

NMCOG Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

Advisory Committee #2



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Agenda

1. Welcome (5 min)
2. Existing Conditions Overview (25 min)
3. Local Knowledge and Input (20 min)
4. Preparing for Public Engagement (20 min)
5. Wrap-Up and Next Steps (15 min)



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Welcome and Introductions

Roll Call

1



Roll Call

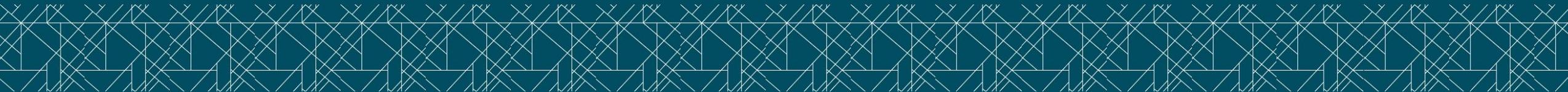
- Aubrey Brown, Lowell National Historic Park
- Doug Chandler
- George DeLuca
- David Ganong
- Marlies Henderson
- Liz Ivanov
- Wendy Jepson
- Robert Klinkhammer
- Kyle Parker
- Phil Posner
- Amber Stearns
- Ray Tice
- Joshua Warhurst
- Ethan Yang
- NMCOG Staff
 - Apple Gould-Schultz
 - Amanuel Regassa
 - Blake Acton
 - Chris Hayes
 - Kelly Lynema



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Updated Vision & Goals Based on Input from AC

2



NEW: DRAFT Vision & Goals

Vision

The Northern Middlesex region is a cohesive region where people walking, rolling, bicycling, wheeling, and taking transit feel safe and comfortable across the region's nine municipalities. People using active modes of transportation for travel and for recreation is the norm in the region, and more people choose active modes.

Goals

1. Promote safe and comfortable facilities
2. Develop a cohesive and connected network
3. Increase walking and bicycling for both recreational and utility purposes
4. Ensure equitable and accessible access to facilities
5. **New:** Educate the region on safety practices for walking and bicycling
6. **New:** Support and enhance housing and economic development in town/city centers

NEW: Goals for Region vs. Goals for Plan

Goals for the Region, to achieve the Vision

1. Develop a **cohesive and connected** network.
(moved to be first)
2. Promote **safe and comfortable** facilities.
3. **Increase walking and bicycling** for both recreational and utility purposes.
4. Ensure **equitable and accessible** access to facilities.
5. **New:** Educate the region on safety practices for walking and bicycling
6. **New:** Support and enhance housing and economic development in town/city centers

Goals for the Plan and Planning Process

1. Contribute to regional cohesion and unity, including collaboration between municipalities
2. Align with other parallel state and local efforts.
3. Refocus who MassDOT, DCR, and municipalities are planning and designing for, changing priorities and removing policy barriers to focus on the most vulnerable.
4. Support increased awareness and culture of walking and bicycling. Identify top priority projects that will spur more change.
5. Implement Vision Zero strategies.

NEW: Goals for Region

Goals for the Region, to achieve the Vision

- 1. Develop a cohesive and connected network.** Improve connections throughout the region, **between municipalities**, and to nearby communities that stitch together previously fragmented **and intermodal** infrastructure. Improve access to employment and economic centers, neighborhoods, schools, other public services, and existing recreational trails and facilities. **Create cohesion by making connections feel seamless, especially among a backbone network with a regional identity.**
- 2. Promote safe and comfortable facilities.** Prioritize on-road and off-road trails, sidewalks, bikeways, crossings, and paths that are safe and welcoming to all ages and abilities. Deploy infrastructure that is consistent with the Safe System Approach.
- 3. Increase walking and bicycling for both recreational and utility purposes.** Encourage more people walking, biking, rolling to improve health and to provide easy alternatives to driving for access to jobs, school, and other daily trips.
- 4. Ensure equitable and accessible access to facilities.** Create places where everybody can walk, bike, or roll regardless of age, ability, identity, race, or economic status. Ensure that investments are made equitably and are complemented by programs that encourage and empower, such that everyone has the option to choose active transportation.
- 5. Educate the region on safety practices for walking and bicycling.** Create channels for sharing best practices around how safely to use multimodal transportation. Uplift people and groups who are already walking and bicycling.
- 6. Support and enhance housing and economic development in town/city centers.** Leverage active transportation as affordable and inclusive alternatives to driving. Make decisions that integrate land use and transportation consideration.



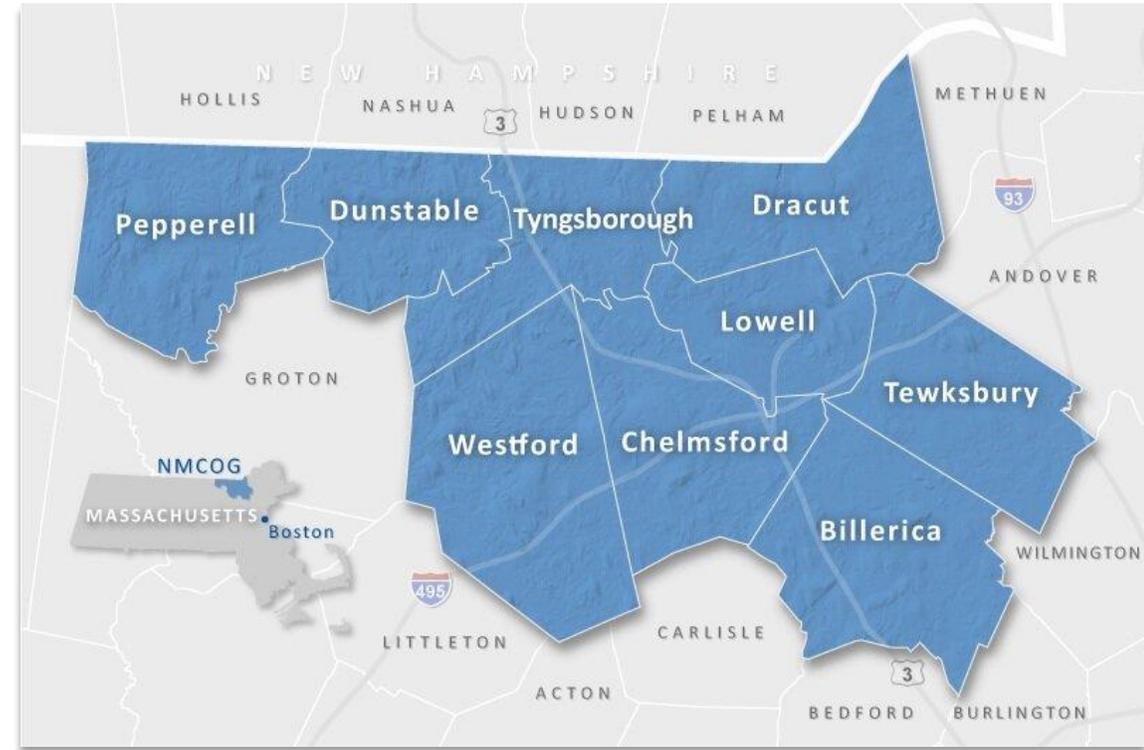
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Existing Conditions Overview



Existing Conditions Report

1. Existing Plans and Summaries
2. Infrastructure Inventory
3. Safety Analysis
4. Regional Demographics
5. Access to Destinations
6. Active Transportation Demand
7. Summary



Existing Plans and Studies in the NMCOCG Region

Regional

- Northern Middlesex Regional Transportation Plan (2019)
- Envision 2050: Long-Range Transportation Plan (2023)

Municipal

- Billerica Master Plan (2018)
- Chelmsford Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (2021)
- Dracut Master Plan (2020)
- Dunstable Master Plan (2018)
- Lowell Forward Comprehensive Plan (2024)
- Go Lowell Plan: Lowell Multimodal Complete Streets Plan (2021)
- Pepperell Master Plan (2020)
- Tewksbury Pedestrian Mobility Master Plan (2017)
- Tyngsborough Master Plan (2004)
- Westford Comprehensive Master Plan (2009)



Summary of Recommendations from Past Plans

	Plan	Expand the bicycle and pedestrian network	Improve connectivity	Add crossings and crosswalks	Implement educational campaigns	Develop a dedicated fund for bike/ped facilities and maintenance	Amend subdivision regs/ bylaws to include bike/ped facilities	Add or improve wayfinding	Develop a bike/ped plan, prioritization plan, or connectivity plan
NMCOCG	Northern Middlesex RTP	X	X	X		X			
	Envision 2050	X		X					
Municipal	Billerica Master Plan	X		X	X			X	X
	Chelmsford Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan	X	X	X	X			X	
	Dracut Master Plan	X	X		X	X	X		X
	Dunstable Master Plan	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
	GoLowell			X	X	X		X	
	Lowell Forward	X	X	X				X	
	Greater Lowell Vision Zero Plan	X	X	X	X				
	Pepperell Master Plan	X	X	X	X	X	X		
	Tewksbury Ped Mobility Plan	X	X						
	Tyngsborough Master Plan	X					X		
	Westford Comprehensive Plan	X	X			X	X	X	X
		TOTAL	12	9	9	8	6	5	5

Key Takeaways

- NMCOG roadways are **designed with vehicles as the primary mode** of transportation. However, municipalities are making **concerted efforts to build safer streets to encourage residents to walk or bicycle** to their destinations, especially shorter trips.
- Plans include **policy and educational initiatives** in addition to recommendations for **physical infrastructure and design treatments**
- Only four of the municipal master/comprehensive plans recommend the municipality develops a pedestrian and bicycle plan. Priority is for building out a bicycle and pedestrian **connected** network.
- Many of the plans do not include Massachusetts' **environmental justice** criteria for determining priority locations for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.

Complete Streets Policies

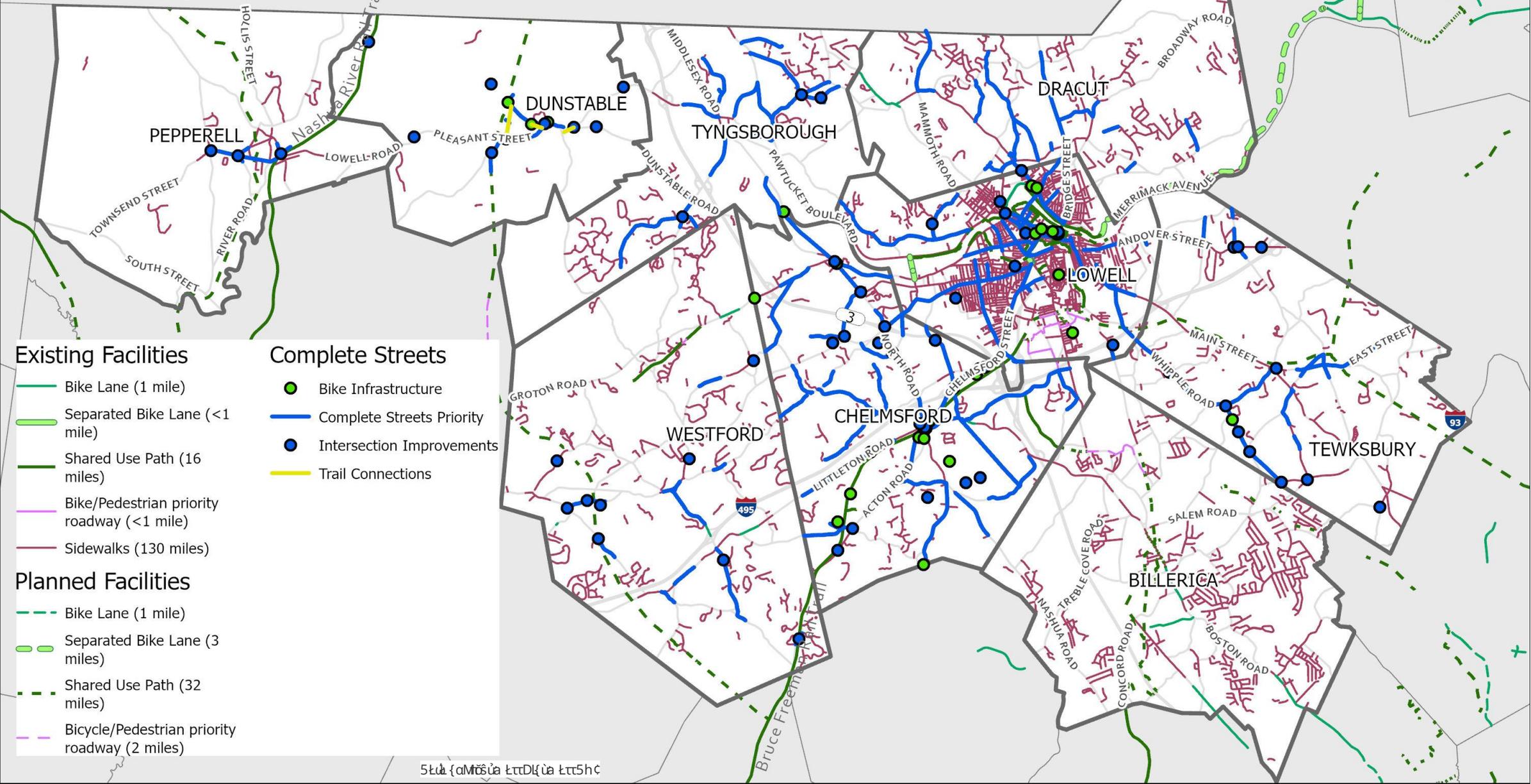
Town	Year	Goals/Priorities
Billerica	2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accommodate all road users to meet the needs of a variety of transportation modes Focus on developing a connected integrated network
Chelmsford	2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use transportation modes to create a linked network of roads, walkways, trails, and other transit systems for all users Transportation projects apply the design principles of Complete Streets, whenever possible, including new, general maintenance or reconstruction projects
Dracut	2019	Document not obtained
Dunstable	2016	Document not obtained
Lowell	2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a multimodal transportation system designed to provide improved mobility and accessibility opportunities for all users Maintain a Transportation Infrastructure Inventory Incorporate Complete Streets Elements into Transportation Projects Incorporate Complete Streets Policy into Development Review Process
Pepperell	2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accommodate as many modes of travel as practical within the transportation network which includes many miles of narrow, two-lane roads Preserve and enhance scenic, aesthetic, historical, and environmental resources while improving or maintaining health, safety, mobility, and infrastructure conditions Accommodate all users by creating a transportation network that attempts to meet the needs of individuals using a variety of transportation modes Encourage healthy opportunities for Pepperell residents such as walking and bicycling instead of driving Balance the needs of motorists and public safety vehicles with the environmental impacts of the transportation networks Reduce reliance on motor vehicles
Tewksbury	2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accommodate all users by creating a transportation network that meets the needs of visitors and residents using a variety of modes Develop and implement projects that is context sensitive to Tewksbury and the community's values and enhances the aesthetic, historical, and environmental resources while improving and maintaining safety and mobility
Tyngsborough	2016	Document not obtained
Westford	2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accommodate all road users by creating transportation networks that meet the needs of people using a variety of modes Accommodate as many modes of travel as practical within the transportation network which includes many miles of narrow, two-lane roads Encourage healthy opportunities for Westford residents such as walking and biking instead of driving Balance the needs of motorists and public safety vehicles with the environmental impacts of the transportation network Reduce reliance on motor vehicles and thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions



0 0.75 1.5 3 Miles

New Hampshire

Complete Streets Priorities



Existing Facilities

- Bike Lane (1 mile)
- Separated Bike Lane (<1 mile)
- Shared Use Path (16 miles)
- Bike/Pedestrian priority roadway (<1 mile)
- Sidewalks (130 miles)

Complete Streets

- Bike Infrastructure
- Complete Streets Priority
- Intersection Improvements
- Trail Connections

Planned Facilities

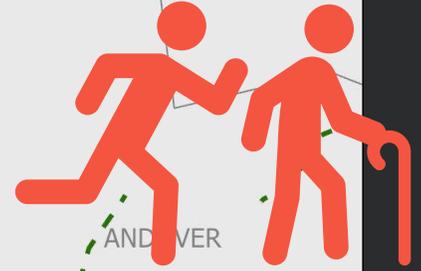
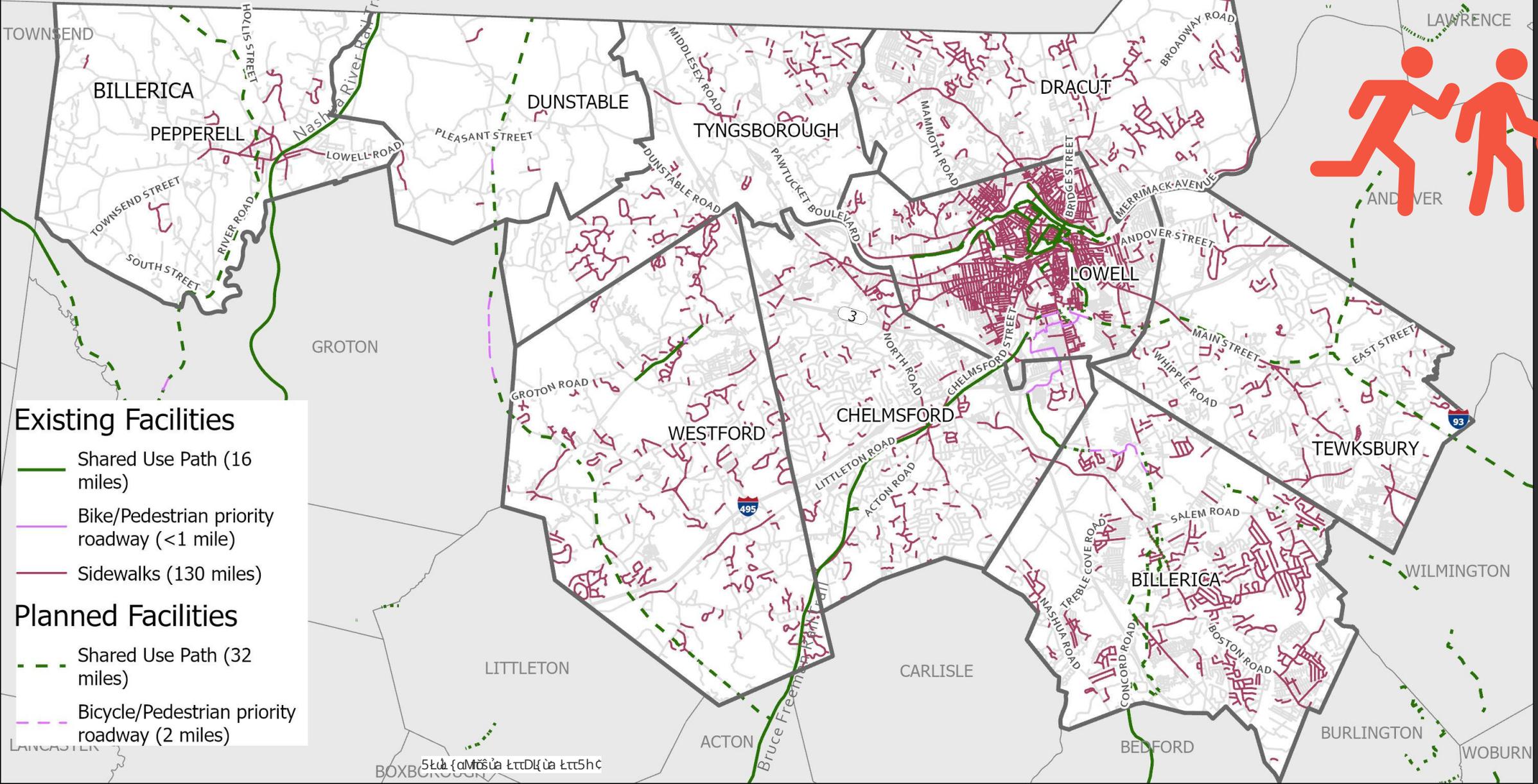
- Bike Lane (1 mile)
- Separated Bike Lane (3 miles)
- Shared Use Path (32 miles)
- Bicycle/Pedestrian priority roadway (2 miles)



0 0.75 1.5 3 Miles

New Hampshire

Existing and Planned Pedestrian Infrastructure



Existing Facilities

- Shared Use Path (16 miles)
- Bike/Pedestrian priority roadway (<1 mile)
- Sidewalks (130 miles)

Planned Facilities

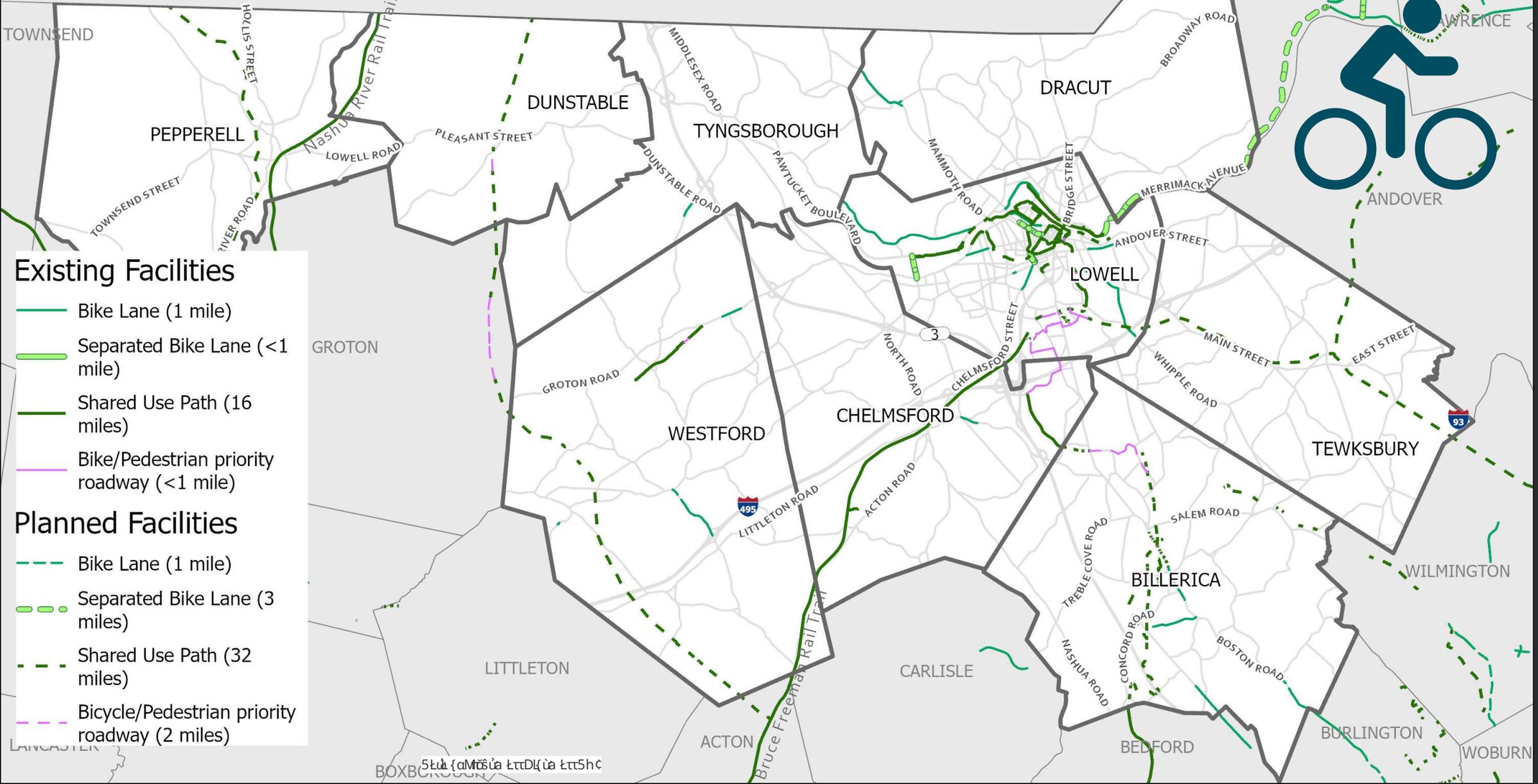
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0 0.75 1.5 3 Miles

New Hampshire

Existing and Planned Bicycle Infrastructure



Existing Facilities

- Bike Lane (1 mile)
- Separated Bike Lane (<1 mile)
- Shared Use Path (16 miles)
- Bike/Pedestrian priority roadway (<1 mile)

Planned Facilities

- Bike Lane (1 mile)
- Separated Bike Lane (3 miles)
- Shared Use Path (32 miles)
- Bicycle/Pedestrian priority roadway (2 miles)

Q&A and feedback



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Local Knowledge Work Session

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Breakout Groups: Here or Virtual

Divide into groups; using maps, identify:

- Problem areas for walking and biking in the region
- Ideas for improvements (e.g., new connections, crossings, safety upgrades)
- Key destinations that should be better served by active transportation
- Local and regional destinations
- Gaps in current networks
- Opportunities to improve access and connectivity



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Preparing for Public Engagement

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Public Workshop & Pop-Up Events

Pop-Up Events

June 22 (Sunday)
YMCA River Run 5K – Lowell

Wendy
Jepson

June 25 (Wednesday)
Summer Concert Series – Dunstable

Liz
Ivanov

June 28 (Saturday)
DIY Sidewalk Inventory – Lowell & Market on the Common

Robert Klinkhammer & Doug
Chandler

June 30 (Monday)
Farmers' Market Pop-Up – Billerica

Marlies
Henderson

July 3 (Thursday)
Transit Station Outreach – Gallagher Terminal Lowell

July 11 (Friday)
CTI Farmers' Market – Lowell

Ethan Yang (TBD)

July 15 (Tuesday) & August 15 (Saturday)
Roudenbush Summer Community Market – Westford

Amber Stearns (8/16)

Public Workshop

Date: Tuesday, July 8

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Location: Lowell Senior Center

Survey Overview

Multilingual Options

- Available in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Khmer, and Chinese
- Available via QR code, online link, and printed flyers
- Supports broad community input across diverse populations



Supporting Public Engagement

- Distribute flyers within your network and community spaces
- Encourage local participation in upcoming pop-up events
- Share the survey digitally via email or social media
- Help identify other outreach opportunities and partners

‘ΟΑΝΤΥ’, ΕΠΩ, ΞΙΤ, ΤΩΓΙΤΤ Η



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Wrap-Up and Next Steps

6



Upcoming Engagement

Help Promote the Region-wide survey

- <https://arcg.is/1b9Srn2>

Email distribution list

- nmcog.org/glbikepedplan (or nmcog.org/glbppp)

June-August pop-up events

- Table with us!
- Sign-up for the upcoming pop-up events

July public workshop

- July 8th @ Lowell Senior Center
- Invite your networks, assist at meetings (greeters, registration, note-takers, facilitators)

