughout the state.

Tier 2 – Statewide Corridors

Statewide Corridors, like US 202 or NH 16, carry passengers and freight between regions of the state as well as to and from neighboring states. These roads can have moderate to high traffic volumes, particularly during morning and afternoon commutes. While functionally similar, condition and features of these corridors vary the most out of any Tier. Some of these roads are formally constructed higher-speed facilities while others are more rural roads that became high use roads as surrounding neighborhoods and communities developed.

Tier 3 – Regional Transportation Corridors

Regional Transportation Corridors provide travel within regions, access statewide corridors, and support moderate traffic volumes at moderate speeds. Good examples include NH 112 and NH 155.

Tier 4 – Local Connectors

Secondary highways and unnumbered routes as well as the bridges along them are local connectors and they provide travel between and within communities. Traffic on local connectors, such as NH 141 or Bean Rd in Moultonborough, is usually low volume and low speed.

Tier 5 – Local Roads

Locally owned roads and bridges or State owned roads within compact limits provide varying travel functions and are maintained by communities. Traffic volumes and speeds can vary on local roads. Good examples include North State St in Concord or Elm St in Manchester. Though, the Department does not maintain local road and bridges, it does provide assistance to communities.

Tier 6 – Off Network

The Department needs to track work accomplished on off network assets such as park 'n' rides, patrol shed, or rest stop parking lots.

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Approved by:



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