



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## **FY 2026 - FY 2035 Capital Improvement Program**

**Adopted October 22, 2024**

### **Preface**

In July 2024, the Planning Board appointed a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Committee consisting of three members of the Planning Board, one selectman who sits on the Budget Committee and one member from the Budget Committee to update the town's CIP for Fiscal Years 2026 - 2035. A key part of the process is meeting with Department Heads and Committees of the Town to review their 10-year forecast for capital expenditures of \$50,000 or greater. Some projects less than \$50,000 may be included depending on type and accounting treatment. The forecast is based on cost estimates plus an inflation factor as appropriate. The CIP is presented in a spreadsheet depicting the capital item, the estimated cost, the year or years it is anticipated to be and a cumulative annual total. Capital projects typically include infrastructure, land acquisitions, non-minor building repairs and replacements, vehicle & equipment purchases, design and engineering studies. The CIP is a planning document for forecasting expected capital projects and for consideration by the Select Board and Budget Committee in their annual budget reviews. The CIP is not a funding source. The CIP process is governed by State Law RSA 674:5. Some of the capital projects are highlighted below:

### **Tracy Memorial Library**

The age and architecture of the building presents several ongoing maintenance projects scheduled over the next decade. Recently the Library completed the first stage of a multi-year strategic plan process to inform programming, space and technology needs. Other than shown currently in the capital plan, these components and projected costs are under development and will be reflected in the FY 2027 CIP.

### **Department of Public Works**

Highway:

A significant portion of the Public Work's capital needs consist of equipment. The Committee has recommended, and the Department is in the process of implementing, an Asset Management Program (AMP) to track equipment, facility needs, maintenance requirements and ownership cost. This program will help inform future capital plans, the budgeting processes, and the evaluation of the advantages and disadvantages of operational alternatives such as leasing equipment.



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Additionally, the Public Works capital plan includes a multi-year plan of expenditures for sidewalk repair and installation for mobility enhancement consistent with and strongly supported in the 2021 Master Plan.

## Sewer:

Public Works has implemented an AIP Asset Management Program to track equipment, systems, and related management expenses.

## Fire Department

A significant concern identified in the CIP is the potential need to expand the Fire Station. The Ladder 3 replacement is anticipated to be taller and will not fit in the current 11' garage doors. The conceptual solution to the issue is that an addition could be built with a bay that has a 14' door to accommodate the larger truck. Though the expansion is not anticipated for several years, the Committee recommends the Fire Department and Town Administration begin a planning process for a solution of the problem. The design should include solar panels since the current roof has been identified as an ideal solar site.

The Committee also recommends that the Fire Department should use the AMP currently being implemented by Public Works to track and manage its equipment, apparatus and building needs.

## Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission continues to identify and pursue the purchase of desirable land where conservation adds value to the Town. The Commission believes that due to the increasing cost of real estate it will need a minimum of \$1,000,000 to pursue its mission. Due to the opportunistic nature of its land purchases, it is difficult to identify specific parcels now; however, the Committee believes it is important to plan financially to take advantage of the opportunities when they arise. The Committee recommends that the budgeting toward this goal be carried out through 2034.

## Town Administration

## Police Department

The CIP plan reflects capital expense for a planning process to acquire land, design and construct a new facility to accommodate the department's present and future needs. The CIP includes projected expenses associated with this project. As a result, the CIP plan does not include the replacement of security camera(s) and controlled-access system, implementation of



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solar panels nor future needs of electric vehicles and the related infrastructure as these should be included in the planning of the new facility. While discussions have begun regarding future uses of the Buker Building, no associated expenses for renovation have been determined or included in this plan.

## **Planning Board**

The Committee supports the continued efforts of the Planning Board to accomplish goals in the 2021 Master Plan. A study of the Main Street and Newport Road corridor to improve the safety of motorists, cyclists and pedestrians is an important part of the project. The study should include addressing streetscape design and the exploration of implementation of a form-based code throughout the corridor.

## **Energy Committee**

The Committee supports the Energy Committee's efforts to expand municipal solar capacity to meet the Town's goal of using 100% renewable sources for its electricity by 2030 and 100% renewable fuel for its heating and transportation by 2050. To achieve the goal, the Energy Committee is examining whether there are suitable locations in town for ground-mount solar systems as well as considering which Town facilities might warrant solar or other means of renewable generation. So that the Town can achieve its energy goals, the Energy Committee will likely require a substantial increase in its capital reserve to be able to support projects such as solar installs and, in time, purchasing the investor-owned solar assets installed on and near the DPW Highway Garage.

## **Other Governmental Needs**

While this CIP includes the anticipated capital needs of Town departments, there are other independent branches of local government, like the Kearsarge Regional School District, Merrimack County, and New London-Springfield Water Precinct (NLSWP) that may also be working on capital projects as part of the long-range planning of their organizations. Notably, the NLSWP has identified the need for additional water capacity to serve the users of the precinct. This effort can be anticipated to require near and long-term capital investment. It is premature to forecast the capital impact, until a solution and/or direction has been established. As such, the Committee encourages steps be taken to plan for, and implement, a path forward to increase capacity for the future needs of properties within the NLSWP and elsewhere for the town.