

**TOWN OF MERRIMACK
INTER-DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATION**

DATE: January 22, 2021
AT (OFFICE): Department of Public Works

FROM: Dawn B. Tuomala, PE, LLS, CWS
Deputy Director/Town Engineer

To: Eileen Cabanel, Town Manager

SUBJECT: **Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Round 4
Application for a Sidewalk Project**

The State of New Hampshire has opened for a 4th round of applications to foster non-motorized transportation infrastructure that is safe and accessible. The Town Center Committee (TCC) at their December 4, 2020 meeting prioritized 3 of the sidewalks locations. Their priorities are as follows:

1. Twin Bridge Road (Route 3 to Twin Bridge Park Trail (North Side))
2. Frazier Square/Railroad Avenue to Rite Aid Crosswalk (East Side Route 3)
3. Library to O'Gara Drive (North Side Baboosic Lake Road)

The new round of TAP Grants will allow up to \$1,250,000 (\$1,000,000 Federal) (\$250,000 local match) in project limits. The Application Guidelines are as follows:

1. The Town needs to submit a Letter of Interest (LOI) and a map showing the project location.
2. Attendance at a mandatory pre-application informational meeting (virtual via zoom).
3. Submission of the TAP Application.

To submit the LOI the project needs to be defined and an outlined as far as the location, scope limits and project length. The project we feel that would best fit all of the criteria being requested is the sidewalk on Daniel Webster Highway (see attached sketch). We would like to propose a sidewalk project that is approximately 3,600 feet in total length stretching from the Souhegan River to approximately the Merrimack 360 plaza.

Utilizing the Town Center Pedestrian & Trail Master Plan (see attached) they outline sidewalk #5 & #7 on the plan as a priority. Since their plan only extends to Railroad Avenue (AKA TCC item 2 above), we would request from the Town Council to extend the sidewalk as far as possible with the monies that are available. There are sections of sidewalk that already exist within the outlined area that will not be considered as part of this project. There is also a section of sidewalk that is being proposed as part of the site plan that will also not be considered.

In addition to the information above, we are also required to submit supporting letters for the project. We are requesting the direction for the project and a supporting letter from the Town Council.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions please let me know,

Dawn

CC: Kyle Fox; Director
File

Transportation Alternative Program (TAP):

Round 4 now open

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) is starting a new competitive selection round for pedestrian and bicycling infrastructure projects under the federally funded Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP).

TAP is currently authorized under the new FAST-ACT (Fixing America's Surface Transportation System Act). Created under MAP-21 (Moving for Progress in the 21st Century), TAP combines a number of individual federal programs into a single, more flexible program. The formerly separate programs include Transportation Enhancement (TE), Safe Routes to School (SRTS), and Scenic Byways. New Hampshire's annual allocation for TAP is approximately \$3.2M (\$2.6M Federal). Two years of funding will be awarded in this round. The overall purpose of TAP is to foster non-motorized transportation infrastructure that is safe, in good physical condition, and accessible. To better manage TAP projects the following guidelines have been created by the Department for this round:

Funding Limitations:

- Minimum project limit is \$400,000 (total dollars) – (\$320,000 federal)
- Maximum project limit is \$1,250,000 (total dollars) - (\$1,000,000 federal)
- Project will require at least a 20% match provided by the applicant

Note: Projects can exceed the \$1,250,000 cap if other funding sources are added to the project. Projects can also request less than the minimum cap as long as other funding sources are added to keep a minimum of \$400,000 for the total project cost.

Eligible Activities:

- Construction, planning, and design of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other users of non-motorized forms.
- Construction, planning, and design of infrastructure-related projects and systems that will provide safe routes for non-drivers, including children, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to access daily needs.
- Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for pedestrians, bicyclists, or other non-motorized transportation users.
- SRTS infrastructure activities eligible under §1404 of SAFETEA-LU (20% match required)

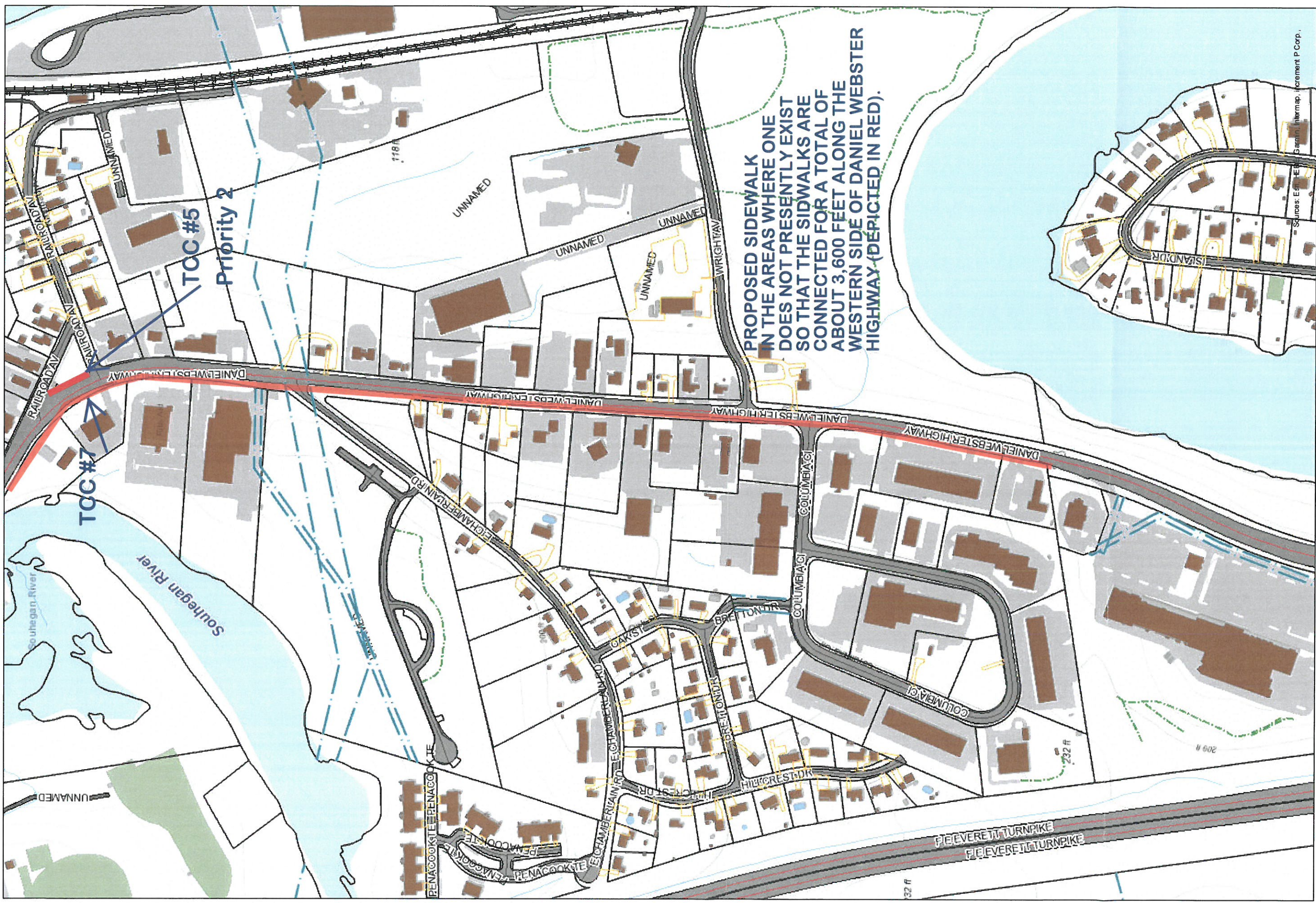
Note: The Department has determined that non-profits, local advocacy groups and state agencies are not eligible for TAP funds. The limit is one application per town/city

Application Guidelines:

The application process is broken into three distinct and mandatory steps.

1. Submission of a Letter of Interest (LOI) and a map showing your project location (**Electronic submission required**)
2. Attendance at a mandatory pre-application informational meeting hosted by the Department. Meeting will probably be virtual via zoom. **Details will be provided around the time Letters Of Interest are due.**
3. Submission of the TAP application. (**Electronic submissions are required**) Applications will be provided around the time Letters of Interest are due.

Letter of Interest due Friday, February 5, 2021 (Letter of Interest emails will be accepted up until 11:59 pm on February 5, 2021)



DANIEL WEBSTER HIGHWAY SIDEWALK

MERRIMACK DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

6 BABOOSIC LAKE RD

MERRIMACK, NH 03054

SCALE: 1 INCH = 400 FEET

DATE: JANUARY 21, 2021

New Hampshire



Legend

- Driveways
- Building
- Pool
- Easements
- Parcels
- Road Labels
- Waterbody
- Wetland
- Pavement
- Parking
- Cemetery
- Recreation
- Road
- Highway
- Railroad
- Trails
- Stream Label
- Streams/Rivers

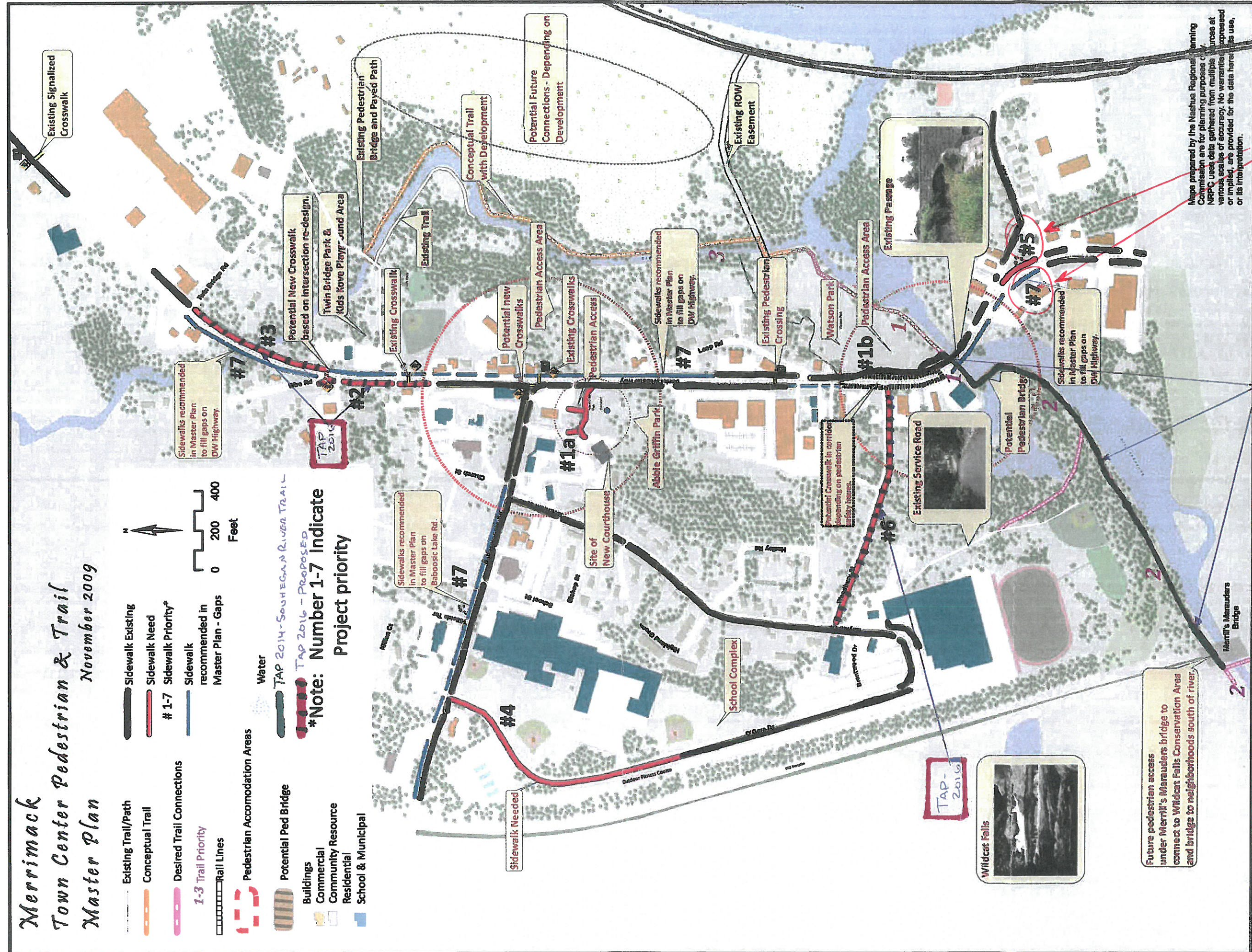
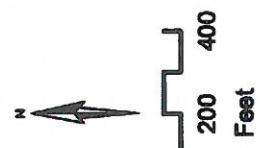
Merrimack Town Center Pedestrian & Trail Master Plan

November 2009

Existing Trail/Path
 Conceptual Trail
 Desired Trail Connections
 1-3 Trail Priority
 Rail Lines
 Pedestrian Accommodation Areas
 Potential Ped Bridge
 Buildings
 Commercial
 Community Resource
 Residential
 School & Municipal

Sidewalk Existing
 Sidewalk Need
 # 1-7 Sidewalk Priority*
 Sidewalk recommended in Master Plan - Gaps
 Master Plan - Gaps

Water
 TAP 2014 - SOUHEGAN RIVER TRAIL
 TAP 2016 - PROPOSED
***Note: Number 1-7 Indicate Project priority**



Maps prepared by the Nashua Regional Planning Commission are for planning purposes only. NRPC uses data gathered from multiple sources at various scales of accuracy. No warranties expressed or implied, are provided for the data hereon or its interpretation.

TAP 2014 - SOUHEGAN RIVER TRAIL

TAP 2016 OWH



Future pedestrian access under Merrill's Marauders bridge to connect to Wildcat Falls Conservation Area and bridge to neighborhoods south of river.