



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

375 MAIN STREET • NEW LONDON, NH 03257 • 603-526-4821 • WWW.NL-NH.COM

FY 2025-FY 2034 Capital Improvement Program

Adopted October

In July 2023, the Planning Board appointed a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) subcommittee to complete the process of updating the CIP. The subcommittee consists of five members of the Planning Board and a member from the Budget Committee. The CIP Committee undertook the process of gathering information from the Departments and Committees of the Town of their projected capital needs over the next ten years. The information was collected in spreadsheets that summarize the project, the total cost of the project and the year(s) in which the money is planned to be spent. Some of the projects span multiple years. Following meetings with Department Heads and Officials, the CIP Committee deliberated to determine any changes or recommendations from the plan. The attached CIP Spreadsheet is the comprehensive FY2025-2034 Plan. Some projects are highlighted in the comments of the CIP Committee below.

General Comments

As the projects in this plan are implemented, we encourage Departments to utilize energy-efficient methods and equipment to achieve the Town's 2018 goal of 100% renewable sources for electricity by 2030 and 100% renewable fuel for heating and transportation by 2050.

The CIP is a planning document of recommended capital projects, not a funding source. The plan reflects the needs identified by the Town departments and their capital needs over the next ten years. The CIP Committee supports the projects within this plan and encourages the Budget Committee and Selectboard to review each project and its cost as they conduct their annual budget reviews. As the needs of the town evolve and projects are completed, the plan will be updated and amended. Capital projects typically include infrastructure projects, land acquisitions, building maintenance & improvements, vehicle & equipment purchases, engineering & design studies. The CIP Committee set a threshold of \$50,000 for the minimum for each project, understanding that some necessary projects below that threshold may be included as capital purchases.

Capital investments shape and define the character, sense of place and economic vitality of this community. The CIP process is governed by State Law RSA 674:5.

Tracy Memorial Library

The Committee recognizes that the facility has ongoing maintenance projects scheduled over the next decade and recommends completion of the projects outlined in the attached spreadsheets. The Library's upcoming strategic planning process will help to guide future needs and capital expenses of Tracy Library.

Department of Public Works

Highway

The Committee notes that a significant portion of the Public Works Department's capital needs include equipment purchases. The Committee believes that the Department should consider purchasing and implementing an Asset Management Program to help track Town equipment and facility needs as well as maintenance and ownership cost. This program would be helpful for future CIP and budget processes to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of operational alternatives such as leasing equipment. The Committee recommends that, to the extent possible, the Department of Public Works work closely with the New London-Springfield Water Precinct on the coordination of infrastructure work along Main Street as the Water Precinct prepares for its water main replacement project..

The Department of Public Works capital needs also include significant expenditures for sidewalks in the coming years. The Committee encourages these and perhaps additional expenditures as consistent with the Master Plan recommendations that mobility enhancement is a top overall priority of residents.

Sewer

The Committee would like to highlight the advantage of an Asset Management Program that the Department uses to track its equipment, systems, and management expenses.

New London-Springfield Water System Precinct (NLSWP)

Although the NLSWP is an independent entity, the Committee has included it in the plan so as to provide a comprehensive planning process. The Committee recognizes the significant infrastructure project that the NLSWP faces with the replacement of the water main under Main Street. To the extent possible, the work on Main Street should be coordinated with the Department of Public Works to allow for the most efficient process.

The CIP Committee recognizes the need for the NLSWP to address the capacity and sustainability issues of the system. A particular solution has not yet been identified. 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.

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 nine years, the Committee recommends the Fire Department and Town begin the planning process, as well as begin to plan financially for the project.

The Committee believes the Fire Department should consider the usefulness of an Asset Management Program to help track its equipment and apparatus.

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, by 2034 it will need \$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

The Committee recommends that the digitization of the Town Records for property files, planning & zoning files, Town Clerk files, etc., be funded. The Committee believes that digitization of all records where it is possible to do so, consistent with statutory requirements, is important. Additionally, the CIP adds a project to reorganize space within the Academy Building to accommodate expansion of the Town Clerk's office to allow for two customer service windows.

Police Department

The Committee recognizes the community's need for a new facility to house the Police Department and Communications Center. The committee supports an organized planning process to acquire land, design and construct a facility to accommodate the department now and in the future. The Committee has not included a variety of projects to address deficiencies at the current Police Station with the expectation that a new facility will be constructed that will address the inadequacies. For example, the plan does not include the replacement of the security camera and controlled-access system, implementation of solar panels and future needs of electric vehicles and the related infrastructure. Additionally, the future use of Buker and its associated expenses have not 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. Executing a study of the Main Street and Newport Road corridor to improve the safety of motorists, cyclists and pedestrians is an important project. The study shall include addressing streetscape design and the 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 electricity by 2030 and 100% renewable fuel for 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.