Lakes Region Planning Commission
Transportation Data Collection Programs

RSMS (Road Surface Management Systems)

LRPC is available to conduct RSMS assessments/forecasts/reports for member communities. especially as a planning and budgeting tool for communities. After meeting with municipal representatives, our technicians drive and assess all municipal paved roads. We map the assessed condition of all these road segments and give realistic estimates for both the cost of repair options and pavement life extension. Then by working with the community, we can help schedule maintenance across a five-year period to maintain or improve pavement conditions and plan for the associated costs.

The elements of data collection include road surface and shoulder type, number of lanes, road surface width, the severity and extent of several types of cracking, rutting, frost heaves, roughness, and drainage. Using these characteristics, combined with local prioritization factors and local knowledge of the roads, an overall Pavement Condition Index (PCI) is created, a numerical rating between 0 and 100 indicating pavement conditions. LRPC staff then use the program's forecasting functions and the guidelines provided by the community to recommend a work plan for the next five years that helps them reach their objectives.

Over the last few years Lakes Region communities like New Hampton, Plymouth, and Hebron have contracted with LRPC to conduct an RSMS assessment. This provides a consistent straight-forward assessment that is used throughout the state and the forecasting model was developed and refined by UNH T2 with input from NH DOT and regional road professionals. Plans incorporate local priorities and are useful tools for budgeting and communicating to boards and taxpayers.

Stream/Culvert Assessments

LRPC offers two options to municipalities for the inventory and assessment of drainage structures. Stream Crossing assessments focus on large waterbodies and structures with a thorough assessment of the structure and waterbody. Through our Culvert and Closed Drainage System (CCDS) program we locate and assess all municipal drainage structures.

The Stream Crossing assessments are very thorough, resulting in not just a detailed analysis of the structure, but also of the compatibility of the structure for aquatic organism and the geomorphology – can organisms pass through and how big a storm can this structure handle? While the CCDS assessment is not as detailed and does not involve modelling, it does result in a map and initial structural assessment of ***all*** municipal drainage structures – usually several hundred structures.

Each of these assessments can be a useful tool for helping a community envision its maintenance and upgrade needs, assist in prioritization, and further their budgeting process. Recent participants include Gilford, Plymouth, and Gilmanton.

Guardrails and Pedestrian Infrastructure Assessments

Utilizing the methodologies developed by UNH T2, LRPC can catalog, map, and assess the condition of a community's guardrails and/or sidewalks, crosswalks, and other pedestrian infrastructure. This can be useful in planning maintenance and upgrades, as well as a well seeking funds for this work.

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Municipal Traffic Counts

LRPC technicians deploy traffic counters at hundreds of sites around the Lakes Region each year in partnership with NHDOT. We also conduct and process special traffic counts for communities at specific locations upon request. Measuring activity on a continuous basis, they indicate the volume, direction of travel, vehicle classification (truck, car, motorcycle, etc.), and speed. These counts are typically set out for a week at a time, though this can be adjusted to accommodate local needs.

Information on these programs and others is available under the Transportation section on our website https://www.lakesrpc.nh.gov/Pages/Index/228833/transportation. **The Lakes Region Planning Commission is currently scheduling communities for transportation data collection work during the 2025 data collection season.** We provide discounted rates to member communities! If you are interested in any of these programs, please contact Transportation Planner Glenn Trefethen at gtrefethen@lakesrpc.nh.gov or 603.279.5335.

SADES Data Collection Program and Lakes Region Planning Commission (LRPC)

The SADES (Statewide Asset Data Exchange System) is a joint program among regional planning commissions, NHDOT, NHDES and UNH T^2 that establishes a primary transportation asset inventory system and maintainable condition assessment process for many state and local agencies. This unique approach to statewide asset management utilizes modern technology for accurate, sustainable, efficient, and cost-effective data collection and analysis. Even though the UNH Technology Transfer Center (UNH T^2) has made asset management software packages available for over 25 years, alignment of recent technological changes with new electronic devices and software advances has made dynamic data management much more manageable.

The SADES training program brings LRPC technicians and planners together with experts from NHDOT, NHDES, UNH T^2, and the private sector to learn about structural and environmental factors, how to inventory and assess the condition of these factors, and how to efficiently use the state-wide data collection system. By requiring this training of all technicians along with rigorous quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) and ongoing technical support, a high standard and level of consistency is assured.

SADES Training is required, and on-going support is provided to LRPC planners and technicians in the use of the SADES inventory and analysis and forecasting software. The development, piloting, and implementation of these transportation management modules was completed in large and small communities across the state to ensure that the software formulas could accommodate and properly reflect the conditions encountered in most New Hampshire communities.