

Bradford's Road Plan

In the summer of 2021, Road Agent Steve Hall partnered with Dean Williams and Matt Baronas at Central New Hampshire Regional Planning (CNHRPC) to develop a long-term, manageable road plan for the Town of Bradford. The first step was to assess the condition of each paved road in Bradford using a mobile mapping and assessment tool created by UNH called RSMS – Road Surface Management System. Each road was broken into maintenance segments and CNHRPC staff drove each route collecting data. Multiple characteristics of each segment were recorded including width, surface condition, surface defect types and drainage information. The Town's data was compiled and PCI (Pavement Condition Index) values for each segment were calculated.

The next step was to develop a pavement plan. This involved calculating a road priority and following a pavement strategy. Each road's priority is calculated based on traffic count, importance (which is a value based on the proximity to needed services such as schools) and the PCI. The strategy is to keep good roads good. Using low-cost treatments to keep roads in working condition for as long as possible extends the road's useful life, limits construction disruption and is most cost efficient. Ultimately, roads do reach points of concern and must undergo restoration. The most efficient use of funds emphasizes preservation of roads in good condition and restoration of rougher roads as possible.

Using the RSMS to compile the data, charts and maps recommending a path forward have been produced. Maps showing the noticeable difference in PCI should we do nothing to our roads versus following the recommended maintenance plan support the statement that preserving roads is key to road longevity. The software goes further to predict the annual expense that can be expected by following the plan.

The RSMS creates an active database which allows for flexibility and adjustment. Tasks can be shifted forward or backward depending on funding available. Aligning the Road Plan and the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) ensures that necessary funding will be available when needed. Periodic reassessment of the roads by CNHRPC will keep the road plan on track and adjust for any unplanned repairs due to weather events.