

Southern Windsor County RPC Transportation Project Priorities Methodology

FY2022

March 2020



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 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.
- **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 first asked by VTrans to help to identify and prioritize “pre-candidate” projects for the Town Highway Bridge Program. This year, the RPC followed VTrans Guidance and worked with the TAC, town highway departments and other town officials to develop a list of the top 10 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 RPC

Regional Project Prioritization - FY22 Capital Program Transportation Projects

REPORTING FORMAT	2019 Ranking	2020 Ranking	PROJECT NAME	PROJECT NUMBER	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	Priority Within Program	Status in FY21 Gov.'s Rec.
<u>Paving</u>							
Front Of Book	3	1	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)	1 out of 46	2022 Const.
Front Of Book	4	2	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.	21 out of 46	2022 Const.
Front Of Book	5	3	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.	31 out of 46	2022 Const.
<u>Roadway</u>							
Front Of Book	1	1	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 Skitchewaug Trail and VT 5. (about 1,500 FT south of the Weathersfield / Springfield border).	17 out of 54	2022 Const.
<u>State Bridge</u>							
D & E	2	1	CHESTER	BF 025-1(46)	Scoping to evaluate alternatives for bridge no. 16 on VT-103 in Chester over Williams River. Bridge 16 is about 300 ft south of Smokeshire Rd and the VT 103 intersection.	2 out of 28	2021 PE
D & E	1	2	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 south of the Gassetts Rd and VT 103 intersection.	11 out of 28	2021 PE
Front Of Book	new	3	WEATHERSFIELD	BM20201	Bridge maintenance project to membrane and pave and replace joint and trough on Bridge 8 located on VT-106 in Weathersfield.		
<u>Town Bridge</u>							
Candidate	1	1	SPRINGFIELD	BF 2500()	SCOPING TO EVALUATE ALTERNATIVES FOR BRIDGE NO. 62 ON VT11 (RIVER ST.) IN SPRINGFIELD, OVER THE BLACK RIVER. Bridge 62 is on Chester Rd (VT 11). The bridge is on the northwest border of the Springfield Shopping Plaza.	22 out of 49	2021 Scoping

Front Of Book	3	2	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)	1 out of 49	2024 Const.
Front Of Book	4	3	LUDLOW VILLAGE	NH DECK(49)	DECK REPLACEMENT OF VAIL BRIDGE (BR 26) OVER JEWELL BROOK ON VT-103 IN LUDLOW VILLAGE. Ludlow Village at the intersection of VT 103 / Main St and Andover St.	15 out of 49	2023 Const.
D & E	2	4	CHESTER	BO 1442(39)	SCOPING TO EVALUATE ALTERNATIVES FOR BRIDGE NO. 62 ON TH18 (Thompson Rd) IN CHESTER, OVER THE WILLIAMS RIVER. The bridge is at the intersection of Thompson Rd and VT 103, about 1.5 miles south of the VT 103 and VT 10 intersection.	21 out of 49	2021 PE
D & E	6	5	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.	32 out of 49	2021 PE
Candidate	5	6	SPRINGFIELD	BO 1442()	SCOPING TO EVALUATE ALTERNATIVES FOR BRIDGE NO. 56 ON TH6 IN SPRINGFIELD, OVERGREAT BROOK. Bridge is on Main St about 1,500 FT east of the intersection of Main and Gassetts Rd (Vt 10).	33 out of 49	2021 Scoping

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Regional Pre-Candidate Projects for FY22 Town Highway Bridge Program

2020 RPC Rank	Initial VTrans Rank	2019 RPC Rank	Revised VTrans Rank	Town	Bridge Number	Road Name	Location	Feature Crossed	RPC/ Town Comments
1	620	1	75	Windsor	Br. 55	Main St (US-5)	0.1 MI S JCT. VT.44	Mill Brook	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	1295	2	119	Springfield	Br. 79	Park Street	Near Main Street	Black River	A new deck is needed. Town believes under structure is fine. Near ongoing Woolson Block construction activity.
3	543	4	99	Chester	Br. 74	Blue Hill Rd	0.1 mi to Jct with VT11	Williams River	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. Town's #1 priority.
4	195	new	233	Springfield	Br. 65	Clinton St (VT 11)	West of Seavers Brook Rd	Seavers Brooks	Town says probably nothing has been done to this structure since the road was built.
5	74	new	143	Chester	Br. 6	Route 35/Grafton Rd	Just south of Quarry Rd	South Branch Williams River	Deck is in poor condition, busy roadway. Town's #2 priority.
6	100	new	163	Chester	Br. 52	Popple Dungeon Rd	Beyond (south) of Nudist Camp Rd	South Branch Williams River	Superstructure is in poor condition. Town's #3 priority.
7	401	5	106	Weathersfield	Br. 63	Ascutney Basin Road	0.02 mi to Jct with VT106	Black River	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.
8	654	6	156	Windsor	Br. 27	Johnson Rd	At intersection with County Rd	Mill Brook	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.
9	861	7	220	Weathersfield	CB 83	Henry Gould Rd	0.15 mi to Jct with VT131	Brook	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.
10	569	3	91	Windsor	Br. 23	Brook Road	At intersection with Hewitt Rd	Mill Brook	Town identifies this as an important connection for that part of town, particularly in poor weather. Alternative routes involve hilly dirt roads.
11	243	new	273	Cavendish	Br. 44	Carlton Rd	Just south of VT 131	Black River	Damaged during Irene, but still needs work.