

Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission FY 2010 Transportation Project Priorities

The Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission (the RPC) has been evaluating and prioritizing transportation projects in the Region for more than 13 years based on an established evaluation process. This evaluation process was developed by staff with the assistance of the regional Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC). The intent of the evaluation process is to determine how well projects correspond with the priorities established in the Regional Transportation Plan.

This is the fourth year the RPC prioritized projects in response to methodologies outlined in state transportation bills and further detailed in guidance from VTrans. The legislation requires the Agency of Transportation (VTrans) to develop a project prioritization system to serve as a basis for the annual transportation capital programming process. The legislation also includes a requirement for VTrans to use RPC priorities as a criterion in the state prioritization system. The process used by the RPC includes the following criteria in evaluating programmed transportation projects:

- **Impact on Congestion & Mobility** – The impact on congestion and mobility are indicated by a LOW or HIGH. This determination is based on consideration of the identified problem and if the proposed solution will likely reduce congestion or improve mobility.
- **Alternative Routes** – Alternative routes are indicated by a YES or NO. A YES indicates that an alternative route is available to maintain a flow of traffic in the event the bridge or roadway section is closed or restricted.
- **Importance for Economy** – Importance for the economy is indicated by a LOW or HIGH. HIGH indicates that the bridge or highway segment serves a vital importance in the linkage of the local, regional or state economy. LOW would indicate a lesser importance. Factors considered for this criterion include location relative to the state truck network, National Highway System, regional economic development plans, local zoning bylaws, town plan objectives, etc.
- **Social / Cultural Importance** – The functional importance the highway segment or bridge in the social and cultural life of the surrounding communities is indicated by a YES or NO. YES indicates significant social or cultural importance, which might be based on historical resources, recreational opportunities, access to civic facilities, environmental considerations, etc.
- **Conformance with Local & Regional Plans** – The conformance with local and regional plans is indicated with a YES or NO. All projects were consistent with policies established in local and regional plans.
- **Local Support** – Local support was determined through consultation with town managers, selectboards, TAC representatives and the general public.

The following additional criteria are only used to determine priorities if two projects are tied:

- **Sufficiency Ratings** – Roadway and bridge sufficiency ratings have been used by the RPC for years to understand the relative condition of each roadway section or bridge, with particular attention to the worst conditions. The most recent available ratings information from VTrans may be used as needed. For bridges, additional information including condition assessments of the decking, superstructure and substructure were also noted.
- **AADT** – Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) figures may be used as needed to estimate the traffic levels at each location, with particular emphasis on the most heavily traveled areas. The most recent data from VTrans or the RPC are used.
- **High Crash Location** – High Crash Locations (HCL) are indicated by a YES or NO. Particular emphasis is given to areas of significant safety concern. Recent and historic crash data from VTrans were used.

Comments are also listed with each project on the attached spreadsheet. They consist of additional information gathered to help evaluate projects and/or documenting input collected during the consultative process. RPC staff contacted all town managers or other town representatives to get input into the regional evaluation process, to determine local support and to re-evaluate last years' priorities.

The TAC meet on March 4, 2009 to determine priorities based on the above criteria, goals and policies of the Regional Transportation Plan, and local knowledge. The Board of Commissioners for the southern Windsor County region accepted the TAC priorities at their March 17, 2009 meeting.

**Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission
Project Prioritization for FY 2010
March 19, 2009**

PIN	FY 2009 PRIORITY	PROJECT NAME	PROJECT NUMBER	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	CAPITAL PROGRAM	COMMENTS
Paving						
06B224	1	ROCKINGHAM-CHESTER	NH 2628(1)	RESURFACE VT103 IN ROCKINGHAM AND CHESTER, BEGINNING AT US5 AND EXTENDING NORTHERLY 9.356 MILES.	FRONT OF BOOK	
06C054	2	CHESTER-SPRINGFIELD	STP 2616()	RESURFACE VT11 IN CHESTER AND SPRINGFIELD, BEGINNING 0.09 MILE EAST OF THE VT103 INTERSECTION AND EXTENDING EASTERLY 6.659 MILES.	FRONT OF BOOK	OPERATION SMOOTH RIDE RESURFACED A SHORT SECTION LAST YEAR IN CHESTER; GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDED BUDGET INDICATES THAT "PROJECT SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE"
07C164	3	WEATHERSFIELD	STP 2711()	RESURFACE VT 106 BEGINNING 2.347 MILES NORTH OF THE SPRINGFIELD-WEATHERSFIELD T/L AND EXTENSING NORTHERLY 1.958 MILES TO THE JUNCTION OF VT 106 & VT 131	FRONT OF BOOK	
08A150	N/A	ROCKINGHAM-CHESTER	IM SURF(10)	RESURFACE I-91 IN ROCKINGHAM AND SPRINGFIELD, BEGINNING APPROX. 0.36 MILE NORTH OF EXIT 6 AND EXTENDING NORTHERLY 11.030 MILES IN THE SOUTHBOUND LANE ONLY		TAC FEELS THAT VAOT SHOULD PRIORITIZE INTERSTATE BRIDGE PROJECTS
01A014	N/A	WESTMINSTER-SPRINGFIELD	IM 091-1()	PROJECT IS FOR RESURFACING I-91 IN WESTMINSTER, ROCKINGHAM AND SPRINGFIELD, BEGINNING AT MM 30.00 AND EXTENDING NORTHERLY 15.00 MILES.	FRONT OF BOOK	TAC FEELS THAT VAOT SHOULD PRIORITIZE INTERSTATE BRIDGE PROJECTS
07A142	N/A	WINDSOR-HARTLAND	IM 091-1()	RESURFACE I-91 BEGINNING AT MM 57.39 AND EXTENDING NORTHERLY 8.8 MILES (NB & SB LANES)	CANDIDATE	TAC FEELS THAT VAOT SHOULD PRIORITIZE INTERSTATE BRIDGE PROJECTS
Roadway						
04E080	1	CAVENDISH-LUDLOW	NH F 025-1(30)	SMITHVILLE PROJECT - RECONSTRUCTION OF VT 103 IN CAVENDISH AND LUDLOW, BEGINNING 0.896 MILE NORTH OF THE VT131 INTERSECTION AND EXTENDING NORTHERLY 1.131 MILES, INCLUDING THE REPLACEMENT OF BRIDGE NOS. 23 AND 24.	D & E	HIGH PRIORITY FOR MANY YEARS, ADD SHOULDERS, TARGETED FOR IMPROVEMENT IN REGIONAL WALKING AND BICYCLING PLAN, CONSIDERATION OF REDUCED SHOULDER WIDTHS TO KEEP PROJECT COSTS LOWER
84B024	2	SPRINGFIELD	STP 0136(1)	PROJECT IS FOR REHABILITATION OF TH3 ("VT143") IN SPRINGFIELD, BEGINNING AT THE VT11 INTERSECTION AND EXTENDING NORTHEASTERLY 4.35 MILES TO US5.	FRONT OF BOOK	PROJECT IS A CONDITION OF STATE PRISON DECISION; ROADWAY IN POOR CONDITION, TARGETED FOR IMPROVEMENT IN REGIONAL WALKING AND BICYCLING PLAN, TOWN TO REPAVE SUMMER STREET SECTION THRU CLASS 2 ROADWAY PROGRAM
02C084	3	WEATHERSFIELD	PLH TSDP(1)	ROADWAY REHABILITATION, INCLUDING GUARDRAIL REPLACEMENT AND RESURFACING, ON TH6 (STOUGHTON POND RD.), WHICH CROSSES THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS FLOOD CONTROL DAM IN WEATHERSFIELD.	FRONT OF BOOK	GUARDRAILS REPLACED; TOWN RECEIVED ADDITIONAL PLH FUNDS TO COMPLETE ROADWAY RECONSTRUCTION
97C010	4	CAVENDISH	STP 0146(9)SC	PROJECT IS FOR A SCOPING STUDY TO DETERMINE IMPROVEMENTS TO VT131 IN CAVENDISH, BEGINNING 3.800 MILES EAST OF THE VT103/VT131 INTERSECTION AND EXTENDING EASTERLY 0.500 MILE (CHUBB HILL RD LEDGES AREA).	CANDIDATE	DIFFICULT SOLUTION TO LEDGE PROBLEM / IMPACT ON CHUBB HILL ROAD

State Bridge						
88B194	1	CHESTER	BRF 016-1(25)	REPLACEMENT OF BR43 ON VT 11 OVER THE MIDDLE BRANCH OF THE WILLIAMS RIVER IN THE TOWN OF CHESTER.	FRONT OF BOOK	FORMER DTA INDICATED BRIDGE IN BAD CONDITION, TOWN WAS NOT AWARE OF THIS AS A PROBLEM, SERIOUS DECK, POOR SUPERSTRUCTURE & SUBSTRUCTURE
84E061	2	CHESTER	BRF 025-1(28)S	REPLACEMENT OF BR8 ON VT 103 OVER POPPLE DUNGEON BROOK IN THE TOWN OF CHESTER.	FRONT OF BOOK	NARROW BRIDGE; TRAFFIC OPERATIONS & BIKE/PED SAFETY CONCERN; POOR DECK & SUPERSTRUCTURE
95B168	3	CHESTER	BRF 025-1(37)SC	PROJECT SCOPING FOR REPLACEMENT OF BR9 ON VT103 IN THE TOWN OF CHESTER (BENNY SUNOCO BRIDGE).	FRONT OF BOOK	SERIOUS DECK; TARGETED FOR IMPROVEMENT IN REGIONAL WALKING AND BICYCLING PLAN; CURVE AND GUARDRAILS OBSTRUCT VIEW
00B258	4	LUDLOW	ST CULV(7)	REPLACEMENT OF BR98F (CULVERT BY BROOKS ROAD) ON VT100 IN LUDLOW.	FRONT OF BOOK	SERIOUS CONDITION; NO LOCAL KNOWLEDGE OF PROBLEM AT THIS LOCATION
00B256	5	LUDLOW	STP 013-3()S	REPLACEMENT OF BR102 (CULVERT BY PLYMOUTH T/L) ON VT100 IN LUDLOW.	CANDIDATE	POOR CONDITION; NO LOCAL KNOWLEDGE OF PROBLEM AT THIS LOCATION
00C268	6	WEATHERSFIELD	STP 0146()S	REPLACEMENT OF BR11B (CULVERT EAST OF HENRY GOULD ROAD) ON VT131 IN WEATHERSFIELD.	CANDIDATE	POOR CONDITION; NO LOCAL KNOWLEDGE OF PROBLEM AT THIS LOCATION
00C266	7	WEATHERSFIELD	STP 0146()S	REPLACEMENT OF BR15 (CULVERT WEST OF JARVIS ROAD) ON VT131 IN WEATHERSFIELD.	CANDIDATE	FAIR CONDITION; NO LOCAL KNOWLEDGE OF PROBLEM AT THIS LOCATION
Town Highway Bridge						
95J282	1	SPRINGFIELD	BRO 1442(26)	PROJECT IS FOR REPLACEMENT OF HARRY HILLS BRIDGE (BR57) ON MAIN STREET (TH6) IN NORTH SPRINGFIELD, OVER GREAT BROOK.	D & E	BRIDGE POSTED; POOR SUPERSTRUCTURE; REHAB; 80/15/5% FUNDING SPLIT
06J004	2	SPRINGFIELD	BHF 016-2(14)	COMMUNITY CENTER BRIDGE (BR64) ON MAIN STREET (VT 11) OVER BLACK RIVER IN SPRINGFIELD.	FRONT OF BOOK	EARMARK; CONTINUATION OF TCSE(006); SERIOUS DECKING
98J280	3	CHESTER	BRO 1442(31)	PROJECT IS FOR REPLACEMENT OF BR63 ON FLAMSTEAD ROAD (TH9) IN CHESTER, OVER THE WILLIAMS RIVER.	CANDIDATE	EARMARK; TOWN REPLACED BRIDGE LAST YEAR; TOWN ASKED VTRANS TO ELIMINATE THIS PROJECT
Bike and Pedestrian Facilities						
00F276	1	LUDLOW	STP BIKE(44)	CONSTRUCTION OF A BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN PATH IN LUDLOW VILLAGE, BEGINNING AT THE FLETCHER FIELDS RECREATION AREA AND EXTENDING NORTHWESTERLY ALONG THE BLACK RIVER APPROX. 2.9 KILOMETERS TO BLACK RIVER UNION HIGH SCHOOL.	D & E	COMBINED W/ STP WALK()
05F252	1	LUDLOW	ST WALK()	PROJECT IS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF AN ADAPTIVE RE-USE HISTORIC TRUSS BRIDGE ON THE LUDLOW STP BIKE(44) PROJECT, OVER THE BLACK RIVER.	D & E	COMBINED WITH STP BIKE(44)
Park-and-Ride Facilities						
n/a	1	SPRINGFIELD	n/a	BUY ADDITIONAL LAND & IMPROVE THE EXISTING NEW PARK AND RIDE LOT	n/a	PAVE AND STRIPE NEW TEMPORARY SURFACE; PROVIDE AMENITIES

NOTES:
 PRIORITIES WERE ACCEPTED BY THE SWCRPC BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AT THEIR MARCH 17, 2009 MEETING
 NUMBERED PRIORITIES WERE DETERMINED BY THE SOUTHERN WINDSOR COUNTY TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MARCH 4, 2009
 PROJECT PRIORITIES WERE ESTABLISHED BASED ON GUIDANCE FROM VTRANS AND CONSISTENT WITH A REQUEST FROM THE STATE LEGISLATURE
 CRITERIA USED IN EVALUATING TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS ARE DETAILED IN THE ATTACHED SUMMARY
 CAPITAL PROGRAM PROJECT STATUS IS BASED ON INFORMATION FROM VTRANS

ABBREVIATIONS:
 FOB = FRONT OF BOOK
 PLH = EARMARK PROJECT THROUGH THE PUBLIC LANDS HIGHWAYS PROGRAM
 D & E = DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION
 PE = PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING
 ROW = RIGHT-OF-WAY
 CONST = CONSTRUCTION