

15

Recommended Projects



2016 Regional Transportation Plan

15 Recommended Projects

As part of the development of the *Franklin Regional Transportation Plan*, regional needs and priorities for a 25 year horizon (from 2016 through 2040) were identified. Recommended projects were developed based on these identified needs and priorities. This chapter contains a summary of the recommended projects. These recommendations were identified during an extensive public participation process that included outreach, informational meetings and input sessions throughout Franklin County. In addition to the public input that was received, transportation staff conducted research and analyzed transportation-related regional data to identify transportation trends and needs. The findings and trends that shaped the recommended projects are summarized in the following paragraphs.

Overall, an interest in alternative transportation and more environmentally sensitive options was expressed strongly and frequently throughout the public participation process. The need for improved public transit in the region was the most frequently expressed comment during the public participation process. Many individuals expressed a desire to take public transit for economic (to save money) and/or environmental reasons (reduced emissions/better for the environment), but are unable to do so because of limited routes and/or schedules. The continued support and enthusiasm for bicycling in Franklin County for both transportation and recreational purposes was confirmed during the public input sessions. An interest in increased sustainability and the threat of climate change was also a frequent theme in the public's comments.

The safety of the roads in Franklin County was also a strong theme. The great strides that have been made to make the roads in Franklin County safer, particularly on Route 2 and Route 116, were acknowledged. However, the fact that there are additional improvements that could be evaluated and possibly implemented was recognized. Specific recommendations for additional safety evaluations are detailed in the plan and in this chapter.

The rural and scenic character of Franklin County remains an important consideration as road and bridge projects are planned and implemented. The scenic and natural resources of the area should be taken into consideration when improvements are designed so that they can be implemented in a context sensitive manner.

The many Scenic Byways that run through the area make Franklin County a special place and help bring tourism and economic development to the region. As a result, the needs of

tourists and the unique requirements of a scenic byway should be taken into consideration during any transportation project planning.

Regional demographic figures show that Franklin County's population is aging. Future transportation planning should take this into consideration. The transportation needs of senior citizens should be considered.

Additional high-speed broadband service that is currently being planned and implemented in the region will also have an impact on the county's transportation needs in the future. Improved internet access will allow more people to have the option of working from home. In addition, the arrival of broadband may attract new businesses and residents to Franklin County, which could increase the number of vehicles on the roads as people may choose to live in more remote parts of the region.

Recommended Projects

MAP-21 requires that all recommended projects with a total cost of \$20 million or greater, or that are regionally significant for air quality conformity purposes, be included in the Regional Transportation Plan. The Franklin County region does not have any projects of this magnitude recommended for the twenty-five year planning horizon. However, there are many projects that are a priority for the Franklin County transportation network.

The following is a listing of the twenty-five top transportation recommendations to be pursued through 2040. The recommended projects are not listed in a ranked, prioritized order, but instead represent the most important projects to the region. The projects are being listed to highlight their importance. The map at the end of the chapter shows the location of the recommendations.

Top 25 Transportation Recommendations for Franklin County

Safety Improvements

- Advance the planned Route 2 East Safety Improvements in Farley, Erving Center, and Gill/Greenfield.
- Implement safety and traffic flow improvements on Route 2 West in Greenfield near the commercial developments west of the Interstate 91/Route 2 rotary.

Major Highway Projects

- Rehabilitate the General Pierce Bridge in Greenfield/Montague.
- Reconstruct Conway Street, South Street, and Conway Road in Buckland.

- Resurface and repair North Main Street (Rt. 47) in Sunderland.
- Reconstruct North Main Street in Orange.
- Improve intersections at Main Road, Jacksonville Road, and Greenfield Road in Colrain.
- Resurface roadway and construct pedestrian accommodations on Routes 5/10 in Whately and Deerfield
- Reconstruct and improve drainage system on Haydenville Road in Whately.

Public Transit and Healthy Transportation Options

- Implement regional commuter passenger rail service between Greenfield and Springfield.
- Plan for east-west passenger rail service between Franklin County and Boston.
- Expand fixed bus service routes throughout the county, including to the North County towns of Bernardston and Northfield.
- Increase frequency and extend bus service hours during evenings and weekends to better serve the public.
- Create additional Park and Ride lots throughout the county.

Pedestrian and Bicycling

- Design and implement safety improvements for bicyclists/pedestrians on Turners Falls Road connecting Greenfield and Turners Falls.
- Design and implement safety improvements for bicyclists/pedestrians on Leyden Road in Greenfield.
- Remove the existing Schell Bridge over the Connecticut River in Northfield and replace with new pedestrian and bicycle bridge
- Implement Complete Streets recommendations on East Main Street (Route 2A) in Orange connecting the Town Center with Walmart and other commercial services.
- Construct a bikeway to connect the downtowns of Athol and Orange.
- Construct an Erving-Wendell Bike Path to connect Erving Center with Farley and Erving side without having to travel on Route 2.
- Construct a sidewalk to Mohawk Trail Regional High School and Middle School along Route 112 and North Street in Buckland.
- Advocate for bicycles to be permitted on the Amtrak Vermonter passenger train.
- Continue implementation of trailblazing signs along the Franklin County Bikeway.

Scenic Byways and Community Development

- Purchase conservation restrictions, agricultural preservation restrictions or land in fee from willing land owners to permanently protect important areas along the Scenic Byways.
- Create a parking garage near the Regional Transit Center to facilitate regional commuting and downtown revitalization efforts.

Complete List of Recommended Projects

The following is a table of projects categorized by the timeframe for implementation and the type of project (advocacy, planning/design, construction/implementation, monitoring or ongoing activities). The Estimated Total Cost reflects the cost of project construction/implementation.

RECOMMENDATIONS							
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Project Location	Project Description	Timeframe for Implementation					Estimated Total Cost
		2016-2020	2021-2025	2026-2030	2031-2035	2036-2040	
Bernardston	Bridge Replacement: Brattleboro Road. (Projis Number 604189) (Bridge Number B-10-004)	P/D	R				\$2,658,630 (includes 4% inflation rate) (\$2,185,200 original estimate)
Bernardston and Greenfield	Interstate maintenance on I-91 (Projis No 607182)	P/D and C/I					\$2,293,920 (includes 4% inflation rate)
Buckland	Road Reconstruction and Minor Widening: Conway Street, South Street and Conway Road. (Projis Number 606463)	P/D	C/I				\$6,529,046 (includes 4% inflation rate) (\$5,160,000 original estimate)
Buckland	Bridge Replacement: Route 2 over Deerfield River (Projis Number 607674) (Bridge Number B-28-009)	P/D	R				\$26,301,967 (includes 4% inflation rate) (\$21,618,300 original estimate)
Buckland / Shelburne	Bridge Rehabilitation: Route 2A (Bridge Street) over Deerfield River (Projis Number 605882) (Bridge Number B-28-022, S-11-001)	P/D	R				\$1,228,819 (includes 4% inflation rate) (\$1,010,000 original estimate)
Buckland	Construct a sidewalk to Mohawk Trail Regional High School and Middle School along Route 112 and North Street.	P/D	C/I				\$1,107,154 (includes 4% inflation rate) \$875,000 (Original estimate)
Charlemont	Roadway reconstruction and Village Center traffic calming on Route 2 (Projis No 606507)	P/D and C/I					\$5,980,000 (includes 4% inflation rate)

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		2016-2020	2021-2025	2026-2030	2031-2035	2036-2040	
Charlemont	Bridge Replacement: Zoar Road over Pelham Brook (Projis No. 605286; Bridge No. C-05-002).	P/D	R				\$3,122,912 (includes 4% inflation rate) (\$2,566,806 Original Estimate)
Charlemont	Bridge Replacement: Route 2 over Trout Brook (Projis No. 606158; Bridge No. C-05-020).	P/D	R				\$1,632,809 (includes 4% inflation rate) (\$1,342,050 original estimate)
Colrain	Bridge Replacements: Heath Road over the North River. (Projis No. 607584; Bridges Number C-18-020).	P/D	R				\$2,655,800 (includes 4% inflation rate)
Colrain	Intersection improvements on Main Road, Jacksonville Road, and Greenfield Road (Projis No 607538)	P/D and C/I					\$1,622,400 (includes 4% inflation rate)
Colrain	Resurfacing and related work on Route 112. (Projis No. 608165)	P/D	C/I				\$1,976,000 (includes 4% inflation rate) (\$1,900,000 original estimate)
Deerfield	Bridge Reconstruction: Route 116 over the Mill River. (Projis No 605732) (Bridge Number. D-06-030)	P/D	C/I				\$2,798,302 (includes 4% inflation rate) (\$2,300,000 original estimate)
Deerfield	Resurfacing on Route 5/10 from Hillside Road to Deerfield River (Projis No 607504)	P/D	C/I				\$2,038,897 (includes 4% inflation rate) (\$1,611,370 original estimate)
Deerfield	Bridge Preservation: McClelland Farm Road over railroad. (Projis Nor 602320) (Bridge Number. D-06-023)	P/D and C/I					\$6,477,190 (includes 4% inflation rate)

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		2016-2020	2021-2025	2026-2030	2031-2035	2036-2040	
Deerfield and Greenfield	Resurfacing on Route 5 and Montague City Road (Projis No 603876)	P/D	C/I				\$5,139,142 (includes 4% inflation rate) (\$4,224,000 original estimate)
Deerfield and Whately	Resurfacing on Route 5/10 from Old State Road to N. Hillside Road (Projis No 606011)	P/D and C/I					\$2,395,787 (includes 4% inflation rate)
Deerfield, Greenfield, and Whately	Interstate Maintenance on I-91 (Projis No 607478)	P/D and C/I					\$11,082,160 (includes 4% inflation rate)
Erving	Streetscape and Pedestrian Improvements on Route 63	P/D and C/I					\$450,000 (federal earmark)
Erving	Intersection improvements at Route 2 and 2A (Projis No 607246)	P/D and C/I					\$400,000 (includes 4% inflation rate)
Erving	Bridge Replacement: Church Street Bridge over Keyup Brook. (Projis Nor 603604) (Bridge Number. E-10-011)	P/D and R					\$2,130,195 (includes 4% inflation rate) (\$1,820,900 original estimate)
Erving	Design and Construction of Safety Improvements: Route 2 in Erving Center. (Projis Number 604818)	P/D	P/D	C/I			\$19,298,350
Erving	Design and Construction of Safety Improvements: Route 2 in Erving in Farley Safety. (Projis No. 604959)	P/D	P/D	C/I			\$6,692,300
Erving and Northfield	Road Reconstruction: Route 63. (Projis Number 601565)	P/D	P/D	C/I			\$4,597,586
Greenfield	Culvert repair under I-91 (Projis No 608120) (Bridge No G-12-039)	P/D	R				\$1,754,788 (includes 4% inflation) (\$1,500,000 original estimate)

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		2016-2020	2021-2025	2026-2030	2031-2035	2036-2040	
Greenfield	Interstate Maintenance on I-91 (5 miles total) (Projis No 607565)	P/D	R				\$9,822,039 (includes 4% inflation) (\$7,762,500 original estimate)
Greenfield	Structural steel girder painting on I-91 over Country Club Road (Projis No 606526) (Bridge No G-12-054, G-12-055)	P/D and R					\$2,901,951 (includes 4% inflation) (\$2,480,600 original estimate)
Greenfield	Superstructure replacement on I-91 over BMRR (Projis No 606548) (Bridge No G-12-052, G-12-053)	P/D	P/D	R			\$17,916,341 (includes 4% inflation) (\$14,725,926 original estimate)
Greenfield	Construct a Franklin Regional Transit Center Maintenance Facility	R					\$20,000,000
Gill and Greenfield	Improvements and upgrades on Route 2 from Adams Rd to French King Bridge (Projis No 605036)	P/D and R					\$3,118,148 (includes 4% inflation) (\$2,665,406 original estimate)
Greenfield and Montague	Bridge Rehabilitation: General Pierce Bridge on Montague Road over the Connecticut River. (Projis Number 601186) (Bridge Numbers G-12-020 and M-28-001).	P/D	R				\$22,316,344 (includes 4% inflation rate) (\$18,342,408 Original Estimate)
Heath	Bridge Replacement: SR8A (Jacksonville Street over Mill Brook) (Projis No 607671) (Bridge Number H-14-001).	P/D C/I					\$1,901,880 (includes 4% inflation rate)
Heath	Bridge Replacement: Sadoga Road over Burrington Brook. (Projis No 607118) (Bridge Number H-14-009).	P/D C/I					\$1,684,800 (includes 4% inflation rate)
Heath	Bridge Replacement: Jacksonville Street over West Brank Brook (Projis No 607678) (Bridge No H-14-007)	P/D	R				\$2,082,356 (includes 4% inflation) (\$1,711,545 original estimate)

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		2016-2020	2021-2025	2026-2030	2031-2035	2036-2040	
Leverett	Resurfacing and drainage improvements on Route 63 (Projis No 606894)	P/D	P/D	C/I			\$727,558 (includes 4% inflation) (\$575,000 original estimate)
Leverett	Investigate possible improvements (to road alignment and/or sign locations) to improve safety and traffic flow at the intersection of Cushman Road and Shutesbury Road in Leverett.	P/D	P/D				
Monroe	Reconstruction and related work on Readsboro Road (Projis No 607325)	P/D	P/D	C/I			\$2,530,638 (includes 4% inflation rate) (\$2,000,000 original estimate)
New Salem and Shutesbury	Road Reconstruction: Route 202. (Projis Number 603820)	P/D	P/D	C/I			\$4,905,545 (\$4,032,000 original estimate)
Northfield	Bridge Replacement: Birnam Road over Mill Brook. (Projis Number 602319) (Bridge Number N-22-010)	P/D	R				\$3,130,733 (includes 4% inflation rate) (\$2,573,234 original estimate)
Northfield	Road Reconstruction: Route 63 (Main Street) and Route 10. (Projis Number 604820)	P/D	P/D	C/I			\$1,584,082 (includes 4% inflation rate) (\$1,302,000 original estimate)
Northfield	Bridge Removal: Schell Bridge over Conn. River & replacement with pedestrian bridge (Projis No 607588) (Bridge No N-22-002)	P/D and C/I					\$9,489,893 (includes 4% inflation rate) (\$8,436,480 original estimate)
Orange	Bridge Replacement: Holtshire Road over Millers River (Projis No 607527) (Bridge No O-03-009)	P/D and C/I					\$4,105,629 (includes 4% inflation rate)

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		2016-2020	2021-2025	2026-2030	2031-2035	2036-2040	
Orange	Bridge Replacement: Logan Road. (Projis number 603727) (Bridge Number O-03-001)	P/D	R				\$1,518,383 (includes 4% inflation rate) (\$1,248,000 original estimate)
Orange	Bridge Replacement: Brookside Road over Pan Am Railroad. (Projis number 604881) (Bridge Number O-03-015)	P/D and R					\$3,971,155 (includes 4% inflation rate) (\$3,264,000 original estimate)
Orange	Bridge Replacement: Route 2 over Route 202. (Projis number 606309) (Bridge Number O-03-021)	P/D and R					\$16,520,173 (includes 4% inflation rate) (\$13,578,378 original estimate)
Orange	Road Reconstruction: North Main Street. (Projis Number 603371)	P/D and C/I					\$4,831,725 (includes 4% inflation rate)
Shelburne	Bridge replacement on Bardwell Ferry Road over Dragon Brook (Projis No 607548) (Bridge No S-11-006)	P/D and C/I					\$2,466,464 (includes 4% inflation rate)
Shelburne	Intersection improvements on Route 2 and Colrain/Shelburne Road (Projis No 607539)	P/D and C/I					\$520,000 (includes 4% inflation rate)
Sunderland	Resurfacing on North Main Street (Route 47) from Route 116 to Claybook Drive (Projis No. 607245)	P/D	C/I				\$1,824,979 (includes 4% inflation rate) (\$1,500,000 original estimate)
Whately	Rehabilitation of Haydenville Road, from Conway Raod to Williamsburg T.L. (Projis No. 605983)	P/D	P/D	C/I			\$2,189,975 (includes 4% inflation rate) (\$1,800,000 original estimate)
Whately	Superstructure replacement and substructure repairs SR 10 over I-91 (Projis No. 605354) (Bridge No. W-33-020)	P/D	R				\$5,839,934 (includes 4% inflation rate) (\$4,800,000 original estimate)

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Franklin County Towns along the I-91 Corridor	Plan for regional commuter rail service on the Knowledge Corridor Line.	P/D and C/I					
Region-wide	Continue to monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the Fitchburg Commuter Rail Service Expansion Study, particularly the recommendations that could most affect Franklin County commuters, including: the creation of a park and ride facility in Gardner and the extension of commuter rail service west of Fitchburg.	M	M	M	M	M	
Greater Greenfield and the Northern Tier Area of Franklin County	Promote the extension of east-west passenger rail service from Fitchburg to Greenfield.	A	A	A	A	A	
Erving and Wendell	Pursue funding to complete the design work for the Erving-Wendell Bike Path.	P/D	C/I				
Orange	Support the completion of the design of the Millers River Greenway to connect the Riverfront Park in Orange with the Alan Rich Environmental Park in Athol.	O	O	O	O	O	
Greenfield, Deerfield, Sunderland	Provide better and more frequent transit service between GCC and UMASS-Amherst.	A and P/D	A and P/D	A and P/D	A and P/D	A and P/D	
Region-wide	FRTA Fixed Route Vehicle Replacement	C/I					\$593,250

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		2016-2020	2021-2025	2026-2030	2031-2035	2036-2040	
Region-wide	FRTA Fixed Route Vehicle Replacement	C/I					\$197,750
Region-wide	FRTA Fixed Route Vehicle Replacement	C/I					\$395,500
Region-wide	FRTA Fixed Route Vehicle Replacement	C/I					\$593,250
Region-wide	FRTA Demand Response Vehicle Replacement	C/I					\$265,000
Region-wide	FRTA Demand Response Vehicle Replacement	C/I					\$318,000
Region-wide	FRTA Demand Response Vehicle Replacement	C/I					\$212,000
Region-wide	Work with the FRTA, PVTA, and the MART to advocate for the continued operation of and permanent funding for Route 32 and Route 31 and address additional needs for expanding these routes to include additional evening and weekend service.	A	A	A	A	A	
Region-wide	Pursue funding to expand FRTA routes to include additional daily runs and weekend hours.	O	O	O	O	O	
Region-wide	Install additional Franklin County Bikeway Logo signs, on the remaining segments of the Franklin County Bikeway network as outlined in the <i>Franklin County Bikeway Plan Update (2009)</i> .	C/I	O	O	O	O	\$200,000
Region-wide	Include pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure improvements when appropriate into the scope of road construction projects.	O	O	O	O	O	
Region-wide	Continue developing and implementing a Pavement Management System.	P/D	O	O	O	O	
Region-wide	Work with GreenDOT to promote more energy efficient and cleaner forms of transportation.	A	A	A		A	

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		2016-2020	2021-2025	2026-2030	2031-2035	2036-2040	
Region-wide	Continue working with the Franklin County Regional Emergency Planning Committee (REPC) and the Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Committee (WRHSAC) to expand the region's preparedness to manage emergency incidents, including those which impact the regional transportation network.	O	O	O	O	O	
Region-wide	Coordinate the radio communication capabilities between emergency management personnel and the Franklin Regional Transit Authority.	O	O	O	O	O	
All Scenic Byways in Franklin County	Continue work to permanently protect scenic and agricultural lands along the scenic byways by purchasing conservation restrictions, agricultural preservation restrictions, and/or fee interest from willing landowners.	O	O	O	O	O	\$1,500,000
Connecticut River Scenic Farm Byway Area in Erving	Design and construct streetscape improvements on Route 63 in Erving. Projis No. 607253	P/D and C/I					\$450,000 Funded through FY2004 Section 115 Appropriation
Mohawk Trail Scenic Byway in Greenfield	Design improvements at the Upper Pioneer Valley Visitors Center in Greenfield.	P/D and C/I					\$500,000 Funded through FY2004 Section 115 Appropriation