



NCC Transportation Advisory Committee

@Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82058593100?pwd=SINVLT2xGSFc3dE5Fc1ZJUUVhTdTNBQT09>

Meeting Minutes

November 2nd, 2020

3:30 PM - 5:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mark Decoteau (Waterville Valley); Doug Grant (Randolph); Paul Robitalille (Gorham); Jill Brewer (Franconia); Roslind Page (Lisbon); Carl Martland (Sugar Hill); Pam Leflamme (Berlin); Raymond Gorman (Colebrook); Donna Laurent (Jefferson); Robin Irving (Northumberland); Kim Crowles (Franconia); Tabitha Shosa (Lyman); Marianne Borowski (Cross New Hampshire Adventure Trail); Bridget Codling (Haverhill); Clayton Macdonald (Stratford)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Katie Lamb (NCC); Linda Dusenbery (DOT); Bill Watson (DOT); Mikala Woods (NCC); Michelle Moren-Grey (NCC)

1. INTRODUCTION/ATTENDANCE:

The meeting began at 3:37 PM. A round of introduction was completed.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Grant and seconded by Mr. Martland. A unanimous agreement from all members present at the prior meeting was taken by roll call.

3. TEN YEAR PLAN (TYP):

Ms. Lamb noted that six proposals were received this round and four were eligible. She also informed members that the short list of the projects was due to NHDOT on November 6th. Ms. Lamb proceeded to give a presentation on each project's scope, strengths, cost estimate, and score.

Please see the attached slides for more information.

- Mr. Grant suggested that equity criteria should be removed since all projects met the criteria and Ms. Lamb responded that projects were just very good this year and it is still a very new criteria so it should be kept in for at least another few cycles before considering removal.
- Mr. Robitalille stated that all the projects were worthy and that the Gorham project is part of an overall effort to connect sidewalks and trails to make Gorham and more walkable town.
- Ms. Dusenbery asked if projects were getting voted on and what projects will be sent to NHDOT and Ms. Lamb responded that all four projects will be sent to NHDOT by ranked order.
- Mr. Decoteau asked about the possibility of evenly distributing the regional allocation across all the projects and Ms. Lamb stated that the TYP is funded in full and that phasing projects is an option but partially funding all projects is not an option. Ms. Leflamme chimed in to say that Berlin's project was phased due to the size of the project which was more strategic, to which Mr. Robitalille also said that Gorham had done a similar thing with their project.
- Mr. Martland commented that all the projects involve walking and commends Gorham for integrating sidewalks to walking trails, also noting that other towns in the region are working towards a similar goal.
- Ms. Page stated that all projects are commendable and Ms. Borowski commented that the Whitefield project is good to calm traffic down and be more inviting for bicyclists cycling the Cross New Hampshire Adventure Trail.

4. REGULAR UPDATES:

NCC Updates

- Ms. Lamb noted that the final report of the Gorham Parking Study is being worked on now and the draft will be presented to the Gorham Selectboard at their November 24th meeting.
- Ms. Lamb said that all the stream crossing assessments done in Hart's Location had been completed and submitted to NHDES and are now in the process of being reviewed.
- Ms. Lamb briefly introduced NCC's new bike rack program and noted that it is early in the works, so she encouraged members to keep an eye out for ways to get involved in the coming months.

- Ms. Lamb noted that Road Safety Audit applications are due December 1st 2020 and that NCC can assist with identifying locations and providing crash data evidence.

Updates from Communities:

- Mr. Decoteau noted that Waterville Valley entered a contract with HEB to do a road assessment and mentioned a town wide road classification plan to prioritize maintenance and improve roads. He also said that they were unsuccessful with the NBRC grant to improve walking trails and was looking into how to fund improvement for downtown and bike trails. He informs that the walking path was widened and lighting was added on for about a quarter mile. Mr. Decoteau expressed that the town will be looking into the impacts of COVID on the shuttle bus for the ski center since it won't be operating this winter.
- Mr. Robitalille said that the new ATV trailhead on NH 16 is completed and open and the Town of Gorham wants to make a push to put all ATV onto that trail so other non-motorized vehicles can use the other trailhead. There is still work going on for grants to finish the rest of the sidewalk projects and he is looking forward to the parking study final report.
- Ms. Brewer noted that the Town of Franconia is updating their master plan, which is very overdue. The sidewalk was repaved in the center of town and now funding needs to be figured out for all the sidewalks on Main Street. She is also looking into funding sources for general improvement of bike and pedestrian safety.
- Ms. Crowles typed into the chat: We are working with DOT for new sidewalks along Main St as they are fixing drainage and repaving this route. We will widen the road to make it safer for bikes and pedestrians. We also have ongoing concerns with the intersection of Main St and NH 116. Too many vehicles miss the stop sign and travel through the intersection at a high rate of speed.
- Ms. Page said that the Town of Lisbon is working on updating their master plan as well. She also noted that Lisbon would be interested in a longer-term project to look at US 302 through Lisbon, as it is not a great area for parking and pedestrians which brings up safety concerns and issues.

- Mr. Martland said that Sugar Hill is still trying to catch up on road work from the storms in 2018 and informs that there were delays in trying to get FEMA money.
- Ms. Codling noted that the Town of Haverhill had recently finished reconstructing a bridge that was damaged in 2017 which was partially funded by FEMA. She also noted that roads and sidewalks were finished being paved and she is now looking forward to the realignment of Forest Street to improve safety within the area.
- Mr. Macdonald talked about ATVs on town roads and campgrounds in the Town of Stratford since there isn't any law enforcement in town to stop it. He also said Stratford is working on solar installation for electricity for the town as well as wanting to install a charging station for electric cars.
- Ms. Leflamme noted that the City of Berlin finished the mill and overlay project on the east side of the city that leads up to the hospital during the previous week. She also noted that the City is doing some master plan revision work and is focusing on transportation. She plans to meet with FHWA in December to discuss a project submitted for BUILD that did not get funded this round.
- Mr. Gorman informed that the Town of Colebrook is working on the Main Street project with NHDOT on the finishing details and lighting. He also said the Town is likely to do a public virtual hearing because of COVID.
- Ms. Laurent informed that the Town of Jefferson is working on the master plan update and had it almost complete.
- Ms. Irving said that the Town of Northumberland is also updating their master plan and is still waiting for the TAC project to begin and wants to get things going. She also brought up concerns about the covered bridge between US 3 and NH 110, and noted that she doesn't feel it fits into any funding well since it's used mainly as a pedestrian bridge but is also used as a trail bridge for ATVs and snowmobiles. Ms. Irving noted that the Town got a grant of \$10,000 from Historic Resources for addressing vandalism on the bridge. Lastly, she brought up the Town's future transportation projects, which seeks to replace water and sewage drainage and put in additional sidewalks. It will probably have to be a phased program as the project has been estimated to be around \$6-7 million.

6. NH BIKE-PED PLAN UPDATE:

Ms. Lamb went over the updated schedule for the development of the New Hampshire Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan and said that NCC has been tasked with identifying 10 major and minor priorities, with major being multi-million projects that would be funded through means like the TYP and minor being smaller projects that can be funded through TAP, CMAQ, HSIP, or local Capital Improvement Projects. Ms. Lamb also noted that project phasing is possible within both the 10 major and minor priority projects.

- Mr. Decoteau notes that NH49 is within Thornton and Campton and also mentioned that the White Mountain National Forest is interested in trail improvements – which NH49 may be eligible.
- Ms. Borowski states that some of the options are good for inviting bicyclists and having people stay in town, since some parts of the trails aren't as biker friendly as of now.
- Ms. Brewer typed in the chat that Franconia would like to see a paved shoulder bike lane option on NH 116 from Harvard Street to Franconia Inn.
- Mr. Robitalille added that bicycle movement between North Road and Gorham town line is dangerous since there are either absent or very small paved shoulders, suggested that a minor project priority could be paved shoulders along that section of US 2.
- Mr. Martland asked for an explanation of what types of projects would be best for the priority list and Ms. Lamb answered that the focus is to improve bicycle movement through better and safer connections. Mr. Martland suggested NH 117 from its intersection with U 302 in Lisbon to Sugar Hill town office.

7. REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE:

Ms. Lamb noted that flyers were put up in town offices following Mr. Martland's suggestion at the last meeting. Ms. Lamb also noted that the survey is still open and is still looking for more ideas to increase participation, especially for the younger and more vulnerable populations. Ms. Lamb said that she is hoping to have the complete draft of the plan to the members early next year.

8. FINAL THOUGHTS/COMMENTS:

- Mr. Robitalille asked where charging stations are going to be put in and Ms. Dusenbery answered that there will be one charging station installed in Franconia Notch in 2022 which is funded by CMAQ funds.
- Ms. Borowski comments that connectivity is a big deal in cycling for tourists, there needs to be longer bike paths for both tourists and locals, and how these bike paths can connect with the wider network.

ADJURNMENT

Ms. Codling makes a motion to close meeting, Mr. Decoteau seconds the motion, and the committee agrees unanimously to close meeting by a full roll call. Meeting is adjourned at 4:50PM.

Respectfully submitted by Mikala Woods & Katie Lamb

TEN YEAR PLAN

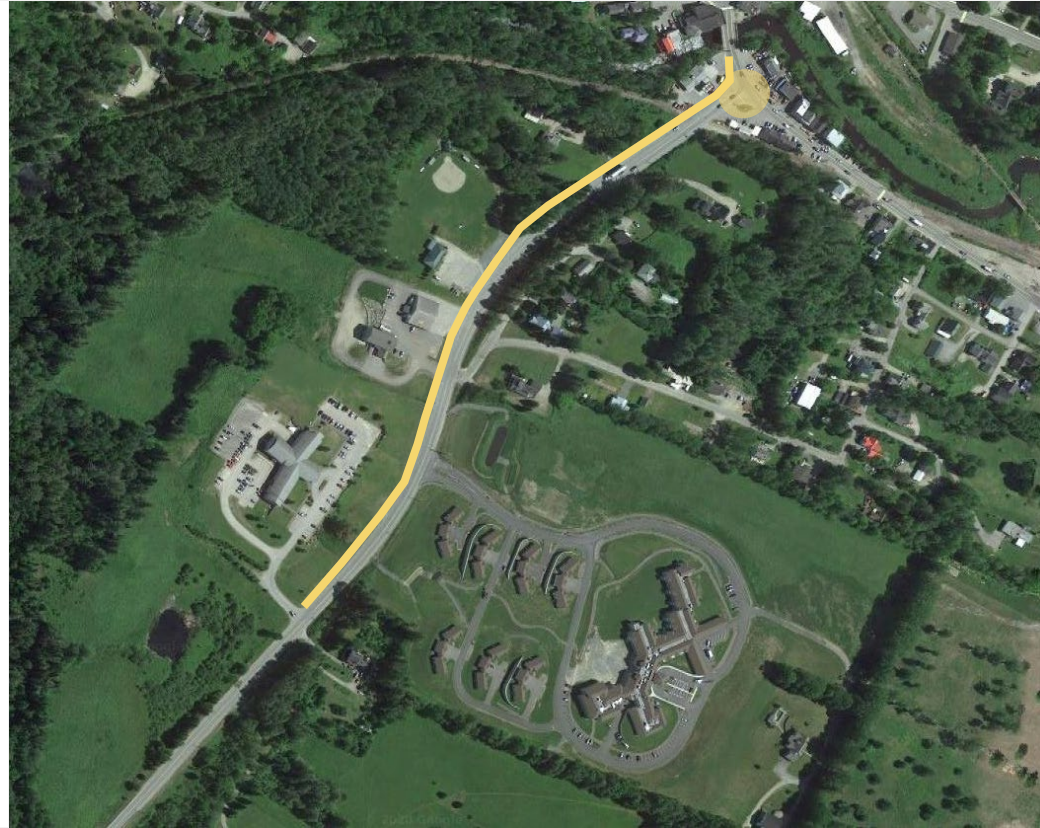
- **Six proposals received, four eligible**
- **HEB cost estimates and scoping**
» coordination with NHDOT
- **Scoring of projects**
- **Submit to NHDOT**



TEN YEAR PLAN

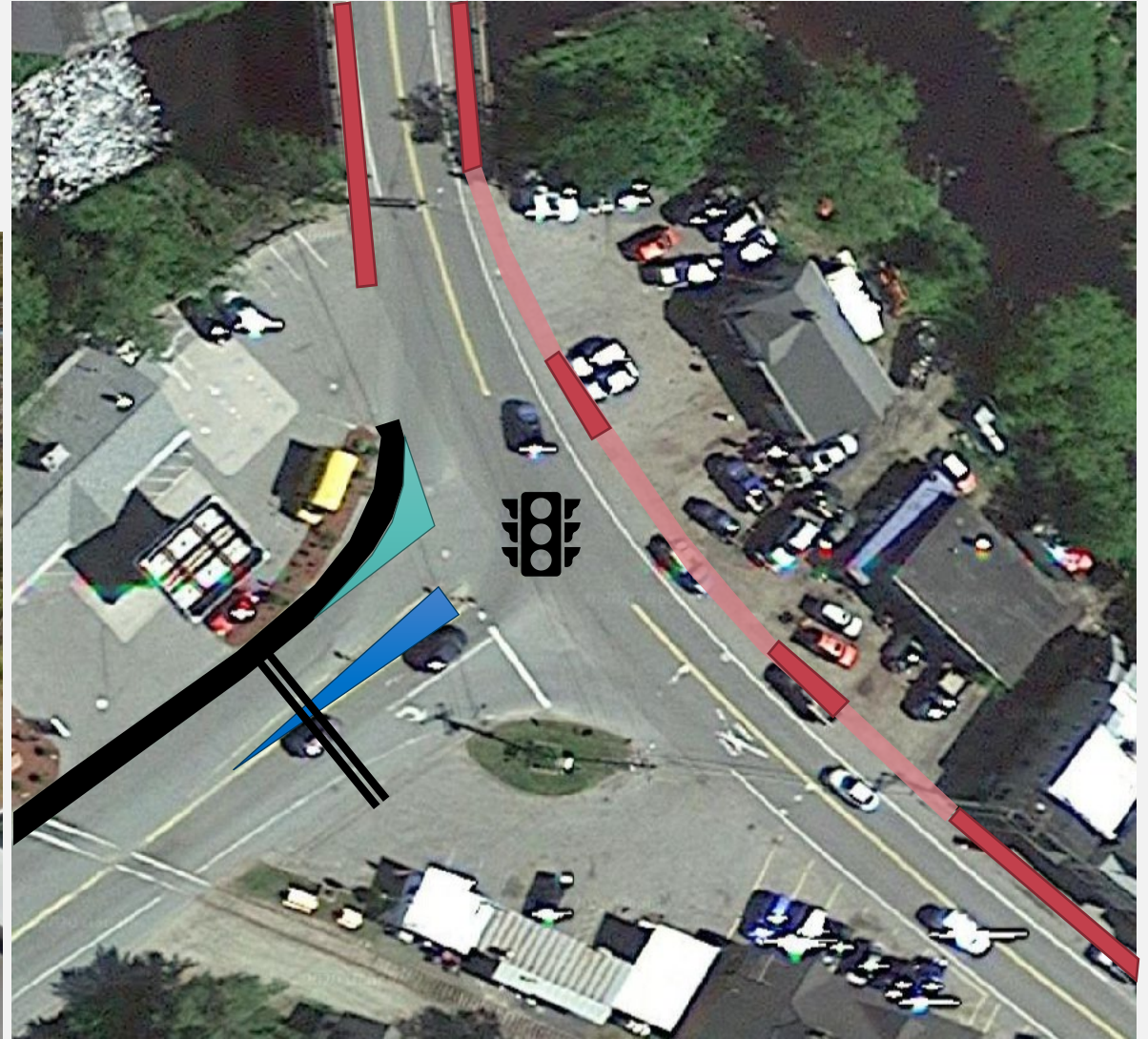
Whitefield NH116

construction of approx. 2000' of sidewalk, crossing improvements, and intersection improvements on NH116



TEN YEAR PLAN

Whitefield NH116



DISCLAIMER: for conceptual planning purposes only

TEN YEAR PLAN

Whitefield NH116



Reduced turning radii



Crossing with median

TEN YEAR PLAN

Whitefield NH116

Project Strengths:

- Improves safety of pedestrians
- Improves mobility of pedestrians and drivers
- Increases accessibility
- Addresses equity & environmental justice
- Important facility; increasing traffic volume
- Supported in Master Plan and locally

Cost: \$1,000,000

Weighted Criteria Score:



TEN YEAR PLAN

Gorham US2

Gorham US2

replace 16,420' of sidewalk to be ADA accessible and Complete Streets upgrades to include traffic-calming, seasonal infrastructure, and separated bike lanes where possible



TEN YEAR PLAN

Gorham US2



TEN YEAR PLAN

Gorham US2



Sidewalk improvements and separated bike lanes

TEN YEAR PLAN

Gorham US2

Project Strengths:

- Improves safety of cyclists
- Improves mobility of pedestrians and cyclists
- Improves state of repair (sidewalks)
- Addresses equity & environmental justice
- Important facility; steady traffic volume
- Supported in Master Plan and locally

Cost: \$1,700,000

Weighted Criteria Score:



TEN YEAR PLAN

Berlin NH16

Berlin NH16

reconstruction of approximately 4,300' of road and sidewalk, upgrade sidewalks to ADA compliance, and addressing aged drainage systems



TEN YEAR PLAN

Berlin NH16



TEN YEAR PLAN

Berlin NH16



Sidewalk improvements and road reconstruction

TEN YEAR PLAN

Berlin NH16

Project Strengths:

- Improves mobility of pedestrians
- Improves state of repair (road & sidewalks)
- Addresses equity & environmental justice
- Important facility; steady traffic volume
- Seeks to address drainage systems
- Supported in multiple plans and locally

Cost: \$3,400,000

Weighted Criteria Score:



TEN YEAR PLAN

Littleton US302

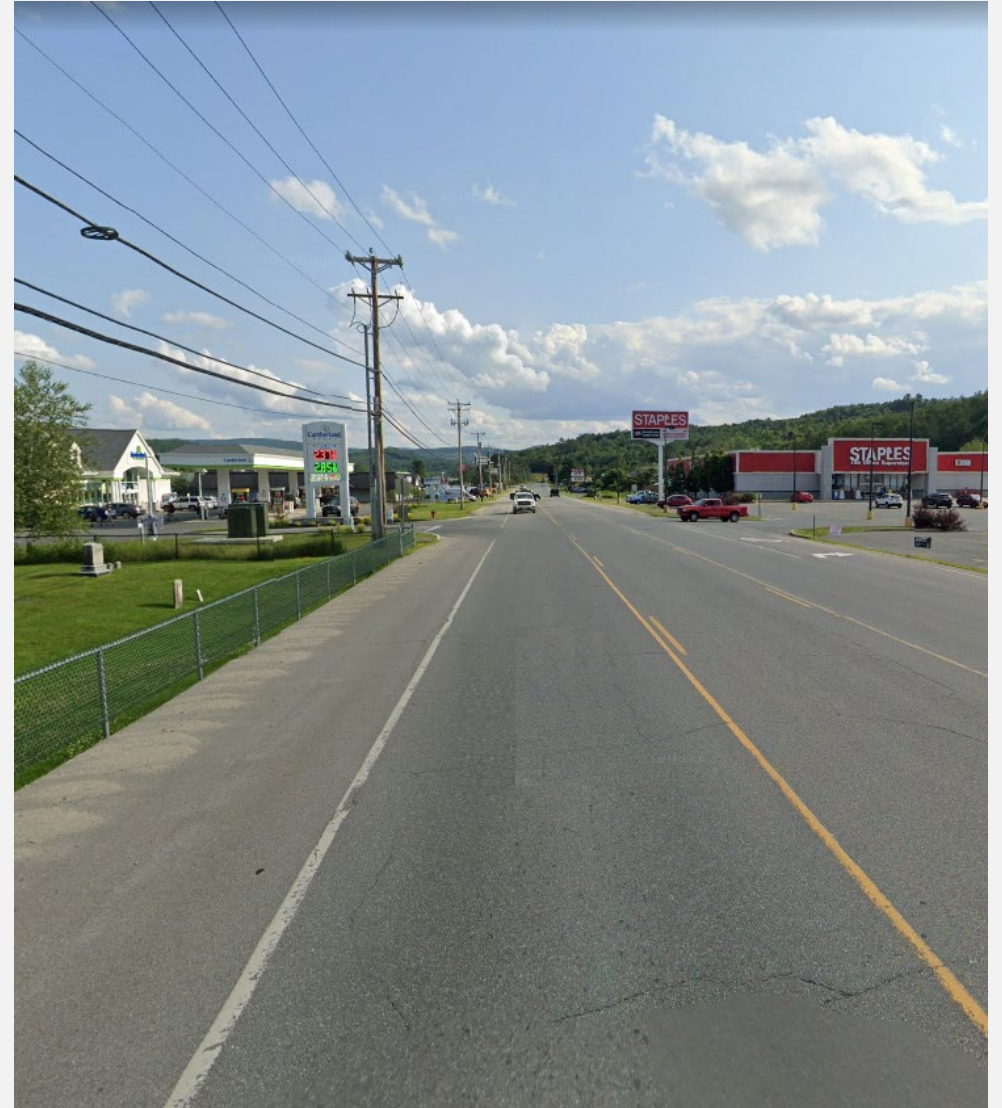
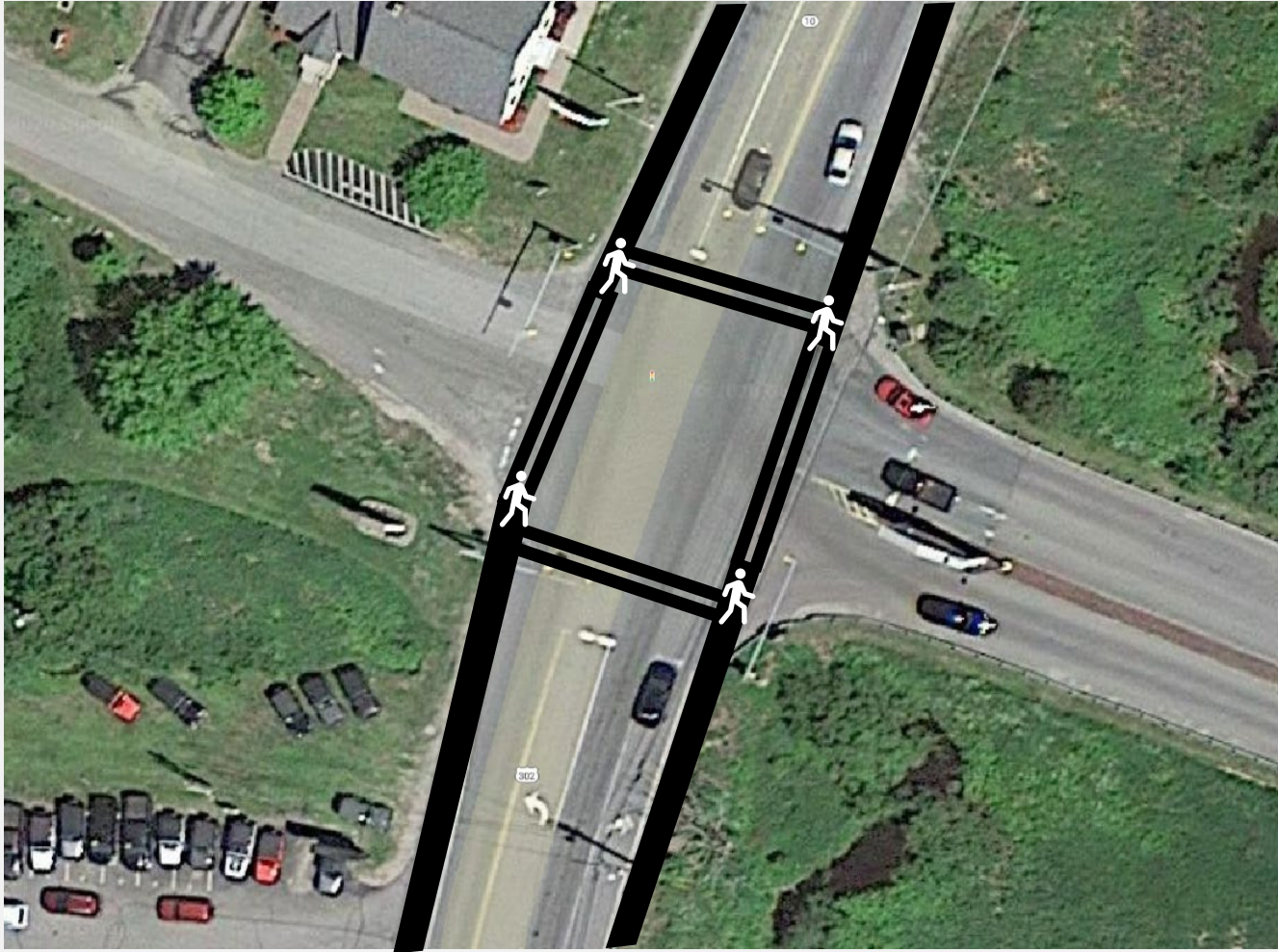
Littleton US302

construction of approx. 9,600' of sidewalk and new pedestrian controlled crossings at the Walmart traffic signal



TEN YEAR PLAN

Littleton US302



DISCLAIMER: for conceptual planning purposes only

TEN YEAR PLAN

Littleton US302



Controlled pedestrian crossing



New sidewalks

TEN YEAR PLAN

Littleton US302

Project Strengths:

- Improves safety of pedestrians
- Improves accessibility of pedestrians
- Addresses equity & environmental justice
- Important facility; steady traffic volume
- Project area is in good state of repair
- Supported in Master Plan and locally

Cost: \$3,900,000

Weighted Criteria Score:



TEN YEAR PLAN

Total Regional Allocation: \$6,100,000

Whitefield NH116

Cost:

\$1,000,000

4.69

Berlin NH16

Cost:

\$3,400,000

4.58

Gorham US2

Cost:

\$1,700,000

5.19

Littleton US302

Cost:

\$3,900,000

4.51