



Date: March 15th, 2021

To: UVLSRPC Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

From: Alex Belenz, Planner

Re: Update on UVLSRPC Ten-Year Plan Project Review and Prioritization Process

Summary of FY 2023-2032 Ten-Year Plan Process To-Date

Steps that have been completed are *italicized*:

1. *Municipal Letters of Intent (April – June 2020)*
2. *Final proposals from UVLSRPC municipalities (August 2020)*
3. *Staff review (August 2020)*
4. *Scoring Committee prepares initial project rankings (September 2020)*
5. *TAC review of initial project rankings (October 2020)*
6. *Cost estimation with on-call engineer (October 2020)*
7. *NHDOT review and proposal revision as-needed (November 2020 – February 2021)*
8. Finalization of regional project rankings, submission to NHDOT (March 2021)
9. NHDOT prepares draft Ten-Year Plan (spring 2021)
10. GACIT process and public hearings (summer/fall 2021)
11. Legislative process/adoption (winter/spring 2022)

Recap of Preliminary UVLSRPC Region Project Rankings

In fall 2020, the UVLSRPC TAC approved a set of preliminary rankings of projects proposed for the Ten-Year Plan by communities in the UVLSRPC region. The TAC's recommendation was based a set of statewide criteria¹ and input from an ad-hoc scoring committee² consisting of TAC members and UVLSRPC staff. Per NHDOT guidance, the top four projects were sent to NHDOT for review and further consideration for inclusion in the FY 2023-2032 Ten-Year Plan.

Prelim. Rank	Project Location and Description	Score (out of 100)
1	Claremont – Main St Phase I. Roadway reconstruction, stormwater improvements, and new multi-use path along NH 103/12/Main St between Citizens St and Westside Ave.	65.4
2	Claremont – Main St Phase II. Roadway reconstruction, stormwater improvements, streetscape/sidewalk improvements along NH 103/12/Main St between Westside Ave and Elm St.	56.8
3	Canaan – Intersection/safety improvements along US Route 4 from Potato Rd to Roberts Rd.	43.9
4	Canaan – Upgrade two dilapidated bridge trestles on the Northern Rail Trail to address poor condition and improve flood resiliency in Canaan Village.	34.7
5	Enfield – Address aging retaining wall along US Route 4 east of Baltic Ave.	27.2

¹ https://www.uvlsrc.org/files/3016/0139/6144/TYP_Criteria_final.pdf

² https://www.uvlsrc.org/files/9116/0139/5920/TYP_Scoring_-_Sheet1.pdf



Results of NHDOT Project Review & Consultation

During winter 2020-2021, NHDOT convened a Project Review Task Force to review proposed Ten-Year Plan projects. Comments from the Task Force³ were shared with UVLSRPC staff, and a meeting was held with RPC and UVLSRPC staff to discuss proposed projects.

This process did not result in any meaningful proposed changes to Ten-Year Plan projects. Notes on NHDOT's review and comments are provided below.

Claremont – Main Street Phase I/II

See UVLSRPC response memo⁴.

Canaan – US Route 4/Potato Rd/Roberts Rd

The NHDOT Task Force noted in their comments that additional planning is needed to demonstrate need and identify suitable improvements at this location.

Canaan – Northern Rail Trail Bridge Trestles

As noted in their proposal, the Town of Canaan has already secured a commitment of \$750,000 from NHDOT to upgrade two bridge trestles on the Northern Rail Trail as part of a flood resiliency plan for Canaan Village. The arrangement is contingent on the Town securing additional matching funds, which the Town is pursuing through a grant application to the US Economic Development Administration (EDA). The Town has applied for inclusion in the Ten-Year Plan as a backup option in case the Town is not successful.

UVLSRPC is working to assist the Town of Canaan in pursuing EDA grant funds to fully fund this project.

Staff Recommendation on Final UVLSRPC Region Ten-Year Plan Rankings

Based on the information presented above, UVLSRPC staff recommend that the TAC consider adopting the rankings presented on page 1 as-is for the final ranking of proposed FY 2023-2032 Ten-Year Plan projects.

As noted in NHDOT's project review comments, the Claremont Main Street Phase I is estimated to use \$3.27 million in federal funds, approximately \$500,000 under UVLSRPC's regional allocation of \$3.77 million. The idea of using this additional \$500,000 to expand the geographic

³ https://www.uvlsrpc.org/index.php/download_file/view/2053/272/

⁴ https://www.uvlsrpc.org/index.php/download_file/view/2055/272/



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project area of Main Street Phase I was discussed. Due to uncertainties in the overall cost of this proposed project, NHDOT has recommended 1) that the project area not be expanded at this time and 2) that further refinement of project costs be undertaken prior to the FY 2025-2034 Ten-Year Plan round.