

Merrimack Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization

Transportation Improvement Program

Federal Fiscal Years 2026-2030





# Executive Summary

## About the Merrimack Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization

Fifteen member communities fall within the Merrimack Valley's federally designated metropolitan planning region. The Merrimack Valley Planning Commission (MVPC) supports these communities by facilitating various environmental, economic development, transportation, and technology planning services. Staff within MVPC also support the Merrimack Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MVMPO), which is the region's transportation policy board. This body manages the region's federally required Continuing, Cooperative, and Comprehensive (3C) transportation planning process, which ensures infrastructure planning and funding coordination across the local, state, and federal levels of government.

## What is the region's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)?

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is the region's five-year transportation capital plan for federal aid projects. Each year the MVMPO prepares and approves a list of projects that are candidates to receive federal funding over a five-year horizon. Projects must be programmed on the TIP to receive federal aid.

## How is the TIP developed?

The TIP programs federal aid from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

On the highway side, the TIP contains two primary types of federal aid projects: regional projects and statewide projects. Regional projects are typically developed by member communities in coordination with MVMPO staff and MassDOT. These projects are typically confined to a single municipality and tend to benefit residents, employees, and visitors who travel through the specific municipality. By contrast, statewide projects tend to be greater in geographic scope and/or magnitude of benefit in that they support statewide mobility. Statewide projects may also support specific policy goals of the state (such as improving access to schools through the Safe Routes to School program). Most FHWA TIP projects support infrastructure construction; however, various federal aid programs have numerous eligibilities including capital purchase and design.

On the transit side, the TIP contains both capital and operating support for the region's transit authority, Merrimack Valley Transit (MeVa). Capital projects include a range of project-types including but not limited to replacing rolling stock, preventative maintenance, and upgrading facilities. Operating projects include subsidies for operations and short-range planning support.

Federal aid projects are supported by two types of federal aid funding: apportioned aid and discretionary aid. Federal surface transportation legislation includes programs (often referred to as "funding colors") and associated funding ceilings to allow states and regional governments to obligate the use of federal funds for their projects. Funds that are *apportioned* are approved by congress and divvyed up to states through specific program formulas. In Massachusetts, regional funds are further broken up by formula. Funds that are *discretionary* are available to recipients, as warranted, by federal approval, most typically through competitive grant programs administered by the Federal Highway Administration or Federal Transit Administration. *Earmarks* provide funding for priorities specifically included in federal surface transportation legislation.

## What projects are funded in this year's TIP?

This cycle programs federal aid for the following regional target projects:

Table 1. Regional Target Projects

Project ID	Project Description
608095	Corridor Improvements on Route 114 between Waverly Road and Mill Street in North Andover (2026-2028)
602843	Reconstruction on Route 97 between West Main and Moulton Street in Georgetown (2026)
608029	Intersection Improvements at Route 1 and Merrimack Street in Newburyport (2027)
611977	A trail connector between the Riverwalk and Salisbury Ghost Trail in Amesbury (2027)
608788	Reconstruction of North Avenue between Main Street and the New Hampshire Line in Haverhill (2028-2029)
611957	Reconstruction of Route 133 between Shawsheen Road and North Main Street in Andover (2029-2030)
S13278	Newburyport Bikeshare Pilot Capital Contribution (2026-2027)
S13279 and S13280	Merrimack Valley Region Design/Capital Purchase Reserve (2027 and 2029)

This cycle also programs earmarks or discretionary grant funded projects

Table 2. Earmarks and Discretionary Grant Funded Projects

Project ID	Project Description
612074	Replacement of the Short Street Bridge over the Spicket River in Lawrence (2027)
612158	Replacement of the Route 213 Bridge over the Methuen Rail Trail (2028)
613903	Preservation of the Union Street Bridge over the North Canal in Lawrence (2026)

This cycle also programs federal aid for the following statewide projects:

Table 3. Statewide Target Projects.

Project ID	Project Description
609466	I-495 bridge replacements in Haverhill/Methuen (2026)
608930	Lawrence to Manchester Rail Trail (2026-2027)
605304	Replacement of the Basiliere Bridge in Haverhill (2026-2028)
607541	A segment of the Border to Boston Trail between Georgetown Road and West Main Street in Georgetown and Boxford (2026)
612002	Safe Routes to School Improvements for Community Day Arlington in Lawrence (2026)
612045	Interstate Improvements on I-93 between Andover and Tewksbury (2026)
612143	Bridge replacement on Tewksbury Street over the MBTA Commuter Rail in Andover (2026)
612193	Bridge replacement over the Merrimack River in Andover (2026)
607542	A segment of the Border to Boston Trail between Georgetown and Byfield in Georgetown and Newbury (2027)
613092	Three culvert replacements in Haverhill on Route 110 (2029)
612890	Safe Routes to School Improvements for Bagnall Elementary in Groveland (2028)
612024	Resurfacing and related work on Route 28 in Andover (2027)
612103	Haverhill, Merrimac, Amesbury, and Salisbury interstate resurfacing and related work on I-495 (2030)
613702	Methuen Guide and Traffic Sign Replacement on Route 213 (2029)
613881	District 4 Accessibility Improvements at Multiple Locations in Haverhill and Salisbury (2029)

This cycle additionally programs various transit projects that allow Merrimack Valley Transit (MeVa) to operate their year-round fare-free fixed route service, operate paratransit services, and maintain vehicles and other infrastructure.

### How Can I Be Involved?

Every year, MVMPO releases its draft TIP for a 21-day comment period at its April meeting. Public hearing opportunities are provided and advertised thereafter. In addition to attending a public hearing, written comments may be provided by mail and/or email via the contact information listed below. Staff additionally welcome the opportunity to discuss the TIP and may be contacted to set up a meeting or call by email.

#### Mail:

Attn: Transportation Program Manager  
Merrimack Valley Planning Commission  
160 Main Street  
Haverhill, MA 01830

#### Email:

[transportation@mvpc.org](mailto:transportation@mvpc.org)

### Can the TIP be Changed Following Approval?

Yes. The TIP may be amended or adjusted following the procedures outlined in the region's most current Public Participation Plan. The current document's procedures (as of the approval date of May 22, 2025) may be found within this document under the "Amendment and Adjustment" procedures heading.