



# Strategic Plan FY 2023

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**Amherst Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee**

# Overview

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# The past year

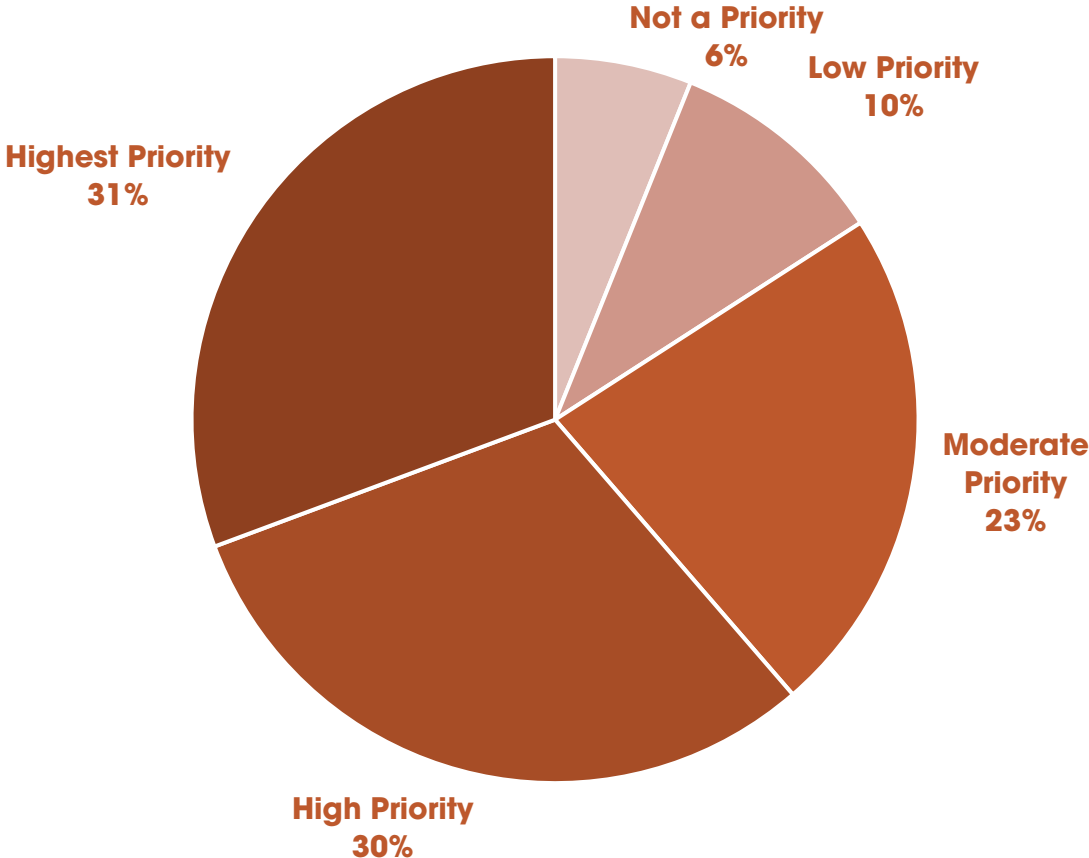
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- Construction of Amherst Street Sidepath
- Voters approved the creation and funding of the Multimodal Infrastructure Capital Reserve Fund
- The Town has applied to the Transportation Alternatives Program and the US Department of Transportation RAISE Grant
- Regional initiatives in Amherst have been supported by the NRPC Regional Complete Streets Plan and the NH DOT Statewide Pedestrian & Bicycle Plan
  - The Baboosic Greenway
  - Souhegan Valley Rail Trail
- Town Master Plan Survey indicates very strong support for multimodal infrastructure

# Master Plan Survey Results

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**How much of a priority are safe pedestrian and biking paths?**



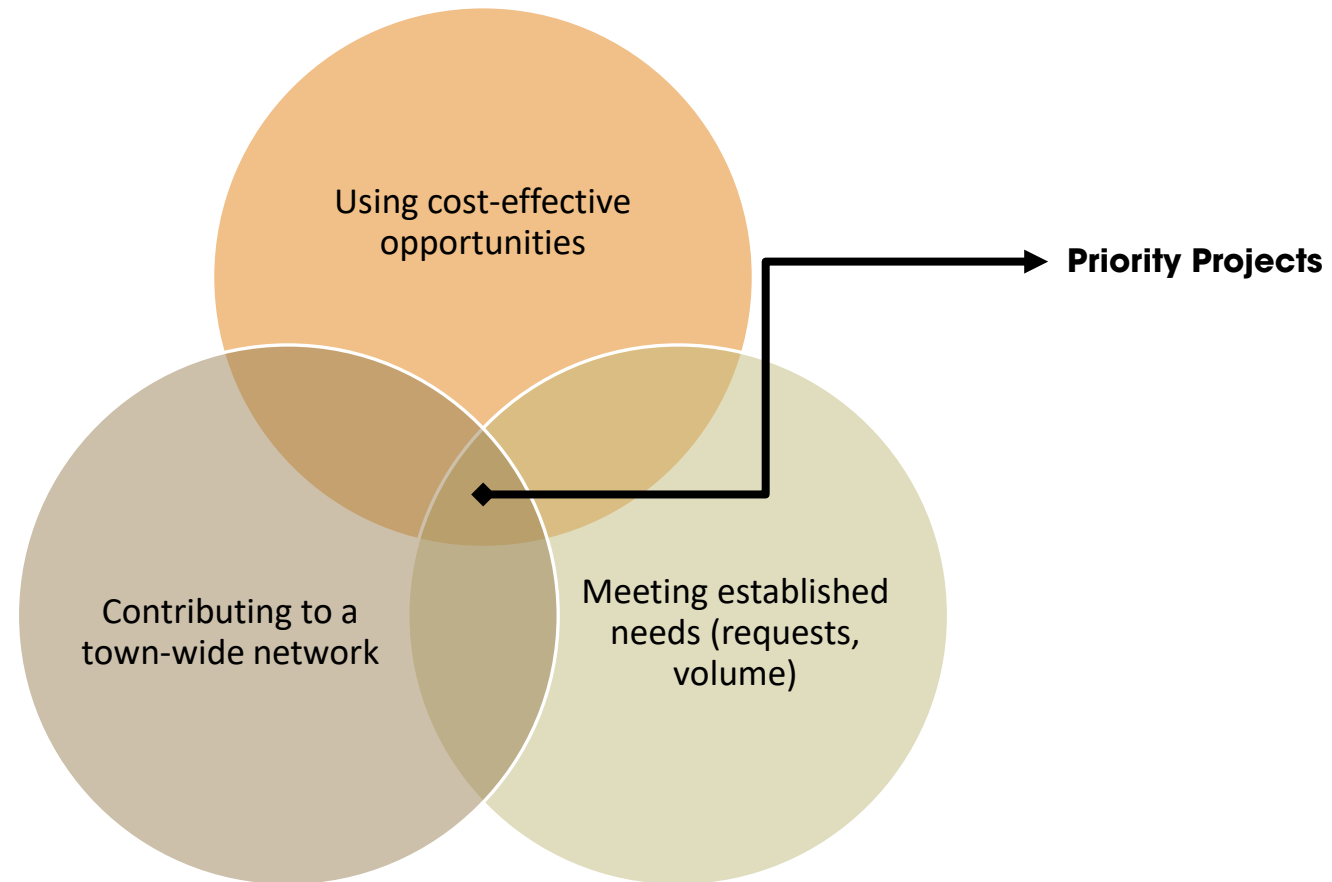
# Key Points

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- Our committee continues to advocate for a cost-effective strategy to form a town-wide multimodal network with projects that are carefully selected to:
  - seize opportunities which offer cost efficiencies;
  - appeal to external funding sources, such as federal grants; and
  - maximize the impact of funding.
- BPAC seeks to advance 3 major projects and other low-or-zero-cost initiatives to pursue this strategy

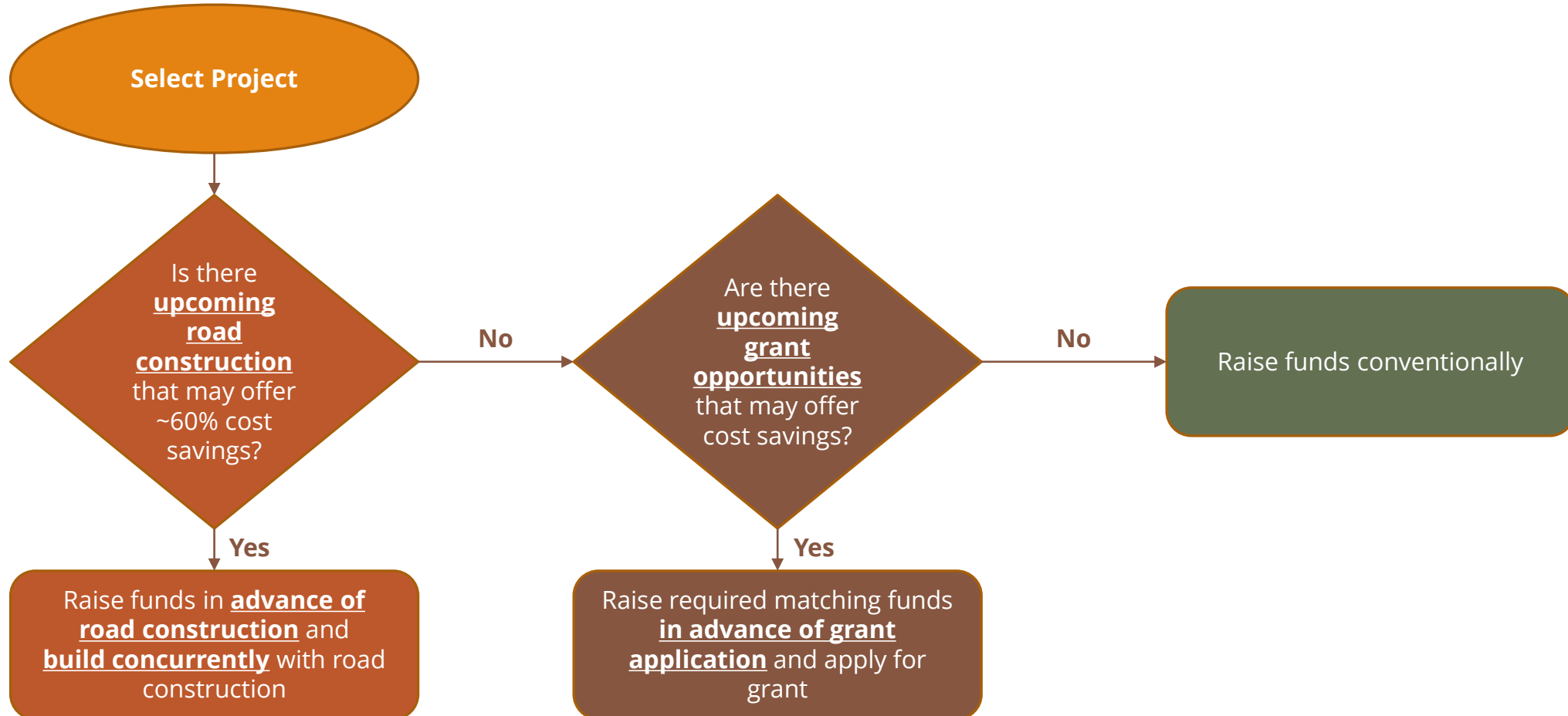
# General cost-effective approach to selecting projects

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# General cost-effective approach to pursuing projects

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# **FY 2023 Strategies**

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# FY 2023 Strategies

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- Work with Planning Board to modernize **town road standards**, implementing multimodal requirements and implementing a **Complete Streets Policy** consistent with the Multimodal Master Plan, providing direction to implement multimodal treatments at the time of construction
- Continue to **apply for infrastructure grants** to increase odds of external funding opportunities
- Advance already-established projects
  - Low-or-zero cost projects
  - AMS/School Campus Project (2023)
  - Village Streets Multimodal Improvements (2025)
  - Baboosic Greenway (2029)
- **Annual Funding:** proposed incorporation long-term project funding, engineering, grant local match amounts to be raised by Multimodal Infrastructure CRF by year to yield stable and predictable infrastructure planning + increased opportunities to offset costs with local matches for grants

# Town Road Standards & Complete Streets Policy

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- The only realistic method to form of a town-wide network of systematically safe infrastructure requires decades of gradual improvements at advantageous opportunities, principally road construction
- Each road construction opportunity presents one of two options:
  - Either contribute to the network by installing specific designs, or
  - Recommit the area to another 25-35 years without improvements
- By updating town road standards to be consistent with systematic safety designs, it allows any opportunity to be a chance for progress
- This provides clear direction not only for municipal road reconstruction, but also for private developments, allowing for the chance for private developers to contribute to this responsibility

# **Zero or low-cost initiatives**

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# Zero or low-cost initiatives

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- Completing “Public Trails on Private Land” document to aide Amherst landowners in the consideration of donating easements to the town
- Pursuing these easement donations as a low-cost method of forming contiguous multimodal trail routes
- Advocating with the New Hampshire Rail Trails Coalition to amend the NH Recreational Use Statutes in order to advance the use of railroad and utility corridors, such as:
  - the Souhegan Valley Rail Trail concept
  - the Eversource transmission lines in town
- The Amherst St Sidepath may be extended by 0.7 miles from Courthouse Rd to Birch Park with a “paved shoulder” restriping scheme with NH DOT’s consent
- Old Manchester Rd “edge lane road” treatment – still requires public info session per BoS – can this be scheduled for this fall?

# Zero or low-cost initiatives

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- The next update of the NH Ten Year Plan is starting, Amherst can advocate NH DOT to include projects.
  - Accepted bike/ped projects are funded at 80% by NH DOT.
  - Chances of selection are low and the plan is often delayed
  - However, the inclusion of projects into this plan is an enormous bonus for grant prospects and the town should consider recommending all bike/ped projects into the plan. While this stipulates that the town would be willing to cover the required 20% match, the town would likely have >10-15 years to raise any such funds for a selected project
- Supporting the concept of large-scale regional projects such as the Souhegan Valley Rail Trail and the Baboosic Greenway could offer significant benefit for the community and the region. “Support” in this case would entail the following:
  - Continuing to providing recommendations to the NRPC, NH DOT, and state legislators in support of these projects
  - Participating regional meetings to coordinate these efforts
  - Advocating for their inclusion in NH DOT Ten Year Plan or other state/federal initiatives

# Souhegan Valley Rail Trail

Full regional project in 2021 NH State Ped-Bike Plan

Proposed

Wilton

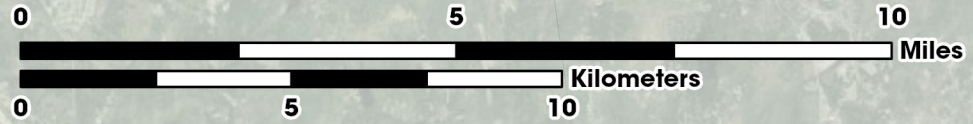
Milford

Amherst

Merrimack

Hollis

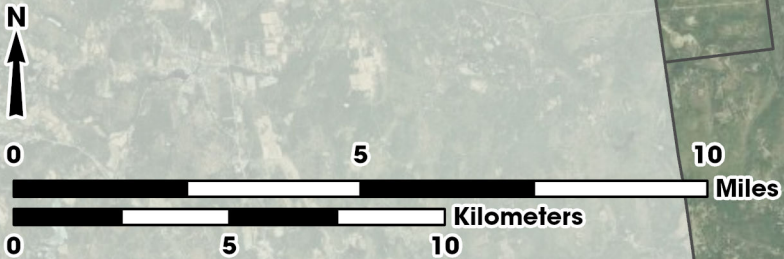
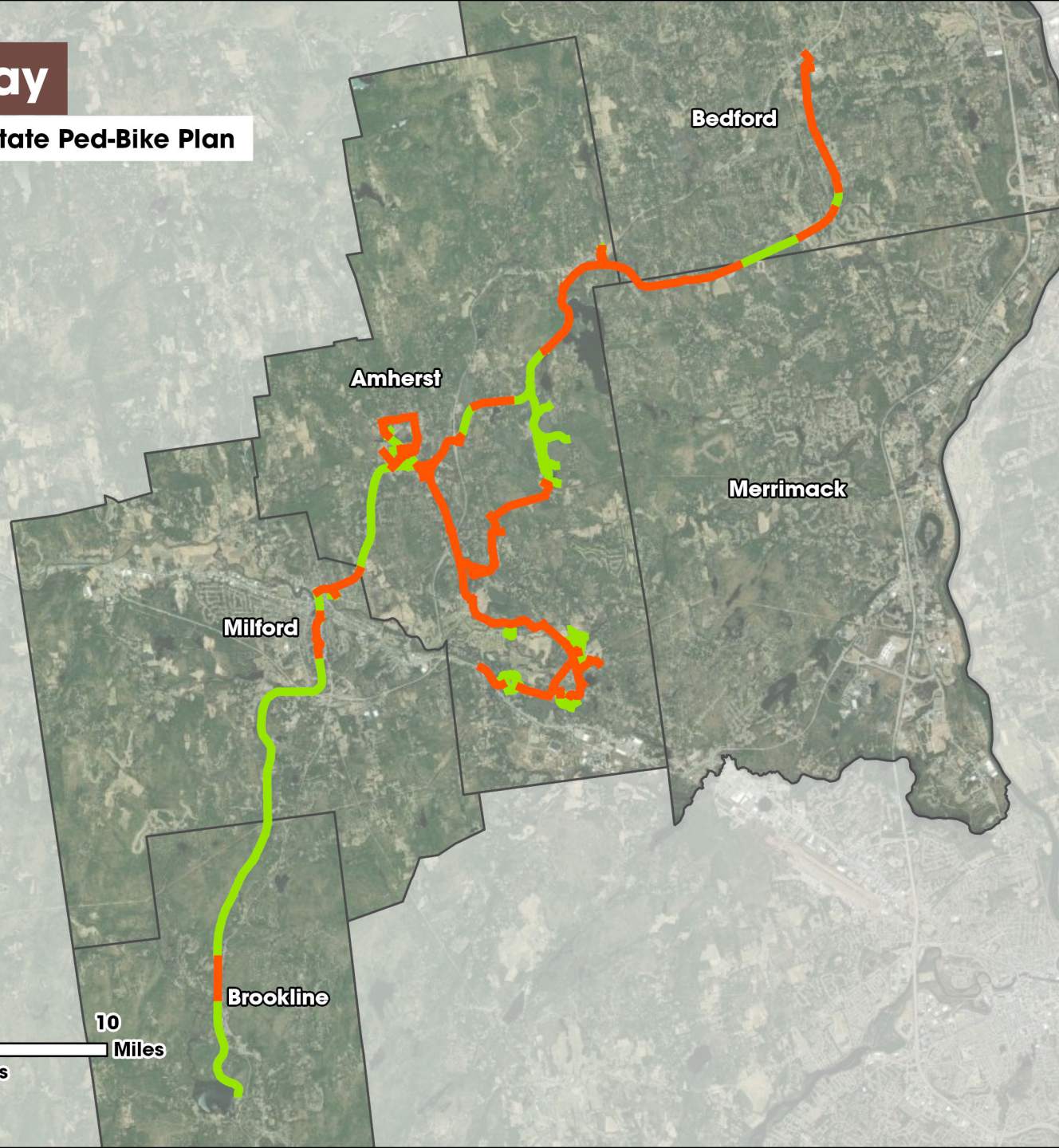
Nashua



# Baboosic Greenway

Full regional project in 2021 NH State Ped-Bike Plan

- Proposed
- Existing or Funded



# Major Projects

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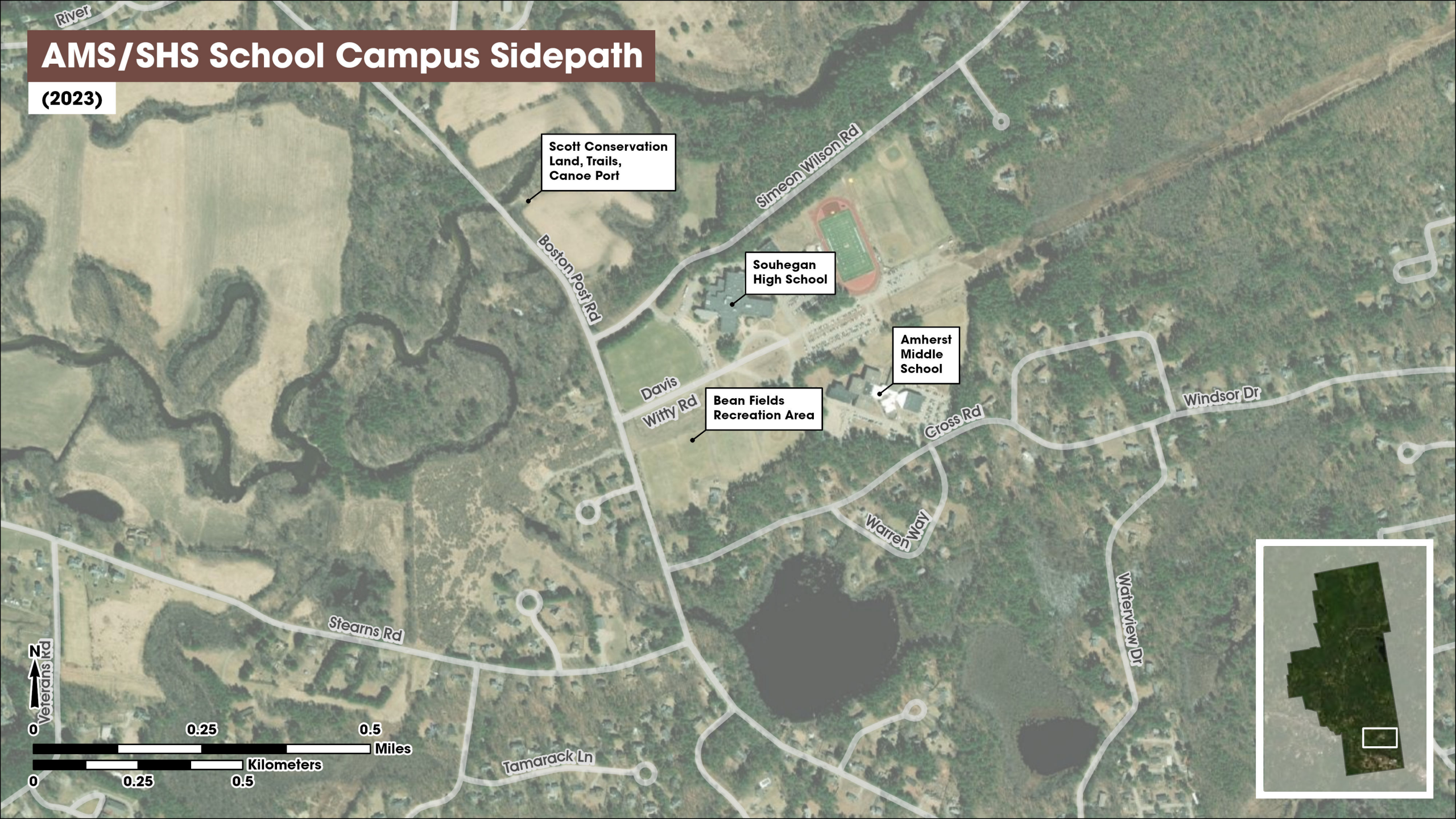


# AMS/SHS School Campus Project



# AMS/SHS School Campus Sidepath

(2023)

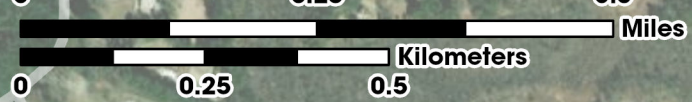


Scott Conservation  
Land, Trails,  
Canoe Port

Souhegan  
High School

Amherst  
Middle  
School

Bean Fields  
Recreation Area



# AMS/SHS School Campus Sidepath

(2023)

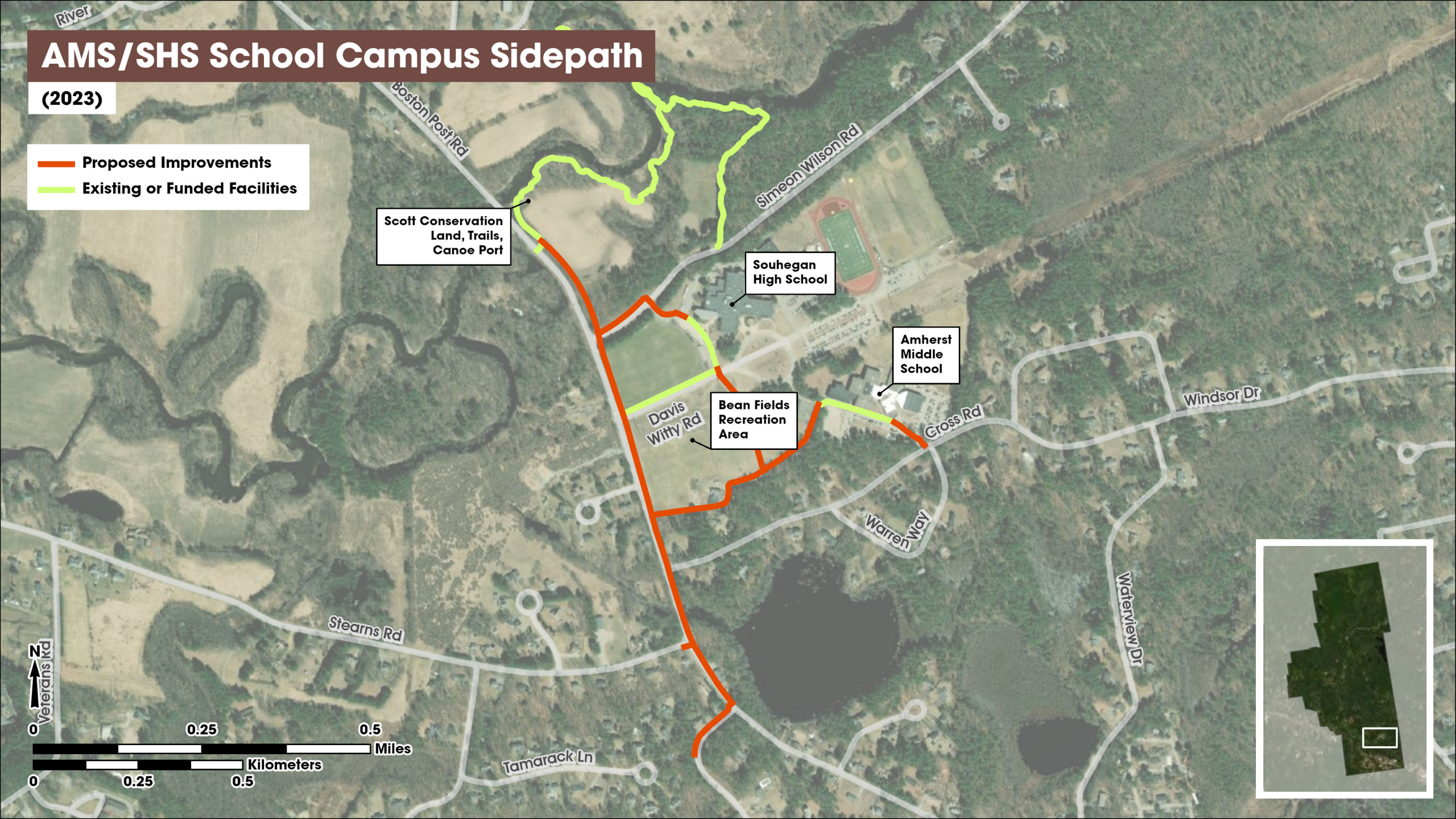
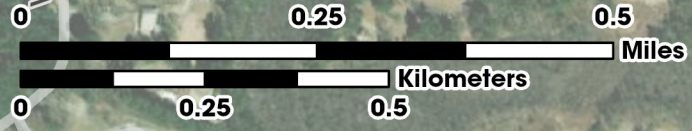
- Proposed Improvements
- Existing or Funded Facilities

Scott Conservation Land, Trails, Canoe Port

Souhegan High School

Amherst Middle School

Bean Fields Recreation Area



# Village Multimodal Improvements



# Village Multimodal Improvements

(2025)



Great Meadow Conservation Land

Upper Wilkins Field

Wilkins School

Preschool in the Village

Town Hall

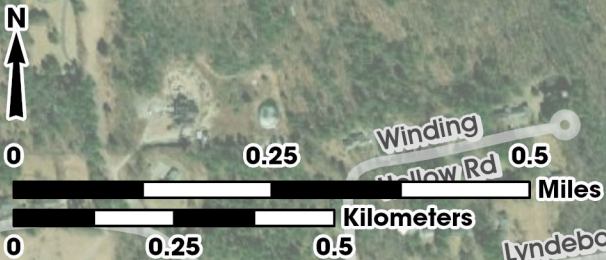
Clark School

Moulton's Market

Spalding Field

Joshua's Park

Birch Park



# Village Multimodal Improvements

(2025)

 Scheduled Road Construction



Great Meadow Conservation Land

Upper Wilkins Field

Wilkins School

Preschool in the Village

Town Hall

Spalding Field

Clark School

Moulton's Market

Joshua's Park

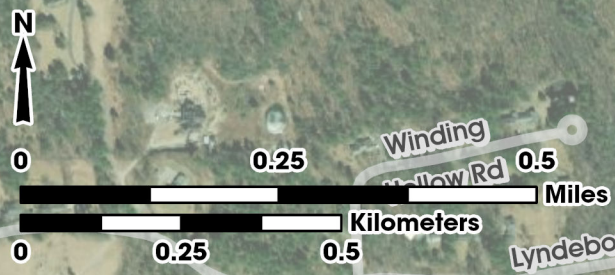
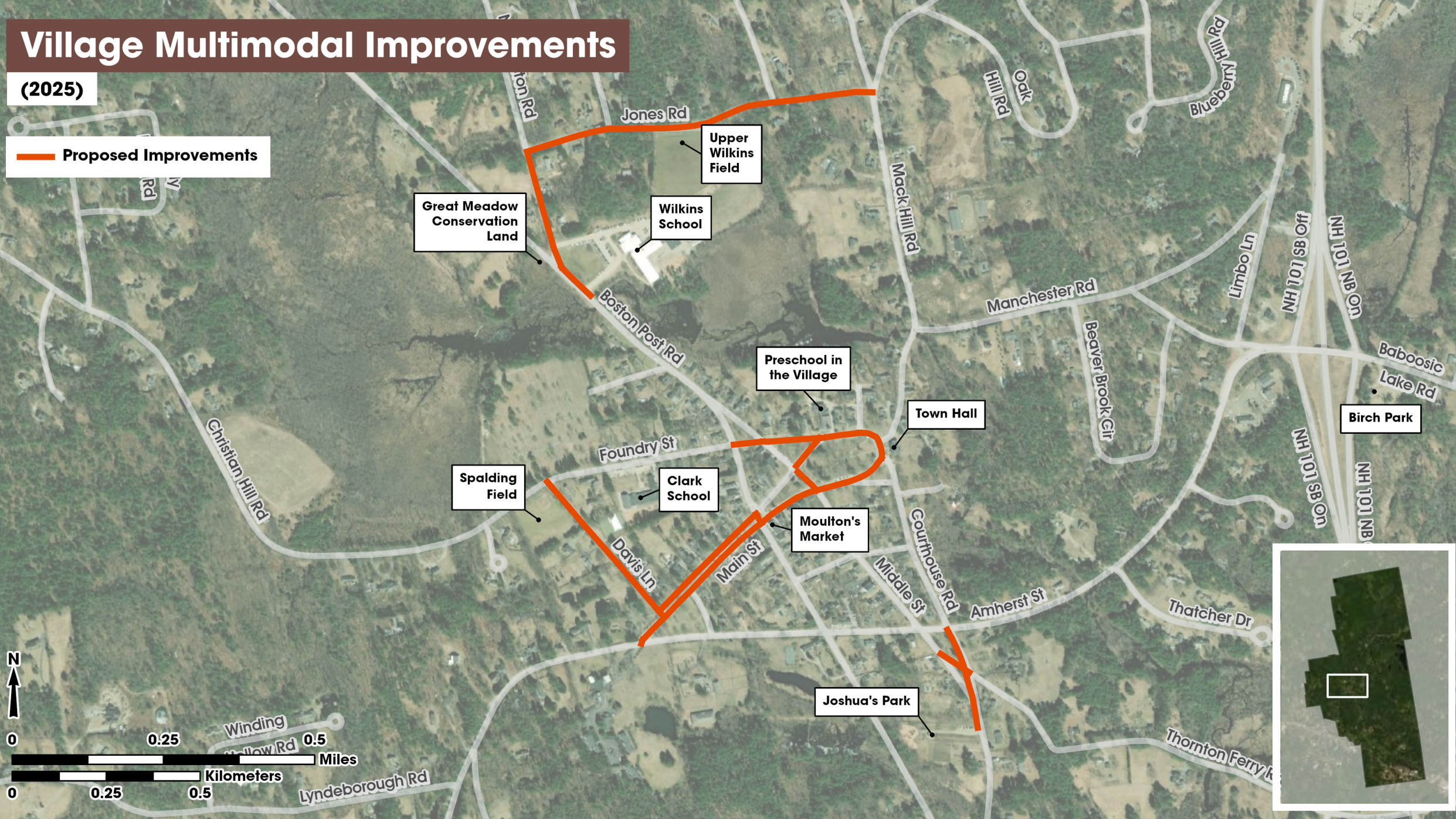
Birch Park



# Village Multimodal Improvements

(2025)

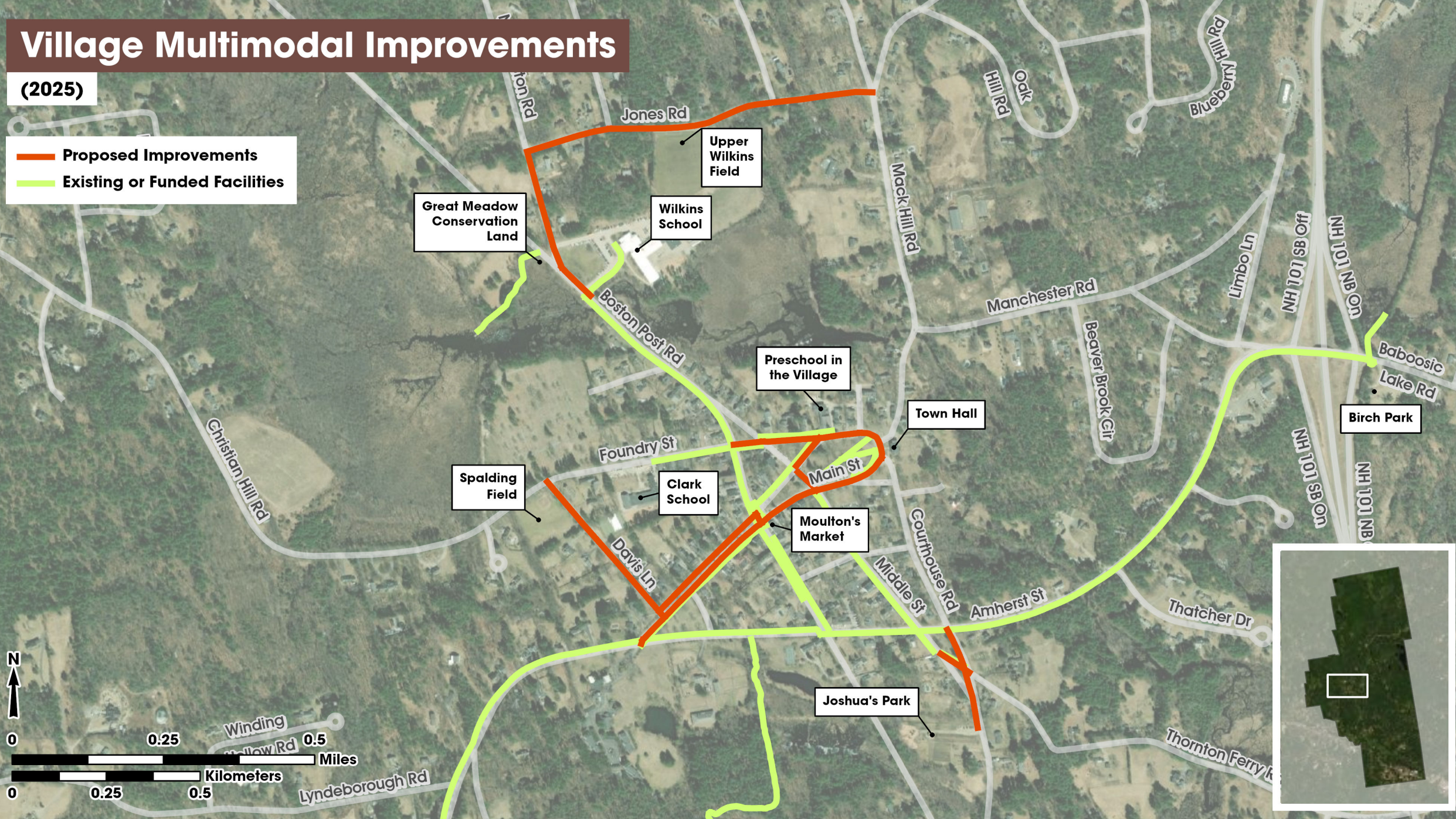
Proposed Improvements



# Village Multimodal Improvements

(2025)

- Proposed Improvements
- Existing or Funded Facilities





# Baboosic Greenway

NH DOT Ten Year Plan  
Project 42593



# Baboosic Greenway

NH DOT Ten Year Plan Segment, Project 42593 (2029)

Walnut Hollow Equestrian Facility

Amherst Town Beach

**Inset Map: Box Culvert under Baboosic Lake Rd with 270° ramp**



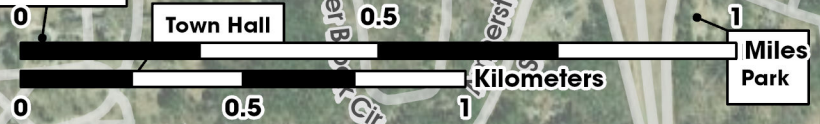
Meeting Place Mall

Pond Parish

Pre school in the Village

Town Hall

Miles Park

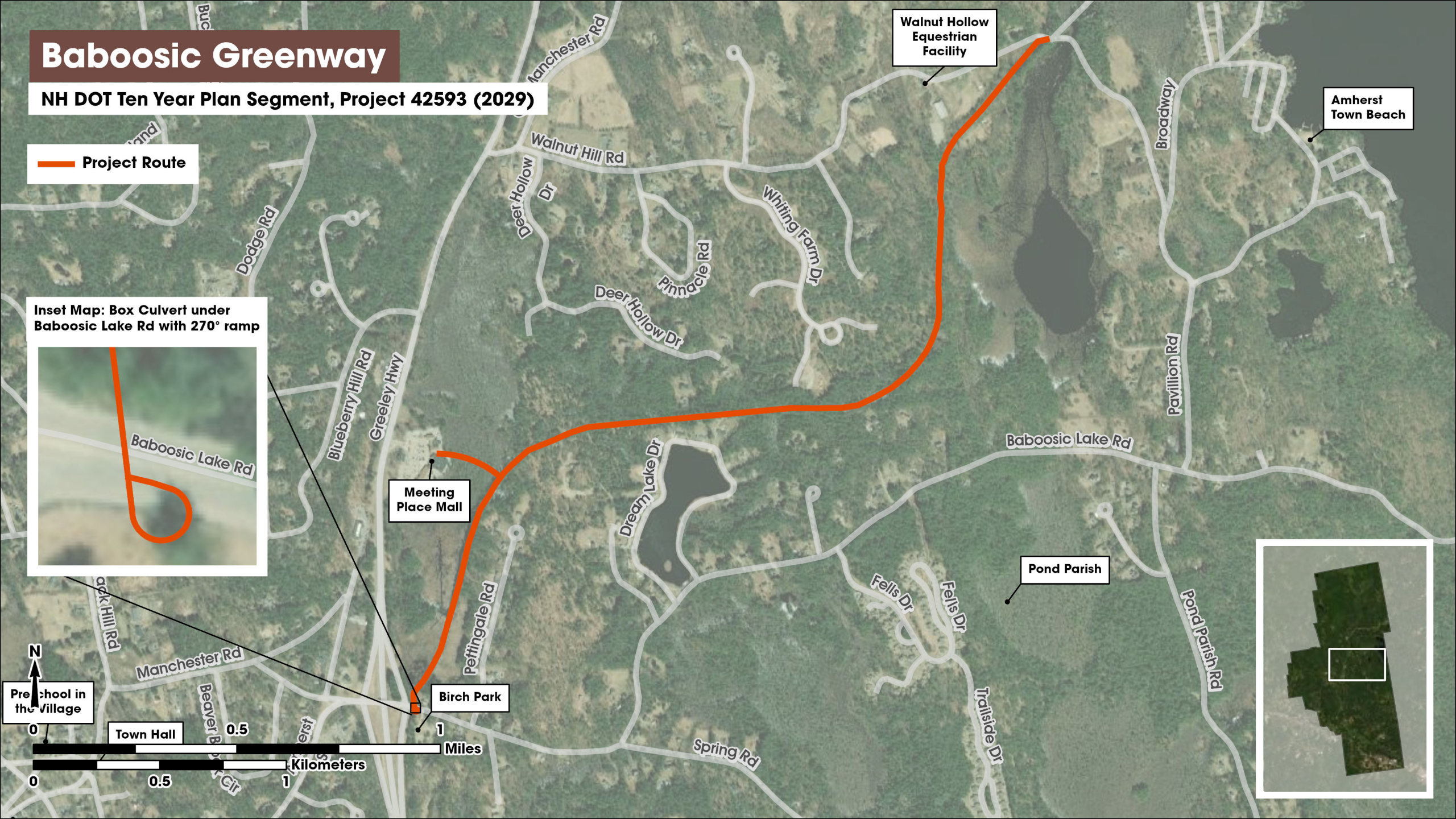


# Baboosic Greenway

NH DOT Ten Year Plan Segment, Project 42593 (2029)

 Project Route

**Inset Map: Box Culvert under Baboosic Lake Rd with 270° ramp**



Meeting Place Mall

Birch Park

Walnut Hollow Equestrian Facility

Amherst Town Beach

Pond Parish

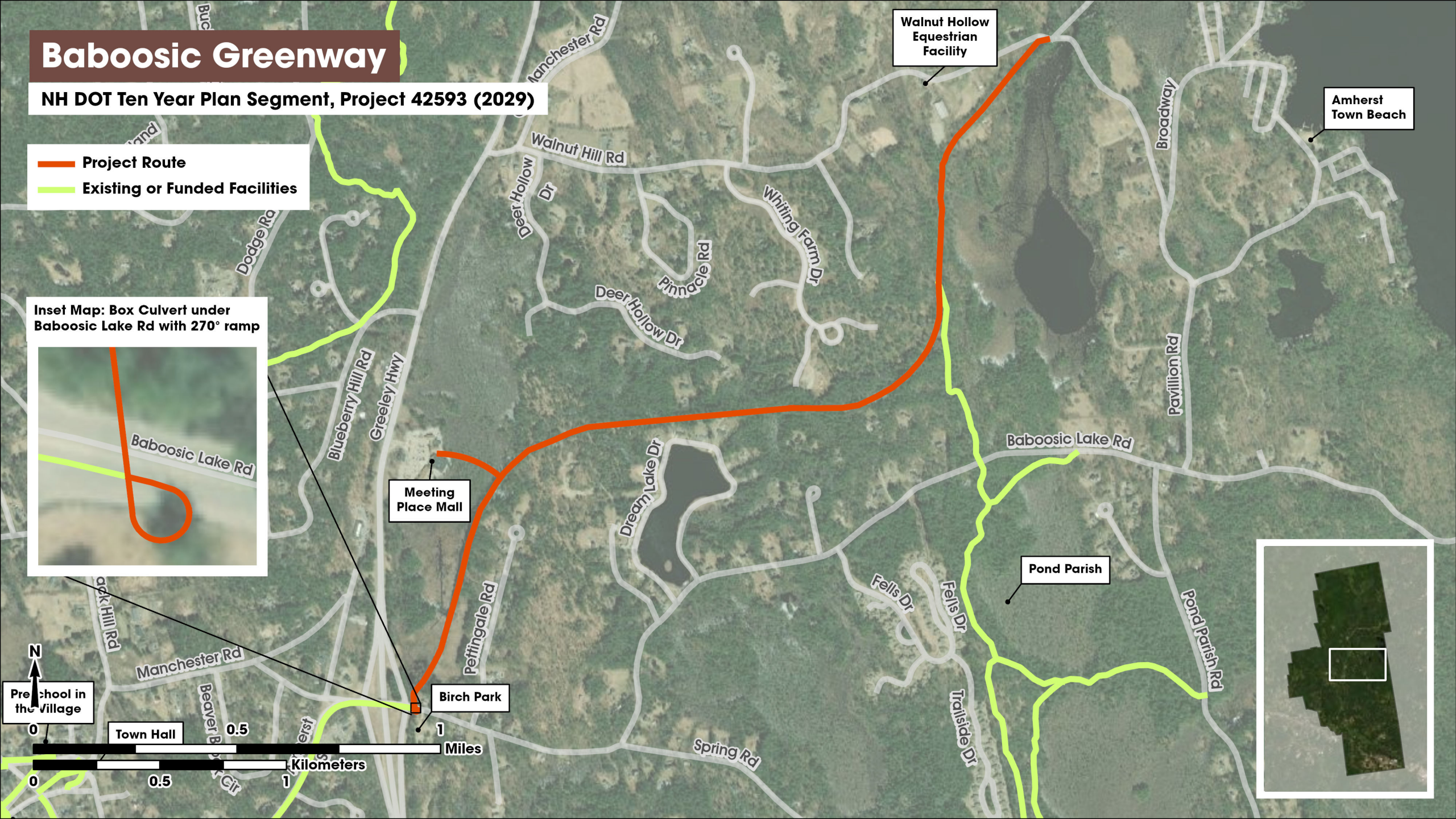


# Baboosic Greenway

NH DOT Ten Year Plan Segment, Project 42593 (2029)

-  Project Route
-  Existing or Funded Facilities

**Inset Map: Box Culvert under Baboosic Lake Rd with 270° ramp**



Meeting Place Mall

Walnut Hollow Equestrian Facility

Amherst Town Beach

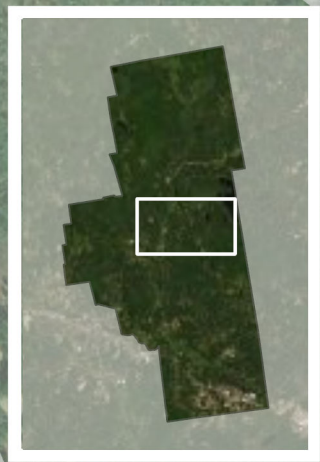
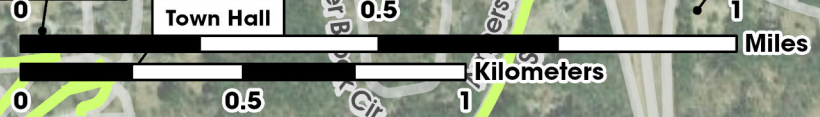
Pond Parish

Birch Park



Pre school in the Village

Town Hall



# **Project Forecast & Proposed Budget**

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# Project Forecast & Proposed Budget: 8-Year Overview

	Construction Year	Strategy	Grants			Budget				Total Municipal Cost
			Applied	Upcoming	Status	Total Project Cost	Engineering	Grant Funding	Local Match	
<b>AMS-SHS School Campus Project</b>	FY 2024	Attempt Grants, Raise Funds	TAP, RAISE	ARPA '21, RAISE '22, CMAQ '22		\$224,979	\$21,500			\$224,979
<b>Village Multimodal Improvements</b>	FY 2025	Mostly Grant-Dependent	TAP, RAISE	ARPA '21, RAISE '22, CMAQ '22		\$569,779	\$96,900	\$378,304	\$94,575	\$191,475
<b>Baboosic Greenway (Segment) NH DOT Ten Year Plan Project 42593</b>	FY 2029	Entirely Grant-Dependent	NH DOT		<b>Awarded</b>	\$1,152,566		\$682,052	\$470,513	\$470,513
<b>Total (Over 8 Years)</b>									<b>\$886,967</b>	

# Project Forecast & Proposed Budget: Expenses by year

		FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Expenditures	AMS-SHS School Campus Project		- \$224,979 (construction)					
	Village Multimodal Improvements	- \$96,900 (engineering)	- \$94,575 (local match)					
	Baboosic Greenway (Segment) NH DOT Ten Year Plan Project 42593							- \$470,513 (local match)

# Project Forecast & Proposed Budget

		FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Revenues	Multimodal Infrastructure CRF Warrant Article	+ \$75,000	+ \$75,000	+ \$75,000					
	Multimodal Infrastructure CRF Warrant Article (changes as of this year)		+ \$98,000	+ \$98,000	+ \$98,000	+ \$98,000	+ \$98,000	+ \$98,000	+ \$98,000
Expenditures	AMS-SHS School Campus Project			- \$224,979 (construction)					
	Village Multimodal Improvements		- \$96,900 (engineering)	- \$94,575 (local match)					
	Baboosic Greenway (Segment) NH DOT Ten Year Plan Project 42593								- \$470,513 (local match)
	Multimodal Infrastructure CRF Balance	\$75,000	\$152,000	\$5,446	\$103,446	\$201,446	\$299,446	\$397,446	\$24,933