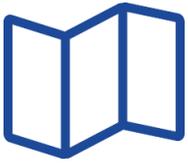


Corridor Spotlight: US 202 / NH 9

KEY METRICS OF THE TRAFFIC SHED



**Four
Communities**



**Within Hillsborough
& Merrimack Counties**



**31 miles
of corridor route**



**18,600 residents
in 2018**



**8,314 households
in 2018**

The US 202 and NH 9 western corridor is the newest arterial roadway in the CNHRPC region, with the final sections of the bypass being completed in Hillsborough less than 20 years ago. Prior to the bypass, the east-west route followed the Contoocook river valley and went through the village centers of Hopkinton, Henniker and Hillsborough. This historic corridor is now segmented into town and state-owned sections and has been almost entirely bypassed from the Exit 5 interchange with I-89 to the town line in Antrim. US 202 and NH 9 split just east of the intersection with NH 31, where US 202 heads south towards Peterborough, Jaffrey and then on to central Massachusetts and NH 9 heads west on to Keene, Brattleboro, VT and eventually to Albany, NY. The NH 9 corridor serves as the primary east-west highway for this part of the state and the Central NH Region. Where the US 202 corridor heads south, it serves as a high mobility corridor for the southwestern part of the state.

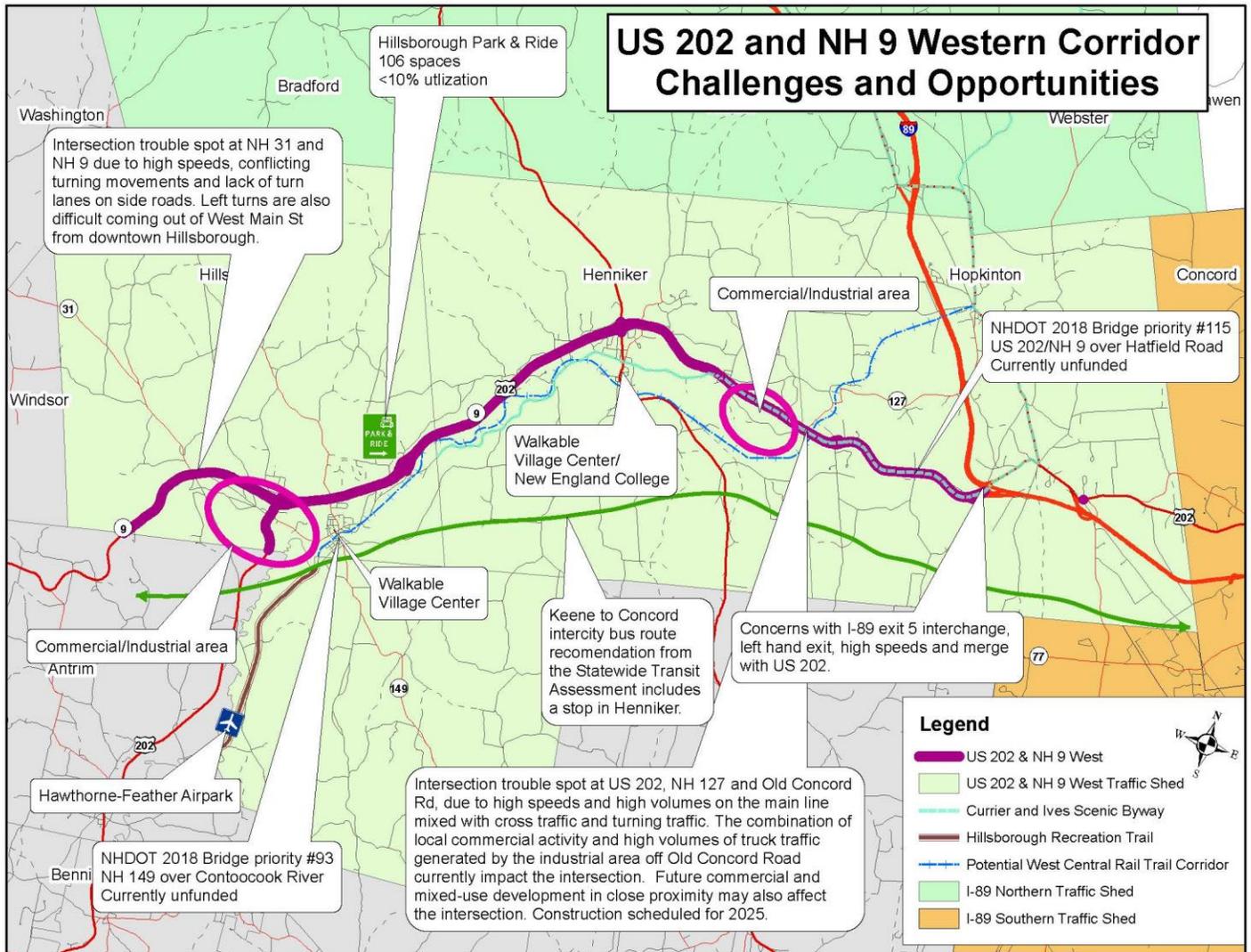
The US 202 and NH 9 corridor within the Central NH Region functions as the main arterial for those traveling between Concord and Keene and provides mobility for the towns of Deering, Henniker, Hillsborough and Hopkinton. Traffic volumes are the highest towards I-89 where the Average Daily Traffic (ADT) is over 16,000 vehicles per day. As you head west on the corridor, the traffic volumes decrease significantly.

Because of the limited and controlled access nature of this section of highway, traffic enters and exits US 202 and NH 9 at a variety of different locations. The infrastructure varies from small grade separated interchanges, such as Hatfield Road in Hopkinton, to larger modern interchanges similar to that in Hillsborough. There are also several local roads that intersect with this corridor at stop-controlled intersections. These particular intersections have a long history of crashes and safety concerns.

The stop-controlled intersection of US 202, NH 127 and Old Concord Road at the Henniker/Hopkinton Town line has long been a regional priority for improvements. Nearby development has increased the truck volumes and traffic crossing US 202. NHDOT is beginning preliminary design and evaluating alternatives for improvements at this intersection with construction expected to be completed in 2026. Other stop-controlled intersections such as the intersection with NH Route 31 and the nearby intersection with West Main Street in Hillsborough may also need to be evaluated for future improvements. Development in the commercial area of Hillsborough could also increase the need for improvements at those intersections.

This corridor has also been identified in the NHDOT 2019 Statewide Transit Assessment as a potential for intercity transit between Keene and Concord. The preliminary concept includes potential stops/connections at the Hillsborough Park and Ride and in Henniker village where New England College would likely generate ridership. The Hillsborough Park and Ride has capacity for over 100 spaces but historically has been underutilized. Hillsborough and Henniker both have walkable village centers although concerns regarding safe crossings have been identified.

Connecting the two villages, as well as Contoocook village in Hopkinton, is an abandoned rail corridor known as the West Central Rail Trail corridor. This potential rail trail has been fragmented by various private and public ownership with some sections being formally and informally used. At least one section of the trail in Deering is state owned and maintained for use by the public, including off-highway recreational vehicles (OHRVs).



CONNECTING THE REGIONAL GOALS WITHIN EACH CORRIDOR



CONNECTIVITY

- West Central Rail Trail Corridor
- Henniker, Hillsborough and Contoocook have walkable villages
- Senior Center Transportation in Henniker and Contoocook
- Volunteer Driver Program for seniors and disabled

SAFETY

- Crash hotspots include US 202/NH 9 intersections with NH 127, Old Hopkinton Road, West Main Street and NH 31
- Crash hotspots also in dense village areas and interchanges with I-89

SYSTEM PRESERVATION

- 9 Municipal Red listed Bridges
- 43 Bridges in fair Condition
- 30 Bridges in Good Condition

SUSTAINABILITY

- Zoning permits residential, commercial, and industrial uses
- 2,487 acres of conservation land
- 3,259 acres of aquifers
- 2,281 acres of highest ranked habitat in NH

KEY TRAFFIC GENERATORS

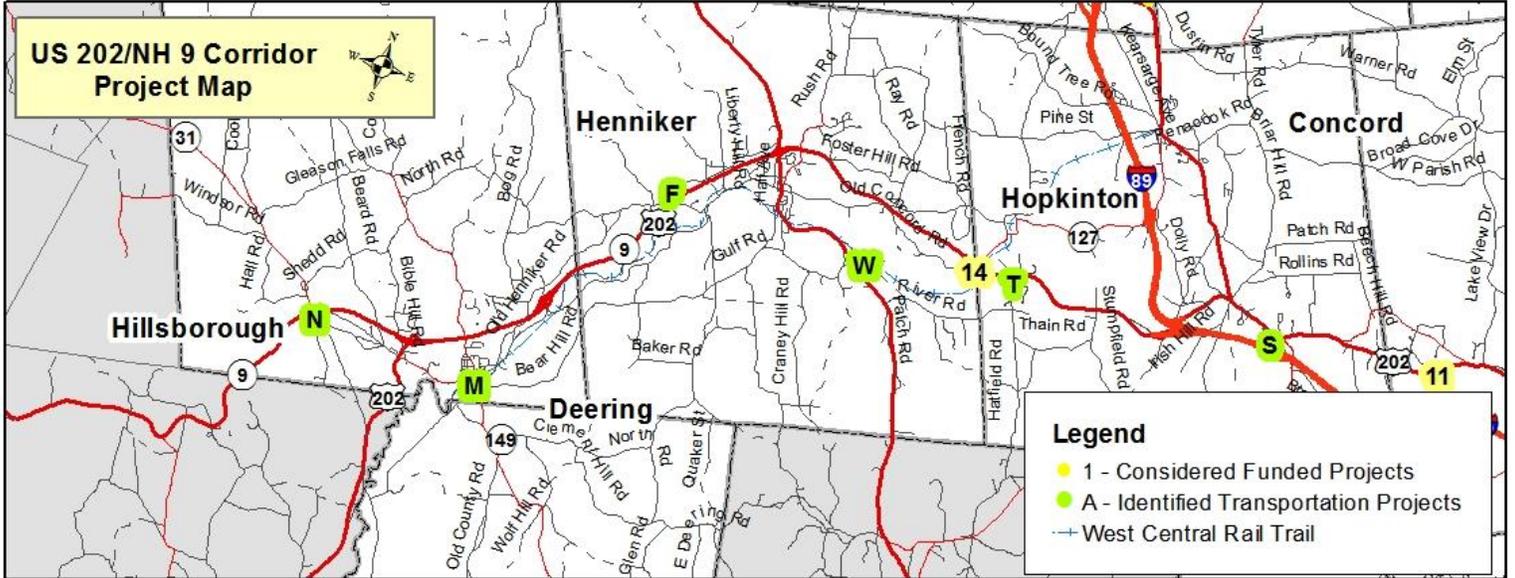
- New England College
- Osram Sylvania Automotive
- McLane Company
- Pats Peak

OPERATION & CONGESTION

- Between 6 and 19k vehicles per day & over 1,500 at peak hours
- Common places of employment include Concord, Manchester, and Hooksett
- One Park and Ride along the corridor in Hillsborough

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 202 and NH 9 Western 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
14	Henniker - Hopkinton	40633	US 202, NH 9, NH 127	Intersection improvements	CON	2026	\$1,298,229
					CON	2025	\$631,434
					PE	2022	\$191,501
					ROW	2024	\$191,501

IDENTIFIED TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Map ID	Project Name	Location	Current Situation	Scope of Work	Cost (millions)
N	NH 9 and NH 31	Hillsborough	The existing stop controlled, four way intersection experiences delays due to lack of turn lanes and also exhibits safety concerns from turning traffic.	Intersection improvements need to be evaluated further including short term improvements such as turn lanes and long-term improvements such as a roundabout or signalized intersection.	N/A
F	Keene to Concord Intercity Transit Service	Keene-Concord	The NHDOT's Statewide Transit Assessment identified the NH 9 Corridor from Keene to Concord as a candidate for a new transit service.	It was recommended that the route serve downtown Henniker in the vicinity of New England College as well as potentially look at a stop in Hillsborough.	\$.308/yr
M	NH 149 over the Contoocook River	Hillsborough	NHDOT 2018 Bridge Priority Project # 93. According to the 2018 bridge inspection report, the deck and superstructure are in fair condition while the substructure is in satisfactory condition.	NHDOT has recommended rehabilitation.	\$2.0
T	US 202/NH 9 over Hatfield Road	Hopkinton	NHDOT 2018 Bridge Priority Project # 115 According to the 2018 bridge inspection report, the deck is in fair condition, the superstructure is in good condition and the substructure is in satisfactory condition.	NHDOT has recommended rehabilitation and deck replacement.	\$1.5
W	West Central Rail Trail	Hopkinton, Henniker, Hillsborough	The abandoned rail corridor has been fragmented into various ownership with some large sections of the corridor still intact and some small segments utilized informally.	Formalize sections of the abandoned rail corridor as a rail trail connecting various destinations.	N/A