

# Southern Windsor County RPC Transportation Project Priorities Methodology

January 2019



The Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission (the RPC) has been evaluating and prioritizing transportation projects in the Region for more than 20 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.

In 2005, the state Transportation Bill (H.523) was passed requiring the Agency of Transportation (VTrans) to develop a project prioritization system to serve as a basis for the annual transportation capital programming process. This legislation included a requirement for VTrans to use RPC priorities as a criterion in the state prioritization system. The RPC modified the previously established regional project evaluation process based on VTrans guidance, and established regional priorities in the summer of 2005 for the FY 2007 capital programming process. The RPC has continued to prioritize projects annually in response to both Legislation and VTrans guidance ever since.

## Criteria for Prioritizing Programmed Transportation Projects

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 National Highway System, regional economic development plans, local zoning bylaws, town plan objectives, etc.
- **Social / Cultural Importance** – The functional importance of 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.
- **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.

#### Criteria for Prioritizing Town Highway Bridge Pre-Candidate Needs

In autumn of 2009, the RPC was asked by VTrans to help to identify and prioritize “pre-candidate” projects for the Town Highway Bridge Program. Following VTrans guidance, the RPC worked with the TAC, town highway departments and other town officials to develop a list of the top pre-candidate town bridge projects. Criteria used to evaluate Town Highway Bridge “pre-candidate” needs are similar to the above criteria, with a few modifications:

- **Structure Condition** – Based on VTrans’ most recently provided bridge inspection data, including the following sub-criteria:
  - **Deck Rating**
  - **Superstructure Rating**
  - **Substructure Rating**
  - **Culvert Rating**
- **AADT** – See above
- **High Crash Location** – See above
- **Impact on Congestion & Mobility** – See above
- **Alternative Routes** – Based on two sub-criteria:
  - **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.
  - **Detour Length** is indicated in miles, based on data from VTrans.
- **Importance for Economy** – See above
- **Social / Cultural Importance** – See above
- **Conformance with Local & Regional Plans** – See above
- **Local Support** – See above

Town Highway Bridge “pre-candidate” needs are then added to the overall project prioritization list as a separate category.

#### Local and Regional Comments

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.

#### Determining priorities – TAC and RPC Board

The TAC then meets to determine priorities based on the above criteria, goals and policies of the Regional Transportation Plan, and local knowledge. Then, the RPC Board of Commissioners accepts the TAC priorities based on the TAC’s recommendations.

# Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission

## Project Prioritization for FY 2021

Prioritized by TAC and ratified by RPC Board

Notes: Project timeline - Candidate > D&E > Front of Book

D&E =Development and Evaluation  
 FOB = Front of Book

2019 RPC RANK	VTrans Rank	PROJECT TIMELINE	TOWN	PROJECT NUMBER	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	RPC/ TOWN/ VTRANS DISTRICT COMMENTS
---------------	-------------	------------------	------	----------------	---------------------	-------------------------------------

### PAVING

1	Unk.	FRONT OF BOOK	CAVENDISH-WEATHERSFIELD	ER STP 0146(14)	REHABILITATION OF VT131 IN CAVENDISH AND WEATHERSFIELD, BEGINNING AT THE VT103 INTERSECTION AND EXTENDING EASTERLY 8.974 MILES TO THE VT106 INTERSECTION. INCLUDES IMPROVEMENTS TO AREAS THAT SUSTAINED SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE AS A RESULT OF TROPICAL STORM IRENE.	(2/7/2019) Cavendish town manager indicates this is a high priority project for the town and desperately needed. Construction Projected: FY21 & FY22
2	Unk.	FRONT OF BOOK	LONDONDERRY-CHESTER	STP PS19(10)	Reclamation of VT 11 starting in Londonderry at MM 1.952 and continuing to Chester MM 4.373. This project spans VT 11 from N Main in Londonderry at about the Hells Peak St intersection (Soddard's Restaurant) with VT 11/N Main to North Chester at the intersection of VT 11 and Lovers Lane (about 1,500 FT west of St. Josphs Church)	(2/7/2019) This project includes Roadway Project ER STP 016-1(30) Londonderry - Chester. Construction Projected: FY 20, FY 21, and FY 22
3	Unk.	FRONT OF BOOK	SPRINGFIELD	STP PS19(5)	Resurfacing on VT 106 in Springfield from MM 0.058 to MM 3.283. Begins where VT 10 transitions into VT 106 (where Precision Valley Baptist Church and the cemetery are) and ends at the Springfield Shopping Plaza. (3.6 miles)	(2/7/2019) Town of Springfield notes this is their priority number 1. Construction Projected: FY 20 & FY 21
4	Unk.	FRONT OF BOOK	CHESTER-SPRINGFIELD	STP 2942(1)	RESURFACE VT10 IN CHESTER AND SPRINGFIELD, BEGINNING AT THE VT103 INTERSECTION AND EXTENDING EASTERLY 4.373 MILES TO THE VT106 INTERSECTION.	(2/7/2019) Town of Springfield has ranked this as their priority #3. Construction Projected: FY 20 & FY 21
5	Unk.	FRONT OF BOOK	CHESTER-SPRINGFIELD	STP PS19(4)	Resurfacing of VT 11 beginning in Chester at MM 5.206 and continuing until Springfield MM 3.528. This project spans VT 11 from VT 103 into Springfield, ending about 100 FT west of Park St on VT 11.	(2/7/2019) Town of Springfield has ranked this as their priority #2. Construction Projected: FY 20 & FY 21

### STATE HIGHWAY BRIDGES

1	11 out of 29	D & E	CHESTER	BF 025-1(45)	SCOPING TO EVALUATE ALTERNATIVES FOR BRIDGE NO. 14 ON VT103 IN CHESTER, OVER THE WILLIAMS RIVER AND THE GREEN MOUNTAIN RAILROAD. Bridge 14 is about 1,500 ft	(2/7/2019) Town did not give an opinion.
2	11 out of 31	D&E	CHESTER	BF 025-1(46)	SCOPING TO EVALUATE ALTERNATIVES FOR BR16 ON VT-103 IN CHESTER OVER WILLIAMS RIVER (near Smokeshire).	(2/7/2019) Town did not give an opinion.

2019 RPC RANK	VTrans Rank	PROJECT TIMELINE	TOWN	PROJECT NUMBER	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	RPC/ TOWN/ VTRANS DISTRICT COMMENTS
---------------	-------------	------------------	------	----------------	---------------------	-------------------------------------

**ROADWAY PROJECTS**

1	35 out of 54	FRONT OF BOOK	SPRINGFIELD	STP CULV(47)	REPLACEMENT OF BRIDGE NOS. 48A AND 48B (CULVERTS) ON US5 IN SPRINGFIELD. This project site is located about 1,000 FT north of the intersection of Skitchewaugh Trail and VT 5. (about 1,500 FT south of the Weathersfield / Springfield border).	(2/7/2019) Town did not give an opinion. Construction Projected: FY 21 & FY 22
Not Ranked	Not Listed	D & E	CAVENDISH-LUDLOW	NH F 025-1(30)	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.	(2/7/2019) Currently on hold. Not one of the upmost priorities right now -Town of Cavendish. Will keep on list.
Not Ranked	Not Listed	Front Of Book	LUDLOW-BRIDGewater	ER STP 013-3(9)	REHABILITATION/IMPROVEMENTS TO VT100 IN LUDLOW, PLYMOUTH AND BRIDGEwater, BEGINNING APPROX. AT THE VT103/VT100 INTERSECTION AND EXTENDING NORTHERLY 14.073 MILES TO THE US4/VT100 INTERSECTION, AS A RESULT OF DAMAGE SUSTAINED DURING TROPICAL STORM IRENE.	(2/7/2019) Currently on hold. Town noted that RT 100 in N Ludlow received a skim coat during summer of 2018.
Not Ranked	Not Listed	Front Of Book	LONDONDERRY-CHESTER	ER STP 016-1(30)	IMPROVEMENTS TO VT11 IN LONDONDERRY, ANDOVER AND CHESTER, BEGINNING APPROX. AT THE VT11/VT100 NORTH INTERSECTION AND EXTENDING EASTERLY 13.22 MILES, AS A RESULT OF DAMAGE SUSTAINED DURING TROPICAL STORM IRENE.	(2/7/2019) This project is included within Paving Project STP PS19(10)

**SAFETY & TRAFFIC OPERATIONS**

1	Unk.	FRONT OF BOOK	SPRINGFIELD	STP 016-2(23)	Project is for improvements to the intersection of US Route 5 & VT Route 11 and US Route 5 & Interstate 89 SB off ramp in the Town of Springfield.	Construction projected for FY 19 & FY 20
---	------	---------------	-------------	---------------	--	--

2019 RPC RANK	VTrans Rank	PROJECT TIMELINE	TOWN	PROJECT NUMBER	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	RPC/ TOWN/ VTRANS DISTRICT COMMENTS
---------------	-------------	------------------	------	----------------	---------------------	-------------------------------------

**TOWN HIGHWAY BRIDGES**

1	25 out of 50	CANDIDATE	SPRINGFIELD	BF 2500( )	SCOPING TO EVALUATE ALTERNATIVES FOR BRIDGE NO. 62 (McDs) ON VT11 (River St) IN SPRINGFIELD, OVER THE BLACK RIVER. The bridge is on the northwest border of the Springfield Shopping Plaza.	(2/7/2019) Bridge 62, the "McDonald's" bridge, is considered the number one TH bridge priority by the town. Very high traffic volume and vital connection for traffic through town.
2	28 out of 50	D & E	CHESTER	BO 1442(39)	SCOPING TO EVALUATE ALTERNATIVES FOR BRIDGE NO. 62 ON TH18 (Thompson Rd) IN CHESTER, OVER THE WILLIAMS RIVER.	(2/7/2019) Bridge 62 on Thompson Road is a very high priority for the town. The project is in the scoping phase at this point. Chester is trying to work with VTrans to relocate the Thompson Bridge and is considering the removal of Bridge 28 on Palmer Road as well as the Jewett Road Bridge.
3	7 out of 50	D&E (was Candidate)	ANDOVER	BF 0132(14)	Replace Bridge No. 9 on FAS-0132 in Andover over the Trout Brook. Bridge is on Andover Rd, About 3,000 FT east of the intersection of Andover Rd and N Hill Rd (Bridge is about 2,500 FT west of Horseshoe Acres Campground)	2/13/2018 (Road Foreman) and 2/9/2018 (Road Commissioner and Town Clerk). Approaches fixed a few years ago but problem recurring (big bumps on both approaches to bridge). Will need replacement in a few years. At the moment they are just doing patches to keep it going. Retaining wall adjacent to abutments is collapsing and causing issues.
4	32 out of 50	NEW FOR 2019	LUDLOW VILLAGE	NH DECK(49)	DECK REPLACEMENT OF BRIDGE NO. 26 OVER JEWELL BROOK ON VT-103 IN LUDLOW VILLAGE. Ludlow Village at the intersection of VT 103 / Main St and Andover St.	(2/7/2019) #1 priority for the town. The deck is in bad condition. In december the town reported a hole in the deck that went all the way through. The area beneath the bridge was visible through this hole.
5	33 out of 50	CANDIDATE	NORTH SPRINGFIELD	BO 1442( )	SCOPING TO EVALUATE ALTERNATIVES FOR BRIDGE NO. 56 (Willard) ON TH6 (Main St North Springfield) IN SPRINGFIELD, OVER GREAT BROOK. Bridge is on Main St about 1,500 FT east of the intersection of Main and Gassetts Rd (Vt 10).	(2/7/2019) The town noted that Bridge 56 is a lower priority when compared with Bridge 62. Town says bridge is in decent shape. Town is interested in making truck access improvements into the industrial park via Bridge 56.
6	29 out of 50	D & E	LUDLOW VILLAGE	BO 1443(52)	SCOPING TO EVALUATE ALTERNATIVES FOR BRIDGE NO. 57 ON TH324 (Mill St) IN LUDLOW VILLAGE, OVER THE BLACK RIVER. The bridge is about 50 FT north of the Pleasant St and Mill St intersection. The bridge is about .5 mile from the Pettigrew Inn on Pleasant St.	(2/7/2019) Receives a lot of ped use because of school. Town will try to address its aesthetics this spring. Locals would like to open it up again for vehicles.
Remove	26 out of 50	D&E (was Candidate)	NORTH SPRINGFIELD	BO 1442(40)	SCOPING TO EVALUATE ALTERNATIVES FOR BR82 ON TH-712 (County Rd) IN SPRINGFIELD OVER THE GREAT BROOK	2/7/2018 (Town Manager, Public Works Director and Road Foreman). Town wants this removed. Town completed work fall 2017.

Notes:  
 Priorities determined by the SWCTAC at the February 27, 2019 meeting.  
 Priorities ratified by the SWCRPC Board at the March 25, 2019 meeting.  
 Project prioritization follows guidance from the Legislature and VTrans.  
 "PC" - Before 2015 SWCRPC prioritized "Candidate" bridges with the Pre-candidates. From 2015 onwards they have been prioritized with the FOB and D&E projects.

**Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission**  
**Prioritization of Pre-Candidate Town Highway Bridge Projects in 2019**

Prioritized by TAC and ratified by RPC Board

2019 RPC Rank	VTrans Rank	VTrans Rank including last year RPC rank	Town	Bridge Number	Road Name	Location	Features Intersected	RPC/ Town Comments
1	443	85	Windsor	Br. 55	Main St (US-5)	0.1 MI S JCT. VT.44	Mill Brook	(2/19/2019) Town has identified this as their priority pre-candidate. The bridge was given a cursory inspection after Irene. While it was not determined that repairs were required as a result of the storm the retaining wall, apparently owned by the American Precision Museum just upstream (and attached to the bridge) suffered considerable damage. The end result is that the bridge is in marginally worse condition, the retaining wall is in poor condition. The bridge also has historic significance.
2	801	128	Springfield	Br. 79	Park Street	Near Main Street	Black River	(2/7/2019) A new deck is needed. Town believes under structure is fine.
3	510	120	Windsor	Br. 23	Brook Road	At intersection with Hewitt Rd	Mill Brook	(2/19/2019) Town identifies this as an important connection for that part of town, particularly in poor weather. Alternative routes involve hilly dirt roads.
4	474	134	Chester	Br. 74	Blue Hill Rd	0.1 mi to Jct with VT11	Williams River	(2/12/2019) Concrete deck is failing. At a minimum the bridge will need a new deck. Rebar can be seen due to concrete falling off. Will need attention within a few years. Town thinks abutments are in good shape. A few dozen houses are served on the other side.
5	529	159	Weathersfield	Br. 63	Ascutney Basin Road	0.02 mi to Jct with VT106	Black River	(2/8/2019) Rebar is exposed, needs to be fixed (preventative maintenance). What is the schedule for the next bridge inspection? Longer-term, it needs more extensive work. It is an important bridge, as there is no other way to get logging trucks, fuel deliveries, etc. in to that part of town due to covered bridge restrictions coming in from the West Windsor side.
6	669	279	Windsor	Br. 27	Johnson Rd	At intersection with County Rd	Mill Brook	(2/19/2019) Town says this bridge serves only a few homes. The bridge is weight restricted and a home heating oil company refused to deliver to a home due to the condition. Another oil company is delivering now to that same home.
7	651	374	Weathersfield	CB 83	Henry Gould Rd	0.15 mi to Jct with VT131	Brook	(2/8/2019) Salmon Covered Bridge. Porcupine damage to wood. Preventative measures to keep porcupines away are not lasting. Need to replace damaged timbers and do something else to repel porcupines.
Remove	233	272	Ludlow	Br. 12	Rod and Gun Club Rd	0.01 mi to Jct with Buttermilk Falls Rd	Branch Brook	(2/7/2019) The town would like Bridge 12 removed from the pre-candidate list.

The following towns did not have any bridges for the pre-candidate list this year - Andover, Baltimore (no bridges in town), Cavendish, Reading, and West Windsor.

Priorities determined by the SWCTAC at the February 27, 2019 meeting.

Priorities ratified by the SWCRPC Board at the March 25, 2019 meeting.

Project prioritization follows guidance from the Legislature and VTrans.