

2011 Regional Transportation Needs Assessment Survey

The Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) is seeking input on the development of the **2013-2040 Regional Long Range Transportation Plan** for the RPC region. This plan sets priorities for state and federally-funded transportation projects in our region for the next 25 years. The RPC region includes 27 municipalities in Rockingham County, extending from the Seacoast to the I-93 corridor.

This survey is being sent to RPC Commissioners, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) committee members; municipal staff and elected officials; state elected officials, and other organizations involved in the regional planning process. *Please return completed surveys by August 31, 2011 to the RPC at 156 Water Street, Exeter, NH 03833.*

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION NEEDS

This first section of the survey asks for your views on transportation issues and investment priorities in your community and in the broader RPC region, as well as more specific project needs. This includes road improvement and maintenance needs, highway safety, traffic congestion, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, public transportation, freight and other issues.

1. In what town do you live?

2. In what town do you work?

If you are a municipal employee but live in another community, please respond to the following questions in the context of the municipality where you work

3. Transportation system: How would you rate each of the following aspects of the transportation system in your community? Please rate on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being “Poor” and 5 being “Excellent” (*Please circle the appropriate response number*)

	Poor			Excellent		Don't Know
A. Congestion levels on major roads at rush hour	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Condition of major roads, highways and bridges	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. General traffic safety and controls on major roads	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. Neighborhood traffic safety	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
E. Availability of parking	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
F. Bicycle/pedestrian safety	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
G. Access to public transportation service	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
H. Overall Rating for Transportation System	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. In your daily experience, what is the most congested road segment in your community? Please be specific as possible. (*Example: High Street at intersection of Portsmouth Avenue*)

5. In your daily experience, what is the most dangerous location or facility (intersection, stretch of road, pedestrian crossing, etc) in your community? Please be as specific as possible.

6. Please look at the list of transportation issues below and tell us which you think are important to address in the next 10 years. Please rate each issue on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being Least Important, and 5 being Most Important

	Least Important			Most Important		Don't Know
A. Maintaining existing highways and bridges	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Expanding capacity on the highway network	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Improving intersections for safety and traffic flow	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. Providing real-time traffic information	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
E. Improving bicycle/pedestrian safety in school zones	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
F. Improving bicycle/pedestrian safety in town centers	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
G. Expanding public transit for seniors or others who don't drive	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
H. Expanding public transit for commuters and the general public	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
I. Expanding passenger rail service in the region	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
J. Facilitate movement of freight and goods	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. Which three of the issues listed above do you think are the most important for the region to prioritize for funding improvements in the next 10 years? [Write in the letters below using the letters in the list in Question 6 in order of their importance to you]

1st ____ 2nd ____ 3rd ____

Comment Box:

SPECIFIC TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT NEEDS

This section asks about specific transportation system improvement needs in your community. This could include intersection improvements, bridge repairs, public transit connections, sidewalks, parking, etc. Please identify up to three priority needs in your community or the broader region. (If you complete the contact information section at the end of the survey, RPC staff will follow up with you to get further input on the needs you identify).

Transportation System Need A

Transportation System Need B

Transportation System Need C

TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

Transportation system improvements are costly. The buying power of the State Highway Fund relative to construction costs has declined approximately 44% since the State gas tax was last increased in 1991. In addition the general improvement in vehicle fuel economy means less gas tax revenue raised per mile driven. Since 2007, over \$300 million in community-prioritized transportation projects have been removed from the State Ten Year Transportation Plan and postponed indefinitely due to lack of funding. The repeal of the \$30.00 supplemental State vehicle registration fee enacted in 2009 will result in a loss to the State Highway Fund of approximately \$45 million annually; and the loss of \$42.5 million to NHDOT and municipalities for planned projects and maintenance in this region alone over the next 10 years.

8. **How, if at all, do you think the State of New Hampshire and your community should respond to this decline in funding? Please indicate your level of support for the following responses using a scale of 1-5 where 1 equals “Strongly Oppose” and 5 equals “Strongly Support”.**

	Strongly Oppose			Strongly Support		Don't Know
A. Maintain taxes or fees at current levels and drop or delay projects as needed to fit available resources	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Eliminate other state spending to use State General Funds without raising new revenues	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Increase the state gas tax	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. Index the state gas tax to inflation	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
E. Increase vehicle registration fees	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
F. Increase tolls on existing turnpikes	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
G. Implement tolls on additional highway segments	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
H. Adopt a state tax on sales or income designated for transportation	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
I. Establish impact fees on new development to pay for traffic improvements necessitated by that development	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
J. Increase local property taxes to fund local transportation improvements	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
K. Increase other local fees to fund local transportation improvements	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
L. Other (Please specify):	1	2	3	4	5	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. **Which three of the mechanisms listed above, if any, do you think are most appropriate to ensure that revenue to meet highest priority transportation needs is available in the next decade? [Write in the letters below using the list letters in the previous question in order of their importance to you]**

1st ____ 2nd ____ 3rd ____ None of the above ____

10. **Under New Hampshire's State Constitution, gas tax and vehicle registration funds may be used only for roadway improvements. While this could include over the road bus service, these funds may not be used for rail. How strongly would you favor or oppose legislation to allow use of these funds for passenger rail service?**

Strongly oppose Oppose Neutral Support Strongly Support

11. State law allows towns to charge a supplemental vehicle registration fee of up to \$5.00 per vehicle to fund locally prioritized transportation improvements, whether road maintenance, intersection improvements, public transportation, sidewalks, or other transportation projects. How would you view adoption of this fee in your community? (check all that apply)

- Strongly oppose Oppose Neutral Support Strongly Support
 Depends on specific use of funds My community already uses this fee

DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

12. What is your age?

- 18-24 years 35-44 years 55-64 years
 25-34 years 45-54 years 65+ years

13. How long have you lived in southeastern New Hampshire?

- Less than 5 years 11-15 years
 5-10 years 16+ years

14. Which of the following describe your connection to regional planning? (check all that apply):

- Municipal board member Concerned citizen and taxpayer
 Municipal staff State elected official
 Business sector State agency staff
 Non-profit sector Regional organization representative
 Other (please specify) _____

15. If you would like RPC staff to contact you regarding project priorities noted in this survey, please complete the following:

Name: _____ Affiliation: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

16. Please provide any other comments on transportation needs and priorities in your community or the RPC region in the space below

THANK YOU!

Your time, and knowledge of your community, are helpful to the RPC in prioritizing transportation investments in the coming years. With questions contact Scott Bogle at 778-0885 or sbogle@rpc-nh.org