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17



## Recommended Projects

**2012**

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

# 17 Recommended Projects

As part of the development of the *Franklin Region Transportation Plan*, regional needs and priorities for a 25 year horizon (from 2011 through 2036) 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. Additionally, collaborative meetings were held with transportation colleagues from Franklin County, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), the Federal Highway Administration, and the Federal Transit Administration. 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 demand for additional forms of alternative transportation such as additional park and ride lots and passenger rail was also expressed. 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 business 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

### **20 Top Transportation Recommendations for Franklin County**

The following is a listing of the twenty top transportation recommendations to be pursued through 2036. 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.

#### ***Safety Improvements***

- Advance the planned Route 2 East Safety Improvements in Farley, Erving Center, and Gill/Greenfield.
- Construct improvements to better accommodate slow-moving vehicles (in many cases trucks) on Route 2 westbound up Greenfield Mountain.
- Rehabilitate the General Pierce Bridge in Greenfield.
- Implement safety and traffic flow improvements on Route 2 in Greenfield near the accesses to the commercial developments to the west of the rotary at Interstate-91/Route 2/Route 2A.
- Evaluate, design and construct Route 2 West Safety Improvements including protected turn lanes at Colrain-Shelburne Road and South Maple Street in Shelburne, and traffic calming in Charlemont Village Center.

#### ***Major Highway Projects***

- Reconstruct Route 2 in Charlemont, including rehabilitating several culverts.
- Construct the Interstate-91 northbound Exit 24 ramp realignment project.
- Replace retaining walls on Route 116 along the South River.

#### ***Public Transit and Alternative Transportation***

- Expand bus service throughout the county.
- 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.
- Construct a Park and Ride lot near the Interstate-91 Exit 24 in Whately.

Advance and promote the establishment of passenger rail service from New Haven, Connecticut to St. Albans, Vermont with a stop in Greenfield.

- Plan for passenger rail service between Franklin County and Boston.
- Promote ridesharing in the region.

#### ***Pedestrian and Bicycling***

- 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.

#### ***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.

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## 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):

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>							
The abbreviations used in the table describe the action(s) to be taken during the specified timeframe: A – Advocacy, P/D – Planning/Design, C/I – Construction/Implementation, M – Monitoring, O – Ongoing activities							
Project Location	Project Description	Timeframe for Implementation					Estimated Total Cost
		2011-2015	2016-2020	2021-2025	2026-2030	2031-2036	
Bernardston	Bridge Preservation: Route 10.  (Projis Number 605070) (Bridge Number B-10-018)	C/I					Not known at this time.
Bernardston	Bridge Replacement: Brattleboro Road.  (Projis Number 604189) (Bridge Number B-10-004)	P/D	C/I				\$1,747,200 (includes 4% inflation rate)  (\$1,680,000 original estimate)
Buckland	Bridge Replacement: Route 112 (Ashfield Road).  (Projis Number 606441) (Bridge Number B-28-002) Advertising Date: 5/19/2012	P/D	C/I				\$2,122,036 (includes 4% inflation rate)  \$2,040,420 original estimate)
Buckland/ Shelburne	Bridge Preservation: Buckland/Shelburne Bridge on Route 2A (Bridge Street) over Deerfield River.  (Projis Number 606441) (Bridge Numbers B-28-002 and S-11-001) Advertising Date: 10/25/2014	P/D and C/I					\$1,010,000
Charlemont	Bridge Replacement: Mountain Road over Hartwell Brook.  (Projis Number 603704) (Bridge Number C-05-036) Advertising Date: 7/16/2011	P/D and C/I					\$1,266,894 (Accelerated Bridge Program)

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

The abbreviations used in the table describe the action(s) to be taken during the specified timeframe:

A – Advocacy, P/D – Planning/Design, C/I – Construction/Implementation, M – Monitoring, O – Ongoing activities

Project Location	Project Description	Timeframe for Implementation					Estimated Total Cost
		2011-2015	2016-2020	2021-2025	2026-2030	2031-2036	
Charlemont	Culvert Replacement: Route 2 over Oxbow Brook and Wilder Brook.  (Projis Number 605842) (Bridges Numbers C-05-016 and C-05-017) Advertising Date: 8/6/2011	C/I 201 1					\$2,386,492
Charlemont	Culvert Replacements: Route 2 (6 culverts in Charlemont).	C/I	C/I				\$8,000,000 (2011-2015)  \$12,480,000 (2016-2020 includes 4% inflation rate) (\$12,000,000 Original Estimate)
Charlemont	Bridge Replacement: Zoar Road over Pelham Brook  (Projis No. 605286; Bridge No. C-05-002).	P/D	C/I				\$2,907,014 (includes 4% inflation rate)  (\$2,795,206 Original Estimate)
Charlemont	Bridge Replacement: Route 2 over Trout Brook  (Projis No. 606158) Bridge No. C-05-020). Advertising Date: 5/2/2015	P/D and C/I	C/I				\$1,213,680 (includes 4% inflation rate)  (\$1,167,000 Original Estimate)
Colrain	Bridge Replacements: Two bridges on Heath Road over the North River. One of the bridges currently has a weight restriction.  (Bridges Numbers C-18-013 and C-18-020).	P/D	C/I				\$624,000 (includes 4% inflation rate)  (\$600,000 Original Estimate)

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<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>							
The abbreviations used in the table describe the action(s) to be taken during the specified timeframe: A – Advocacy, P/D – Planning/Design, C/I – Construction/Implementation, M – Monitoring, O – Ongoing activities							
Project Location	Project Description	Timeframe for Implementation					Estimated Total Cost
		2011-2015	2016-2020	2021-2025	2026-2030	2031-2036	
Colrain:	Bridge Replacement: Bridge on Archambo Road near White Lane over the North River. Bridge currently has a weight restriction.  (Bridge No. C-18-019).	P/D	C/I				\$312,000 (includes 4% inflation rate)  (\$300,000 Original Estimate)
Colrain:	Bridge Replacement: Adamsville Road over the North River. Bridge currently has a weight restriction.  (Projis Number 605080) (Bridge No. C-18-008).	P/D	C/I				\$312,000 (includes 4% inflation rate)  (\$300,000 Original Estimate)
Colrain	Bridge Structural Maintenance: Route 112 (Jacksonville Road) over the North River.  (Projis Number 605290) (Bridge Number C-18-028)		P/D and C/D				\$11,807,174 (includes 4% inflation rate)  (\$11,353,052 Original Estimate)
Conway	Bridge Replacement: North Poland Road over Poland Brook.  (Projis Number 604005) (Bridge Number C-20-003) Advertising Date: 7/30/11	C/I					\$1,663,250
Conway:	Bridge Replacement: North Poland Road over the South River.  (Bridges Numbers C-20-004 and C-20-005)			P/D and C/I			\$4,049,021 (includes 4% inflation rate)  (\$3,200,000 Original Estimate)

































