Corridor Spotlight: US 3/ US 4 North

KEY METRICS OF THE TRAFFIC SHED











US 4 is a primary east-west route across New Hampshire, while US 3 runs north-south. These routes overlap and run concurrently for approximately 1.5 miles just north of Concord in the Town of Boscawen. Just east of where US 3 and US 4 merge, US 4 runs concurrently with I-93 to the south from I-93 Exit 17 to I-93 exit 15. At Exit 17, US 4 splits from I-93 with a semi direct, partial cloverleaf interchange, and provides access to US 4 to the west and Hoit Rd to the east. South of the US 3 and US 4 split in Boscawen, US 3 passes through Boscawen, into Penacook and continues to downtown Concord. North of the US 3 and US 4 concurrence, US 3 heads north to Franklin and US 4 heads northeast to Salisbury. These corridors serve as commuting corridors for residents in Boscawen and points north. The traffic volumes increase from south to north, with higher volumes closer to Concord and I-93.

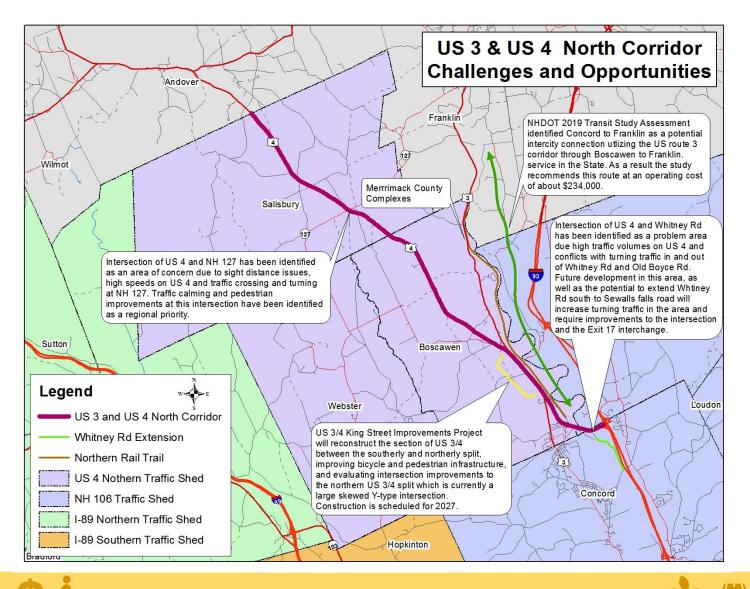
Immediately west of the Exit 17 interchange, US 4 intersects with Whitney Rd in Concord and Old Boyce Rd in Canterbury. This intersection has a history of crashes and has been identified as a regional priority for long term improvements for many years. A large incinerator plant in Concord generates large truck traffic in and out of Whitney road, while another solid waste container business generates truck traffic on the northern leg of the intersection at Boyce Rd. Turn lanes were added as a result of a gas station on Whitney Rd in 2014. Additional development in this area will require a signalized intersection or roundabout to provide safe and adequate access. Currently there is no funding programmed for improvements at this location. In addition to the land that is already available for development, the City of Concord has studied extending Whitney Rd south to connect to Sewalls Falls Road. The extension would open up approximately 150 additional acres for development. Other constraints at this intersection include the on/off ramps with I-93 to the

east and the bridge over the Merrimack River to the west of the intersection, as well as the roundabout in Boscawen which experiences back-ups at peak hours.

Where US 3 and 4 runs concurrently through Boscawen, this section is known as King Street. King Street is also Boscawen's main street, providing access to businesses, two parks, the library, the Post Office, The Northern Rail Trail and cartop boat access to the Merrimack River. The 2017 King Street Coordination Study supported zoning changes to develop a Village Overlay Zoning District to unify the corridor and broaden the ranges of land uses based on consistent standards. Additionally, the study also helped move forward a Ten Year Plan project which is now scheduled for construction in 2027. The project's purpose is to improve safety and access along the corridor in line with complete streets guidelines. The project will also consider improvements to the northerly US 3/4 split which is currently yield controlled but acts more like a merge type intersection, which has resulted in a history of crashes.

In Salisbury, NH 127 intersects US 4 by means of a 2 way stop controlled intersection. High speeds on US 4 and poor sight distances have created concern at this intersection. A potential project has been identified at this location to improve the intersection, calm traffic and provide pedestrian facilities, as the Crossroads area acts as Salisbury's center.

NHDOT's Statewide Strategic Transit Assessment, completed in 2019, identified a transit route between Concord and Franklin. The identified route utilizes the US 3/4 corridor through Boscawen to Franklin and identified ridership generation from Boscawen residents as well as the Merrimack County Facilities on US 3.



CONNECTING THE REGIONAL GOALS WITHIN EACH CORRIDOR

CONNECTIVITY

- Potential for Concord-Franklin transit route
- 5310 funded Taxi Voucher Program at Department of Corrections
- Access to the Northern Rail Trail

SAFETY

• Safety concerns at the Whitney Road intersection, US 3/4 northern merge, and the Salisbury Crossroads intersection

OPERATION & CONGESTION

- Up to 20,000 vehicles per day
- Back-ups at the Boscawen roundabout
- Whitney Road access issues
- Common places of resident employment include Concord, Manchester, Boscawen and Hooksett
- One Park and Ride location in Boscawen

SUSTAINABILITY

- Zoning permits residential, commercial, and industrial uses
- 938 acres of conservation land
- 2,914 acres of aquifers
- 1,841 acres of highest ranked habitat in NH

KEY TRAFFIC GENERATORS

- Commuter through traffic to Concord
- Whitney Road developments
- King Street Village Overlay Zoning District

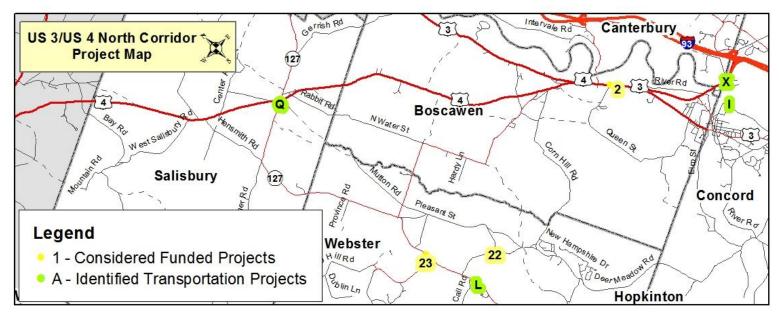
SYSTEM PRESERVATION

- 2 municipal red listed bridges
- 3 state red listed bridges
- 12 Bridges in fair Condition
- 6 Bridges in Good Condition

Data sources for information include the NH Office of Strategic Initiatives; NH Department of Transportation; US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2014-2018; and NH GRANIT.

CORRIDOR PROJECTS & LOCATION MAP

The following projects include those that are currently contained in the 2021-2030 Ten Year Plan and other projects that have been identified through a variety of local, regional and statewide planning processes including local master plans, the regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) development process, the 2018 State owned bridge rehabilitation and replacement priority list, and the Statewide Transit Assessment. The projects, both planned and proposed, address a number of the corridor's issues as identified in the US 4 Corridor Challenges and Opportunities Map.



NHDOT State Ten Year Plan 2021-2030 Projects - Considered Funded

Map ID	Project Name	State #	Project Location	Project scope	Phase	Year(s)	Total Cost
2	Boscawen	411579	King Street (US 3/4)	Multimodal and safety improvements to King Street	PE	2022	\$290,616
					PE	2024	\$184,271
					ROW	2024	\$24,569
					CON	2027	\$4,474,777
22	Webster	40810	Clothespin Bridge Road over Blackwater River	Bridge Replacement	PE	2022	\$266,411
					ROW	2022	\$15,146
					CON	2022	\$822,400
					CON	2024	\$822,400
23	Webster	41429	NH 127	Address Redlist bridge carrying NH 127 over Blackwater River	PE	2021	\$310,970
					PE	2022	\$232,492
					ROW	2022	\$116,246
					CON	2022	\$3,487,387

IDENTIFIED TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Мар	Project Name	Location	Current Situation	Scope of Work	Cost
ID	Merrimack River Greenway	Concord	The Merrimack River Greenway Trail (MRGT) is envisioned as a continuous, off-street multimodal path for nonmotorized users, roughly following the Merrimack River in Concord, connecting the southern terminus of the "Northern Rail Trail" at the Boscawen Town Line to the proposed "Salem to Concord Bikeway" at the Pembroke Town Line.	The proposed project involves acquiring the recently abandoned portion of the railroad right-of-way owned by Pan Am Railroad and performing preliminary site work to convert it to a multimodal rail trail.	(millions) \$.95
Q	Salisbury Crossroads (US 4 and NH 127)	Salisbury	The Salisbury Crossroads is locally viewed as the center of Salisbury where US 4 is intersected by NH 127. US 4 is a major east west corridor and the majority of through traffic pass through at high speeds. Sight distances for turning and through traffic on NH 127, which is stop controlled, also make the intersection more difficult to navigate.	The proposed project involves sidewalks, medians and improving site distances to calm traffic and help implement the village center vision that Salisbury developed through a Plan NH Charette.	\$1.44
X	Whitney Road and US 4	Concord- Canterbury	US Route 4 connects I-93 to Penacook, Boscawen, and other points to the North and West. US Route 4 has one lane in each direction through this intersection with turn lanes provided for Whitney Road. Long delays on Whitney Road and Old Boyce Road due to the high volume of traffic travelling at high speed on US Route 4 result in difficulty making left turn movements and increased crash potential.	The proposed project will address serious safety concerns at this intersection as well as current and future traffic demand. Design work is ongoing by the City of Concord.	\$3.6