

## DO THE TWO-STEP

There are really just two simple steps to effective participation in transportation projects:

**One**, do your research and find out what projects are out there and what they are about...what will they build? What impacts and benefits are expected? Then...

### "I'm not much of a public speaker"

**Two**, you don't have to make speeches in front of large groups of people in order to have your say. Get on a project mailing list so that you're aware of the latest developments. Read project reports. Then, draw a picture, write a letter, take a photo, send an email, cut out magazine articles about things implemented in other places, make a phone call, talk at a meeting, join a workshop.... Through your input, the NHDOT strives to achieve full and fair participation of all affected communities.

### Other pieces in the Citizen's Guide to Transportation series include:

- #1. Having Your Say in transportation projects that shape your community
- #2. Planning the Future of New Hampshire Transportation
- #3. Project Development: Making transportation projects a reality
- #4. Access Management
- #6. Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program
- #7. The Transportation/Land Use Relationship

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For more information about the Transportation Enhancement Program, please contact your Regional Planning Commission or the New Hampshire Department of Transportation.

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New Hampshire Department of Transportation

Citizen's Guide to Transportation Series

# TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM



### What is the Transportation Enhancement Program?

The 1991 Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) called for a 10-percent share of all Surface Transportation Program funds to be used for transportation enhancement activities. The intent of the program is to develop and reinforce "livable communities" by funding projects that preserve the historic culture of the transportation system, and/or, enhance the operation of the system for its users.

The Transportation Enhancement Program continues and is expanded under the current Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, or TEA-21.

### What types of projects are eligible?

- Historic preservation
- Landscaping and other scenic beautification
- Scenic or historic highway programs, including tourist or visitor's center facilities
- Acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites
- Pedestrian or Bicycle Facilities – Sidewalks, trails, storage facilities, promotional activities, safety education, etc
- Rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures or facilities including railroads and canals
- Preservation of abandoned railway corridors

- Control and removal of outdoor advertising
- Archaeological planning and research
- Environmental mitigation to address and reduce water pollution due to a highway runoff, and vehicle-caused wildlife mortality while maintaining connectivity
- Establishment of transportation museums

### Who Can Apply?

Cities, towns, state agencies, private industry and special interest groups may apply for Transportation Enhancement funding for their project. Federal funds will pay up to 80% of the cost of the project, with the applicant being responsible to provide matching funds. Communities are encouraged to "Municipally Manage" their projects, allowing for local decision-making and scheduling to meet community needs.



An example of a bike path built with Transportation Enhancement funds in Lincoln, New Hampshire.



# TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM



## When are Applications Accepted?

The application process for Transportation Enhancement funds is a two-year cycle, beginning in June of each odd-numbered year (e.g., June of 2001, 2003, etc.)



Courtesy of the Transportation Enhancement Program and under the sponsorship of the town of Lincoln, a new multi-use path runs parallel to the Kancamagus Highway and connects the center of town with area resorts.

## How are Applications Made?

Applications are available at the Regional Planning Commission offices in your area (see list that follows). Completed applications must be submitted to the RPC office within whose jurisdiction the project is located, no later than the end of August of odd-numbered years (e.g., August 2001, 2003, etc.).

## How are Projects Selected?

The selection process takes almost a year:

First, the RPCs review the applications for completeness, accuracy and eligibility, then each RPC rates and prioritizes the projects.

The project applications and their rankings are submitted to the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT), for distribution to the Transportation Enhancement Advisory Committee (TEAC).

The TEAC is comprised of representatives from the Executive Council, NHDOT, the State Division of Historical Resources, Regional Planning Commissions and designees from the Governor, Speaker of the House, President of the Senate, Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) and the Municipal Association. It is the responsibility of this committee to recommend a list of projects and to monitor ongoing projects.

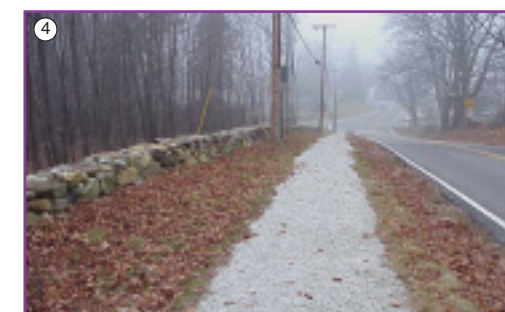
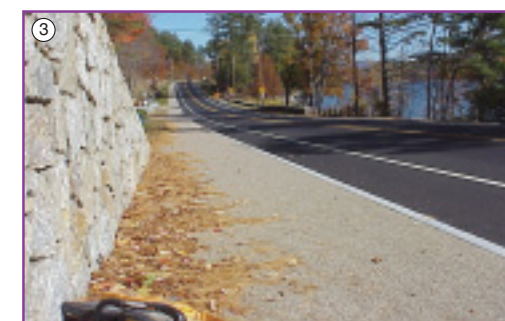
The TEAC conducts a public hearing on all applications. The hearings are advertised in newspapers during the winter of even-numbered years (e.g., 2002, 2004, etc.). After receiving public input at the hearing, TEAC members rate and prioritize the projects and forward a list of recommended projects, constrained by anticipated funding, to the NHDOT Commission by April 1st.

After the review of the recommendations, the Commission of the NHDOT then sends recommendations to the Governor's Advisory Committee on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) by April 15th.

Finally, once the projects are approved by GACIT they are recommended for inclusion on the State's Ten-Year Transportation Improvement Program.

## Examples of Previously Selected Projects

- **Historic renovation of rail station in Gorham, New Hampshire.**<sup>①</sup>
- Installation of fire protection systems for two covered bridges, Winchester and Conway, New Hampshire.
- Construction of a sidewalk across the Connecticut River on US 2 between Lancaster, New Hampshire and Guildhall, Vermont.
- **In Berlin, New Hampshire, Transportation Enhancement funds helped create a circumferential multi-use path which bypasses the town center while connecting residences to jobs, schools, scenic views and recreation.**<sup>②</sup>
- Design and construction of pedestrian bridges to link 2.5 miles of the Heritage Trail in Bedford, New Hampshire.
- Publication of a book on the state's surviving covered bridges.



- Acquisition of 43.2 miles of the Cheshire Branch Railroad .
- **In Holderness, a multi-use path was created to US 3, connecting the village area with resorts and residential homes, town hall and town library.**<sup>③</sup>
- Construction of a pedestrian and bicycle path and bridge over the Spaulding Turnpike connecting Portsmouth, New Hampshire and Pease International Tradeport.
- **An important link between an elementary school and the village center, including the village library, was made through construction of this sidewalk along a busy highway in Canterbury, New Hampshire.**<sup>④</sup>