

New London Planning Board  
Capital Improvement Program (CIP)  
2019-2025

INTRODUCTION

Annually the Planning Board reviews New London's capital needs and recommends a program of capital improvement projects for a period of at least six years. The CIP document approved by the Planning Board identifies key issues which need to be part of the discussion in the budget preparation process involving the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Review Committee. The recommended capital improvement projects and progress toward same will be considered as part of the annual CIP process in subsequent years.

PROCESS

The CIP process for the years 2018-2019 began with a meeting of the CIP subcommittee on May 29, 2018. Subcommittee members included William Dietrich, Paul Gorman (Chair), Janet Kidder, Rob Prohl, Colin Beasley and Elizabeth Meller. Subsequent meetings were held on June 28, July 12, July 26, August 7 and August 23. These meetings involved a review of the status of previous CIP recommendations and discussions with town department directors to review with them their capital improvement proposals. A review of the status of the previous CIP recommendations indicates the following status:

- A. The Goose Hole Bridge Engineering study remains to be begun. Additionally, the culverts on Pingree Road and Brookside are still in need of replacement.
- B. The Transfer Station Site Study has been completed and the results have been shared. An action plan should be developed with clear time lines to implement the findings of the study.
- C. The increase of funding for sidewalk and bridge projects in the Capital Reserve accounts remains to be addressed.
- D. The recommendations regarding the investment in heavy duty equipment to meet the fire safety, highway maintenance, and trash collection requirements of the town is ongoing.

The CIP Subcommittee also met with the Fire Chief, Police Chief, Public Works Director and Finance Manager.

As a result of these reviews and discussions: The New London Planning Board recommends the following Capital Improvement Projects for consideration as the town develops its FY 2019 budget.

- A. The first priority should be for the town to develop a plan with time lines to facilitate the development of a new facility to house the New London Police Department and New London Dispatch Department.
- B. Following the review of the Transfer Station Study, a plan should be developed with clear time lines to implement the conclusions of the study.
- C. In addition to the projects carried over from previous CIP listed above, the Department of Public Works proposed repairs to the Elkins Road bridge and Bunker Road.
- D. The town should initiate a process of developing a plan for the establishment of a multi-purpose community center, which in part could house the recreation department, for the use of the citizens of the town.
- E. The Police Department needs to expand their radio communication coverage.
- F. The Town should begin efforts to fulfil the warrant passed at the 2018 Town Meeting to achieve 100% renewable sources for electricity by 2030 and 100% renewable fuel sources for heating and transportation by 2050. Additionally, the Town should aid local institutions, businesses and residents to reach the same goals and considering cooperative efforts with Colby-Sawyer as they have set a similar goal of net neutrality by 2050.

The CIP is an advisory, guiding document, not a funding source. As the needs of the town evolve and projects historically noted in previous CIP documents are completed, this document looks to the future in an effort to identify and prioritize the evolving capital needs of the town. Capital investments shape and define the character, sense of place and economic vitality of this community.