



December 20, 2021

Mr. William Watson, Administrator  
NH Department of Transportation  
7 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 483  
Concord, NH 03302

**RE: 2021 – 2024 TIP Amendment #3**

Dear Mr. Watson:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) has considered the proposed adjustments listed in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Amendment #3 and voted to amend the NRPC 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Comments received on the revised amendment at the Public Hearing held December 15, 2021 are attached. The following projects have been amended:

**NRPC Region Projects:**

- **Milford (42883):** Construct a 5-foot sidewalk and bicycle lane off Osgood & Armory Rds.
  - Construction start is moved from FY 2023 to FY 2028, moving the project out of the 2021-2024 STIP, due to project readiness.
- **Milford (42887):** Construct sidewalks along Nashua St.
  - Construction start is moved from FY 2024 to FY 2028, moving the project out of the 2021-2024 STIP, due to project readiness.
- **Nashua (41742):** Construct the Heritage Rail Trail east
  - Construction moved from FY 2022 to 2023 and funding increased by \$302,592. Additional funding is required for drainage items, traffic control items, Rectangular Rapid-Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) and erosion control items.
- **Nashua (42882):** Intersection and roadway improvements at the Canal St/Franklin St/Main St intersection
  - Construction start is moved from FY 2023 to 2026, moving the project out of the 2021-2024 STIP, due to project readiness.
- **Nashua-Merrimack-Bedford (13761):** FEE Turnpike widening of 2-lane sections from Exit 8 (Nashua) to I-293 (Bedford)
  - \$6,168,000 added for PE in 2023, needed for final design.

- **Pelham (41751):** Intersection improvements at the intersection of NH 128 & Sherburne Rd and Mammoth & NH 111A
  - Construction start is moved from FY 2023 to 2026, moving the project out of the 2021-2024 STIP. Additional time is needed for the NEPA process and to obtain easements.

### **Statewide Programs**

- **PROGRAM (CRDR):** Culvert replacement/rehabilitation & drainage repairs
  - ROW increased by \$29,100 in FY 2024; construction increased by \$4,569,870 for FY 2023-24 to accommodate necessary increases in child project fund amounts.
- **PROGRAM (FTA5307):** Boston Urbanized Area FTA Section 5307 apportioned funds for NHDOT transit projects
  - Funds increased by \$14,538,686 due to American Rescue Plan and carryover moved from FY 2021 to 2022.
- **PROGRAM (MOBRR):** Municipal owned bridge rehabilitation & replacement projects
  - Funds increased by \$6,400,000 to accommodate necessary increased changes in expected child projects.
- **STATEWIDE (41756):** Evaluate 61+ traffic control signals and develop & implement signal timings to improve traffic flow.

For consistency with the amended TIP, NRPC has also amended the project list and fiscal constraint analysis in its Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), adopted on December 19, 2018. The amended TIP remains consistent with the applicable project prioritization and selection process as articulated in both documents.

The proposed changes made by Amendment #3 to the NRPC TIP and MTP meet all applicable conformity requirements under the conformity rule. The requirements are noted in the TIP Amendment.

Consistent with the Nashua MPO Public Involvement Procedures, and Federal and State regulations, NRPC placed a notice on the NRPC website and posted the notice at the NRPC office. A public comment period was held from December 3 through December 14, 2021. No comments were received other than those at the NRPC TTAC meeting of December 8, 2021 and the Public Hearing of December 15, 2021.

The NRPC MPO voted to approve the proposed changes in Amendment #3 at its meeting of December 15, 2021, recognizing that the Amendment conforms to the specified emission budget in the State Implementation Plan and that the New Hampshire Department of Transportation has maintained fiscal constraint of the STIP.

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If you have any questions or comments regarding the proposed amendment, please feel free to contact me at your convenience. I can be reached at [jaym@nashuarpc.org](mailto:jaym@nashuarpc.org) or 417-6570 ext. 6574. Thank you.

Sincerely,

**NASHUA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**



Jay Minkarah, Executive Director

cc: Linda Dusenberry – NHDOT, William Rose – NHDOT, Leigh Levine – FHWA, Leah Sirmin – FTA

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following comments were received at the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee meeting of December 8, 2021:

**Nashua (41742) Heritage Rail Trail East** – The Nashua Long-Range Planner stated a need to discuss the proposed one-year construction delay with the City’s consulting engineers before concurring with the amendment. A follow-up communication confirmed that the FY 2023 construction date is acceptable to the City.

**Milford CMAQ Projects (42883) and (42887)** – The Milford Town Planner, expressed concern over the postponement of construction for the two Milford CMAC projects to FY 2028. He inquired whether NHDOT would be amenable to advancing the construction date prior to 2028 should the Town be prepared to move ahead with that phase. Subsequent to the TTAC meeting, a GACIT meeting was held at NHDOT, attended via webinar by NRPC, in which the removal of both CMAQ projects was proposed, citing the Town’s inability to secure the required local funding for the project. GACIT endorsed all project changes in the TYP. NRPC will endeavor to resolve this issue to the satisfaction of the Town. The short term action to amend the project in the STIP does not facilitate pending action to remove the project from the TYP and, therefore, NRPC did not propose objecting to the amendment, which merely shifts the construction period for the project.

The following comments were received at the TIP Amendment 3 Public Hearing of December 15, 2021:

**Pelham (41751) NH 128 Intersections** – A Pelham Commissioner noted that Pelham is the only community within the NRPC that lies within the Boston Urbanized Area, which contributes to the pool of funds available for sub-allocation to the MPO for highway projects. (NRPC note: only \$126k per year is sub-allocated via the Boston UZA to the Nashua MPO, compared with \$2.47 million via the Nashua UZA). NRPC noted that the allocations are to the entire MPO area, not to the specific areas which lie within the UZAs). The NHDOT noted that the total biennial allocation to the MPO exceeds the sub-allocation prescribed by agreed upon formula between the NHDOT and MPOs. NHDOT also noted that the project delay results not from lack of funding but due to state project readiness (project design in consultation with the Town).

**Milford CMAQ Projects (42883) and (42887)** – A Milford Commissioner noted that the Board of Selectmen did not seek warrant articles for local match in 2021 and will not again in 2022 (3-2 vote against). Petition warrant articles for both projects failed in 2021 but will be put forward again in 2022, at least for the Osgood St project. Milford appears to concede that the Nashua St. project is now removed from further consideration for local funding.