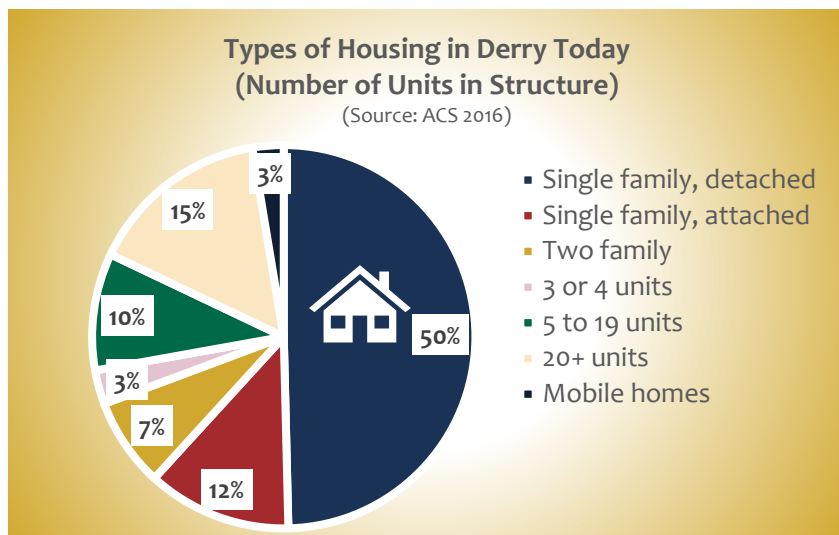




Housing & Residential Development 1

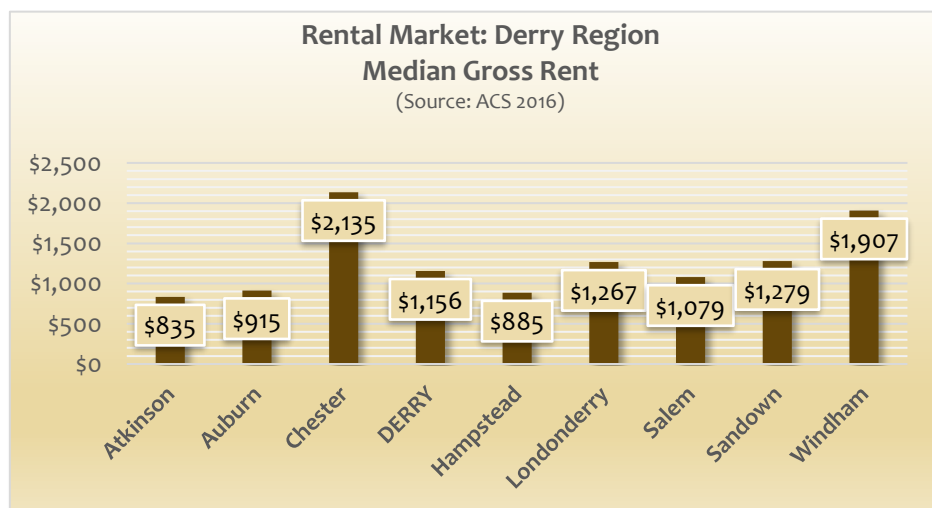
HOUSING FOR EVERYONE

- Derry offers a broader mix of housing than all of its neighbors and other New Hampshire towns of similar size.
- Today, half of all housing units in Derry are detached single-family homes. The other half includes a mix of everything from two-family residences to large multifamily apartment buildings.
- Due to the mix of housing types in Derry, people who need or choose to rent have more choices here. Renters currently comprise almost 40 percent of all households in Derry. The only community in the region that approaches Derry's range of rental housing options is Salem.
- Another important feature of Derry's housing is that many younger people, priced out of housing in the region and over the border in Massachusetts, can still find a place to live in Derry. As a result, 22 percent of the town's renter households are under 35 years and renting the unit they occupy. Southern New Hampshire generally is witnessing steady growth in younger households, and Derry's experience is consistent with that trend.
- At the same time, asking rents in Derry are about on par with the larger region, and Rockingham County rents are generally highest in the state. The median monthly rent in Derry is currently \$1,156 – much lower than Chester's \$2,135 but very similar to, and slightly higher than, several of the surrounding towns. Nevertheless, Derry is deemed to meet its "fair share" of the region's affordable housing needs.

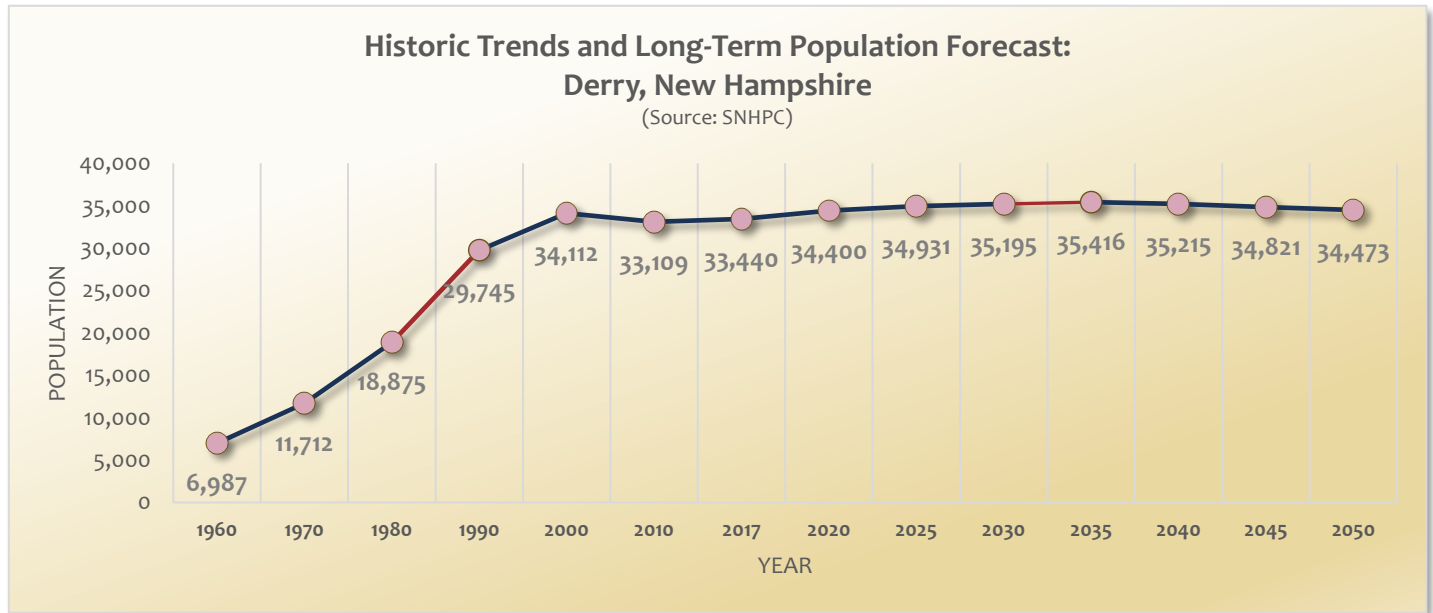


WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- Derry is a residential town where housing is, and will continue to be, the primary land use and primary component of the tax base.
- Derry has many young householders because its housing is fairly affordable and offers many choices. The presence of many young people bodes well for the town's economic future if Derry can capitalize on the entertainment, dining, and recreation interests of millennials and young families.
- Derry satisfies its legal "fair share" of regional housing needs, but there are still lower-income people living in housing they cannot afford.



POPULATION & HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS



- Derry's recent past is a story of tremendous population growth, triggered by the combined forces of Baby Boom household formations and the exodus of Massachusetts workers to New Hampshire in the 1970s and 1980s. The town's "bedroom community" economy is a direct reflection of these forces.
- Regional planners estimate that population growth will continue at a very slow pace from this point forward. The regional forecast holds that by 2050, Derry's population will be about a thousand more than it is today.
- Population forecasts matter for long-range planning, but housing analysts pay even closer attention to household demographics: household types and sizes, householder ages, and household wealth. Communities control the make-up of their populations and households by the choices they make to control housing growth, so it is no surprise to find greater household diversity in communities with greater housing diversity. About 70 percent of Derry's 12,500 households (rounded) are **families**, which is a lower rate of family households than any of the surrounding communities. This is due, at least in part, to the range of housing types and price points available in Derry.
- Despite the somewhat lower rate of family households in Derry, the families that do live here tend to be families with children. Compared with all the surrounding towns, Derry has one of the highest rates of families with dependent children (under 18 years): 47 percent.
- Derry has many small households, too. Among non-family households, 87 percent are single people living alone.
- Approximately 44 percent of all households in Derry have low or moderate incomes. According to estimates from HUD, 72 percent are paying more for housing than they can actually afford.





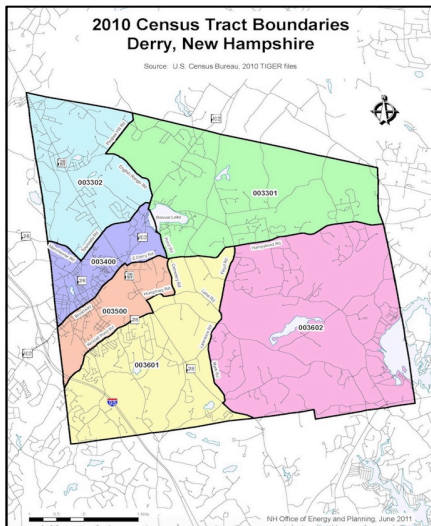
Derry's Economic Development 2

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

As Derry has grown, the Town has experienced positive economic growth trends that have diversified the workforce, attracted new types of businesses to the town, and decreased the unemployment rate. The town is undergoing several initiatives to continue these positive trends including periodical master plan updates, participation in SNHPC's Regional Economic Development Plan, transportation improvements and designation as an Opportunity Zone (OZ). The Town's Economic Development and Planning Departments are pursuing proactive coalitions with local/state organizations, non-profit groups, business owners, and community leaders to make Derry a destination that affirms an "open for business" attitude.

Current Assets

Opportunity Zone Designation



The orange census tract seen here is Derry's OZ.

- The OZ in Derry is enclosed by Broadway and East Derry Road to the north, Cemetery Road to the east, Humphrey and Kendall Pond Roads to the south and the Londonderry town line to the west.
- Investors can also invest in a Qualified Opportunity Fund to help support small businesses in the town – a previously unavailable funding source.
- OZ investments can range from infrastructure and preservation of cultural assets, to creation of affordable housing. This can be helpful when working to bridge the existing jobs to housing ratio in Derry.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- Recent Opportunity Zone designation will allow private investors to defer capital gains taxes until 2026, if they invest within 180 days. At that time, they can either sell their property or collect.
- Other options are 10% reduced capital gains taxes for a 5-year investment or 15% for a 7-year investment.
- There will be no taxes on future capital gains if they have the property for an additional 10 years or sell by 2048.
- 90% of assets must stay in the Opportunity Zone.

Commercial and Industrial Properties

- Derry has a large amount of industrial, commercial, and office/research property to support new businesses and expand existing businesses in the town. Availability of these parcels nestled between Route 28 South and I-93 is ideal for business attraction and retention.
- There is currently 1.6 million square feet of commercial property available for sale or lease in Derry and 630,100 square feet of industrial property.
- Purchase of commercial and industrial property in Derry amounted to over \$5.65M in 2018, with three of those transactions being the largest in the region's submarket.
- Diversification of the town's tax revenue to support commercial/office activity will attract industries where Derry is already a leader, such as healthcare, and where the town seeks to expand, such as advanced manufacturing, information technology, and the arts.

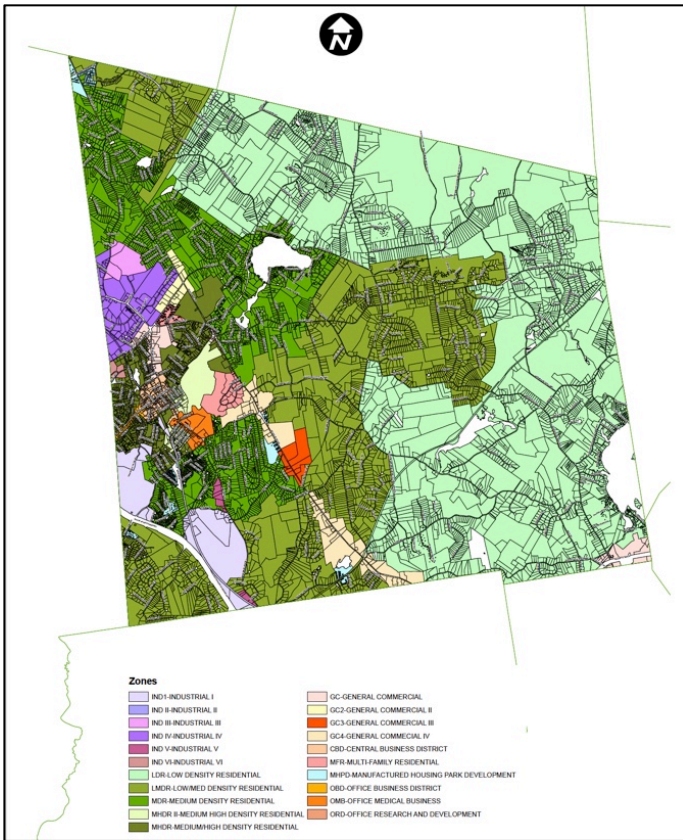
Rezoning for Commercial Use

West Running Brook District (GC IV)

- Recent extension of town utilities allows for the opening of the northern part of town for the new West Running Brook district, facilitating access to the Downtown, East Derry and new commercial zones toward the Windham line. The boundaries are north of the West Running Brook Middle School in the vicinity of Humphrey Road, and will continue south just shy of the Robert Frost Farm, totaling 40 acres.

Derry Master Plan Inventory & Assessment of Existing Conditions

- Creation of a new gateway along this corridor will support development efforts, increasing vitality in an area that has long been a target for growth with untapped opportunities.
- Popular locations such as Ashley Drive, currently zoned for both commercial and industrial use, will be maximized to their fullest potential.



Current zoning in Derry

GC III

- Zone GC III begins promptly at the Robert Frost Farm and continues south until zone GC IV, which will remain a commercial zone in the new plan.
- A major goal of the creation of this zone is to promote mixed-use interconnections extending south along Route 28 that promote connectivity over sporadic site development that has previously dominated.
- Streamlined architectural/landscape design and greening will be priorities in this zone, as the town works closely with new developers and those seeking to do business in Derry.

COLLECTIVELY FORMING A VISION FOR DERRY

Creative Economy Derry is proactively working to expand the creative economy, which is currently 2.4% of total industry employment. Creative industries and occupations have been on the rise both locally and regionally. With Derry's current upsurge in tertiary industries, increase in wages and spikes in commercial activity, the capacity for a vibrant creative realm is there.

- Arts and Electronics Retail, Visual and Performing Arts, and

Media /Media Marketing are the top creative enterprises projected to grow over the next decade. These areas are half of all creative enterprises in Derry.

- Self-employment is growing in Derry and can be a very valuable contributor to creative industries. Marketing to seniors and younger populations in this sector has been made a goal for the town.
- Integrating arts and entertainment in the business districts are resourceful ways Derry has integrated its cultural character with economic development.
- Usage of historic landmarks such as the Adam's Memorial Building for the Arts Council's, the Old Train Station as a new restaurant, and Upper Village Hall as an events venue are examples of how Derry is bridging the Town's history with alternative creative uses.

Downtown Derry has the only downtown in the Greater Derry-Londonderry area, with capacity for business development, particularly small business. From the SNHPC's Age-Friendly Survey for Derry and previous engagement efforts, it is clear the community utilizes and enjoys the downtown, but the need for revitalization is present.

- Updated design guidelines, promotion of programs like the Façade Improvement Program, and continued collaboration with technical entities like the Small Business Administration, will allow downtown to embrace its character and central location to market to newcomers.
- Self-employment is 6% of full-time, year-round employment in Derry, and 3% of this base are self-employed with employees. Encouraging this group to do business in the Downtown would support the local economy, increase likelihood of employing locals, promote entrepreneurship, and add vitality to this central node of Derry.



Walkable streetscapes outside the Cask and Vine in Downtown.



Derry's Historic & Cultural Resources 3

A CENTURIES-LONG HISTORY BEGUN BY THE PENACOOKS AND CONTINUED BY THE ULSTER-SCOTS

- Humans have inhabited the Derry area for centuries, beginning with Native peoples, the Penacook band of the Abenakis, who set up villages along the Merrimack River and its tributaries, fishing for shad, salmon and alewife. Several area place names originating from the tribe, including "Merrimack" and "Massabesic" are still in use today.
- The first Europeans to settle in Derry were known as "Ulster Scots," farmers, herdsman and weavers who had migrated from Scotland to the Ulster Plantation in Northern Ireland. From there, they came to America in 1718, settling in what they called "Nutfield," the nut tree-filled grassy, marshy area that contained today's towns of Windham, Londonderry and Derry, as well as portions of Salem, Manchester, and Hudson. Derry remained a parish of Nutfield – later Londonderry - for over 100 more years, with East Derry serving as its center.
- Farming first dominated the early local economy, but manufacturing emerged in the 1850s with the introduction of the railroad. Entrepreneurs built shoe factories in the downtown and milk from the local Hood farm was pasteurized and shipped in sterilized bottles from the railroad's Broadway depot. By the end of the 19th century, Derry had become a tourist destination, with several cabin colonies operating on local lakes and ponds. Shoe manufacturing relocated to the southern U.S. and Hood moved operations to Massachusetts. With the construction of Interstate 93 in the 1960s, Derry evolved into a bedroom community for Manchester and Metro Boston.
- Derry's extant historic resources represent this span of time. The oldest section of Forest Hill Cemetery (1722) and the Matthew Thornton House (ca. 1740) date to the first decades of settlement, while the Taylor sawmill (1799) reflects the town's early manufacturing history. While the shoe factories have nearly all been demolished, several structures from the industrial heyday remain including Upper Village Hall (1875), the Pinkerton building (1887), and the Adams Memorial Building (1904). Single-family homes, such as the Alan Shepard House (1921) reflect the town's 20th century transformation into a suburb and bedroom community.



The Matthew Thornton House, located on Thornton Street, dates to ca. 1740 and is one of Derry's oldest extant buildings.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- Derry's historic and cultural resources possess local, regional and national **significance**, and therefore merit protection.
- The town's 1986 inventory of historic resources was never completed, is now out of date, and needs revising. An **updated inventory** would identify additional resources meriting recognition and protection
- Derry's status as a Certified Local Government makes it **eligible for state funding** for preservation-related activities, such as an inventory update.
- The Derry Public Library, through its New Hampshire Room, has established itself as a **central repository** for historical information about the town. The Derry Museum of History provides a space for public display and interpretation of historical artifacts.
- Derry has firmly established its **commitment to the arts** through programming at the Derry Opera House and the advocacy work of its Public Arts Committee.
- The town recently established a **Cultural District** in the downtown, drawing on its existing historic and arts-related resources. Opportunity exists to grow this district, making Derry a regional cultural hub.

A TRADITION OF RECOGNIZING AND INTERPRETING HISTORIC RESOURCES

- Derry has made several efforts, through the National Register and National Historic Landmark programs, to recognize its most important historic resources. These include the Robert Frost Farm, Matthew Thornton House, Adams Memorial Building and Opera House, as well as the East Derry National Register Historic District.
- The state has placed historic markers at the locations in Derry, honoring the significance of these sites to the state's history: General John Stark, the Scotch-Irish settlement, and Robert Frost. Derry has become an integral part of the Robert Frost/Old Stagecoach Scenic Byway, part of the state's Scenic and Cultural Byways Program.
- In the 1990s, Derry became a Certified Local Government and formed the Derry Heritage Commission, an advisory body to the town's government and to the land use boards. The commission manages the Derry Museum of History, a collection of local artifacts housed and exhibited in the Adams Memorial Building.
- The Derry Public Library maintains the New Hampshire Room, a collection of books, maps, photographs, and postcards pertaining to the town's history. The postcard collection has been uploaded to FLICKR for public view.

AN ESTABLISHED COMMITMENT TO THE ARTS

- The Greater Derry Arts Council, Derry Opera House and Derry Public Arts Committee form the bedrock of arts activity in the town. In addition to managing the Opera House's array of performing arts events, the Council and Public Arts Committee are working to address the needs of the town's working artists.
- The Derry Garden Club works to engage residents in beautifying the town's public open spaces.
- Derry Homegrown Farm and Artisan Market provides a venue for local growers and producers sell their goods, but also for artists to market and sell their work.



Members of the Derry Garden Club instruct children from the Boys and Girls Club on planting.



Derry Homegrown Farm and Artisan Market provides a seasonal venue for artists to display and sell their work.



Derry's Natural, Open Space & Recreation Resources

4

DISTINCTIVE NATURAL & OPEN SPACE RESOURCES

- Most of the town's soils consist of till-covered bedrock making them compatible with the installation of septic systems, basements, roads and streets. The gently rolling topography and limited amount of shallow bedrock further the development suitability.
- The town lies within two major watersheds, with the largest encompassing Beaver and Horne's Brooks, contributing to the Merrimack River Watershed. The Beaver Lake Watershed, a sub-watershed of the Merrimack, covers 7.72 square miles in the northern end of Derry.
- Several freshwater ponds and waterways spread across the Derry landscape, providing habitat for wildlife, as well as many recreation sites. Dams impound several of these water resources, helping to control floodwater.
- Wetlands and forests, scattered throughout Derry, provide additional habitat and recreational opportunities. The town maintains both the Town Forest and Weber Memorial Forest, together covering over 300 acres.



Apple trees growing at the Robert Frost Farm provide one reminder of Derry's history of an active farming community. The town has protected five former farms from development.

SUCCESSFUL RESOURCE PROTECTION EFFORTS

- The town has protected over 1,000 acres of former farmland through conservation easements, and two family-owned farms continue to operate in Derry. The town has also protected over 1,000 acres of open space, and much of this land is accessible to the public.
- In 2006, Derry joined Auburn and Chester in forming the Beaver Lake Watershed Partnership as a way to ensure protection of the 10.5 square mile area in response to rapid development. The group prepared a management plan, and the Town of Derry continues to implement its recommendations.
- The Net Zero Task Force has established a goal of achieving Net Zero compliance by all key stakeholders in Derry by 2025. Accomplishments to date include replacing all incandescent/fluorescent bulbs in

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- Derry's gentle topography, minimal shallow or exposed bedrock and soils comprised of glacial till make **much of the land compatible for development**.
- A significant portion of the town lies within one of two large watersheds, giving Derry **a key role in regional watershed protection**.
- The town and its non-profit partners have **acquired several hundred acres of conservation land** and have arranged for **agricultural easements on five former farms**.
- Derry has demonstrated its **commitment to protection of groundwater, wetlands, and floodplains** by establishing several associated zoning and overlay districts.
- The Net Zero Task Force has advanced Derry's efforts to **reduce reliance on non-renewable energy sources**.

municipal buildings with LED bulbs and developing a solar energy project at the public works facility. The task force has planned a 1-megawatt solar array for the landfill.

- The town has established several zoning districts designed to conserve groundwater and protect wetlands and flood plains

RECREATION RESOURCES IN MANY FORMS

- The Rockingham Recreation Trail (maintained by the State of New Hampshire) and Derry Rail Trail (overseen by the Derry Rail Trail Alliance) offer bicyclists, walkers, joggers and others off-road recreational opportunities. Multiple access points to both trails are spread through the town.
- Derry's conservation lands contain many miles of hiking trails through forests and former farmlands.
- Kayaking and wildlife-viewing are possible on the town's several lakes and ponds, and the state maintains a public boat launch at Beaver Lake.
- Derry is home to three publicly-accessible golf courses, Hoodcroft, Hidden Valley and Brookstone.
- The town maintains multiple fields for team sports, in locations across town.
- Alexander-Carr Park Lodge, while in need of repair/replacement, provides a place for public gatherings.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- Derry's **two state parks and two multi-use trails** offer recreational opportunities and at the same time fuel the local economy.
- The **baseball, softball, and soccer fields** provide ample opportunities for team sports activities.
- The natural areas, including **lakes, ponds and conservation lands**, offer opportunities for additional recreation.
- The condition of **indoor facilities** that support these activities, including Veterans' Hall and the Lodge at Alexander Park, does not match the quality of the well-maintained fields. Both buildings are both in need of major upgrades.



Beaver Lake, located near the geographic center of Derry, is the largest freshwater body and provides both habitat for wildlife as well as opportunity for fishing and boating.



The playground at Alexander Carr Park is a popular spot for young children throughout spring, summer and fall.



The Rockingham Recreational Trail, maintained by the State of New Hampshire, runs through the southern part of Derry.



Derry's Transportation and Circulation - 5

MOVING PEOPLE OF ALL AGES AND ABILITIES

Derry manages and maintains its roadway system at a high level. In the future, traffic volumes and roadway functionality may change as a result of the planned NHDOT new Exit 4A interchange, which will change traffic patterns. As a result, there may be opportunities to redesign the Downtown area to attract residents and visitors, better accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists, and provide more and better parking.

• Travel Characteristics

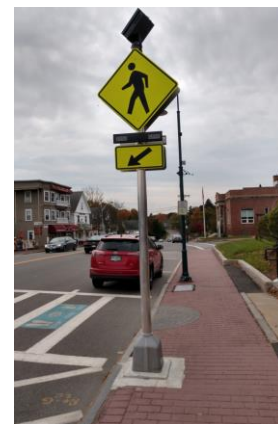
- Derry has a population of 33,246 making it the 4th largest municipality in New Hampshire
- 41% (4,000) of people working in Derry, live in Derry
- Approximately 4,000 residents work in Manchester, Salem and Londonderry
- 91% of Derry residents who commute to work drive alone
- 23% of Derry households have 3 or more vehicles
- The commute time for 85% of Derry residents was under 30 minutes

• Operating Conditions

- There are approximately 200 miles of roadway in Derry
- The Derry Highway Department has managed the Pavement Management Program since 1986. Most roadways are in Good or better condition. Over 30 roadways are scheduled to be repaired over the next few years
- The Highway Department Maintains 19.7 miles of sidewalk and 3.2 miles of bike trail
- NH 102 (West. Broadway) carries over 18,000 vehicles per day (vpd); Tsienneto Road over 14,000 vpd; NH Bypass over 12,000 vpd
- Heavy traffic congestion is experienced on West Broadway traveling westbound in the morning to the I-93 Exit 4 interchange, with the reverse pattern in the afternoon
- In 2016, a new traffic signal was installed at Rockingham Road/Windham Depot Road / Kilrea Road
- The NHDOT is planning bridge replacement or rehabilitation at Drew Road over Drew Brook; North Shore Road over tributary to Beaver Lake Outlet; Florence Street over Shields Brook; and safety improvements at the intersection of NH Route 28 Bypass/English Range Road/Scobie Pond Road
- There is a lack of uniform wayfinding signage in The Downtown

• Safety

- The number of reported vehicle crashes has increased each year between 2011 and 2015
- The following intersections experienced high numbers of crashes between 2014 and 2016:
 - Ross' Corner (20 crashes/year)



Rectangular Rapid Flashing Pedestrian Beacon in Downtown helps to improve visibility and driver awareness.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- The **Highway Department** maintains local roadways through the Pavement Management Program which receives over \$1M annually in funding. As a result, most of Derry's roads are in Good or better condition.
- While most residents commute to work via single-occupant automobile, Derry has two **multi-use trails** and nearly **20 miles of sidewalk** that serve alternative transportation modes. The **Derry Rail Trail** is being extended from Hood Pond to North High Street.
- The **Streetscape and Pedestrian** improvements constructed in 2001 in the Downtown area are in need of repair. This may be an opportunity to upgrade and enhance pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and improve safety and wayfinding. A **Sidewalk Improvement Plan** would help to prioritize improvements.
- **Parking** availability and handicap accessibility are issues in the Downtown including at the **Derry Public Library**. There is the potential to use the town-owned parcel adjacent to the **Adams Memorial Building** for additional parking.

- NH Route 28 Bypass/ Pinkerton Street/Nesmith Street (11 crashes/year)
- NH Route 28/Ashleigh Drive (10 crashes/year)
- NH Route 28 Bypass/English Range Road/Scobie Pond Road (9 crashes/year)
- Tsienneto Road/Pinkerton Street (7 crashes/year)

- **Pedestrians and Bicycles**

- There are 19.7 miles of sidewalk, mostly in Downtown
- The Town has two sidewalk plows
- There is no sidewalk improvement funding mechanism
- The Derry Rail Trail is approximately 3.2 miles long and is planned to be extended northerly from Hoods Pond to North High Street (2019) with the potential of expanding beyond the I-93 Exit 4A project. At Madden Road, a new tunnel for the Derry Rail Trail will be provided as part of the I-93 Exit 4A project.
- Within the Town of Derry, the Rockingham Recreational Trail is 6 miles long. It starts at the Windham Depot, meets the Derry Rail Trail, and continues northerly to the Hampton Town Line
- Streetscape improvements made in 2001 in the Downtown are deteriorating and will need improvements, including tree planting
- Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons could be considered at South Avenue and Rollins Street for the Derry Rail Trail

- **Transit**

- The Greater Derry/Greater Salem Regional Transportation Council assists with the planning, pursuing funding for, and developing strategies that meet the needs of people living in the Greater Derry and Greater Salem service areas.
- The Cooperative Alliance for Regional Transportation (CART) provides three types of public transportation for residents of Derry:
 - Curb-to-curb demand for residents who are elderly or in need of transportation.
 - Route deviation shuttle service within a quarter mile radius of the route.
 - Shuttle for seniors and people with disabilities to the Londonderry Senior Center and the Marion Gerrish Community Center in Derry.

- **Parking**

- There is limited parking and handicap (accessible) parking available at the Derry Public Library. There is consideration to expand to the bandstand area at McGregor Park
- The Derry Masonic Temple has limited parking that causes patrons to park across the street on East Broadway
- Parking is limited at Adams Memorial Building (Derry Opera House) with a potential opportunity to use the abutting empty parcel owned by the Town
- Due to poor lighting and lack of nearby parking lots, patrons of the Adams Memorial Building do not feel safe walking to The Abbot Court parking lot
- Consideration could be given to maximizing the use of public space in the Downtown area by providing on-street angle parking spaces, improving lighting, and creating additional parking spaces.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- A new **I-93 Exit 4A Interchange** is planned to be constructed by NHDOT in the Town of Londonderry between Exits 4 and 5. The project would include a **one-mile connector roadway to Folsom Road in Derry**. The intent of the project is to reduce congestion and improve safety along NH 102 from I-93 through the Derry Downtown and promote economic development in Derry.
- The new Exit 4A interchange may present an opportunity to change the **vision and character of Downtown Derry** if traffic volumes decrease on W. Broadway. Potential measures may include reduced travel lane widths, angle parking and improved pedestrian and bicycle facilities.
- The new connector road would be divided and would prohibit vehicles making left turns in and out of the **Police Station**, which would require U-turns. There may opportunities to relocate the Police Station in the mid- and long-term, where the current site can be sold and redeveloped.



Derry's Community Facilities & Services - 6

PROACTIVE FACILITY PLANNING

As Derry has grown, the Town has become more systematic about planning for its municipal facilities and services by periodically updating its master plan, and developing a 30-year Capital Improvement Plan among other planning efforts. Many of the Town Departments also conduct their own internal planning.

- **Schools.** Derry Cooperative School District is comprised of 5 elementary schools, 2 middle schools and 1 private, non-profit, regional high school.
 - School enrollments are expected to continue to decline with a slight increase in the elementary school population.
 - Derry's schools have additional capacity to absorb any slight increase in enrollments.
 - Pinkerton Academy expects a reduction in the number of students coming from Derry
- **Public Safety**
 - **Police Department**
 - The number of uniformed personnel (per 1,000 residents) is significantly below that of the average of municipalities in New Hampshire
 - The proposed Exit 4A road configuration will significantly negatively impact the access and reduce the ability of the Police Department at its current location to respond to an emergency
 - **Fire Department**
 - The Fire Stations are in need of significant upgrades
 - The number of calls for service have slightly increased over the last decade, (primarily due to the increase in calls for emergency medical services for elderly residents.
 - Some parts of Derry are outside of the 4-minute industry standard report time
- **Libraries**
 - The **Derry Public Library** has experienced a decrease in the number of materials circulated, but an increase in attendance at programs offered at the library, indicating it is part of a larger trend of the changing roles of libraries in a community.
 - The **Taylor Library** is not ADA compliant and must limit its popular programming due to space limitations and the fire code.
- **Veteran's Hall** is at capacity to serve the recreational and socializing needs of elderly residents. As this population is anticipated to increase, there will be a need for additional space for programming.



The Municipal Center, occupied since 2002, is well maintained and adequately accommodates many of Derry's municipal offices and the public.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- The **School District** is preparing to close one of the elementary schools
- The **Police Department** may need to hire more officers in the future so that it may be more proactive in its approach to public safety. The Headquarters may need to relocate when the Exit 4A road reconfiguration is constructed.
- The **Fire Department** is planning major facility changes, including relocating stations.
- **Libraries** – Access to the Derry Public Library can be improved by providing additional parking and Sunday hours. The Taylor Library could be improved by making it handicap accessible.
- **Veteran's Hall.** More space will be needed in the future. Upper Village Hall and Alexander Carr Park Lodge may be available for additional programming for seniors and others.

- The **Adams Memorial Building** houses the Greater Derry Arts Council, Derry's Housing Authority, the Greater Derry-Londonderry Chamber of Commerce, and Derry's History Museum. While the building is in good condition, the lack of adequate parking is of significant concern.
- The **Alexander-Carr Park Lodge** will be rebuilt and available for recreation as well as for rent for meetings and events.



If the parcel adjacent to the Adams Memorial Building could be used for parking, this would go a long way in addressing the parking shortage for the building's uses.

PROVISION OF QUALITY UTILITIES AND SERVICES

• Department of Public Works

- **Solid Waste and Recycling:** Derry has a mandatory recycling program (since 1990) and trash quantities have been decreasing since then.
- Derry has a **Stormwater Management Program**.
- **Water.** Derry has an ample supply of water with capacity for additional expansion.
 - approximately 40% of the Town's residents are connected to the municipal water system, approximately 50% are on private wells and the remaining 10% are with the Pennichuck Water franchised system
- **Sewer.** Derry's wastewater is treated at the Municipal Sewage Treatment Plant.
 - Approximately 30% of the Town's population is connected to the municipal sewer system
 - There is ample capacity for expansion and some plans to extend the system within the next 5 years
 - Derry processes waste from Londonderry; it is expected that the amount will increase due to significant new development planned in that town

• Highway Department and Cemetery Division

- The Highway Department maintains:
 - 19.7 miles of sidewalk
 - 3.2 miles of bike path
 - a Pavement Management Program which prioritizes road improvements
- Due to the trend favoring cremation over full burials, there is additional capacity available at the **Cemetery**.

- **Public Health.** The Department of Public Health responds to resident reports of health issues at residential properties but also addresses public health issues at schools, daycare facilities, nursing homes, etc.
 - The number of calls for service made to the Derry Police Department that are related to health issues (e.g. substance abuse, etc.) are on the rise
 - A number of state resources exist regarding "healthy communities" initiatives (e.g. regarding safe walking, biking, local and healthy food, etc.)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- Derry's **recycling rate** has increased to 36% of all waste
- The **Stormwater Management Program** protects water quality and controls the adverse affects of increased runoff due to development
- The Town is currently in discussions with the State and adjacent communities with the goal of extending and improving Derry's **water system** at no cost to the Town
- Additional **wastewater** generated by new development in Londonderry will need to be addressed (including considering expanding the treatment plant)
- New technologies may make it feasible to provide **alternative methods of sewage treatment** to more rural areas of Derry that are currently served by septic systems
- A **Sidewalk Improvement Plan** would help to prioritize improvements
- There are plans to extend the **bike path**; this would require additional maintenance
- There are opportunities for the Department of Public Health to promote initiatives that facilitate **health and wellness**



Energy Conservation & Future Resilience – 7

Planning for the future involves understanding current conditions as well as predicting future trends. Conserving energy and reducing reliance on fossil fuels reduces the negative impact on the environment and makes us less vulnerable to the volatility of fluctuations in fuel costs and international markets and relations. Additionally, as we plan for the future resilience of our communities, it is important to minimize any preventable and predictable impacts of climate change as we adapt to changing conditions. Building the capacity to be proactive and responsive is critical to the resilience of any municipality.

New Hampshire energy prices are among the highest in the nation. According to the New Hampshire Office of Strategic Initiatives¹, the State has the third highest electricity rates in the contiguous U.S. with each New Hampshire resident spending an average of \$3,934 on energy in 2015. The cost of energy is particularly burdensome to lower wage earners. Also, high energy costs may make it more difficult for commercial and industrial entities to compete with businesses located in lower-cost regions of the country.

“Energy, environment, and economic development are interrelated, just as our ecological systems consist of many interrelated and interdependent elements. Well-crafted solutions to these issues should be interrelated and will create benefits in all of these arenas, across the state and for all of our citizens.”

- The New Hampshire Climate Action Plan

STATE RESOURCES

The State of New Hampshire 10-Year State Energy Strategy sets forth a series of goals intended to “enable business and consumer cost savings, job creation, economic growth, industry competitiveness, environmental protection, and a reliable and resilient energy system.” The goals are:

- Prioritize cost-effective energy policies
- Ensure a secure, reliable, and resilient energy system
- Adopt all-resource energy strategies and minimize government barriers to innovation
- Maximize cost-effective energy savings
- Achieve environmental protection that is cost-effective and enables economic growth
- Government intervention in energy markets should be limited, justifiable, and technology-neutral
- Encourage market-selection of cost-effective energy resources
- Generate in-state economic activity without reliance on permanent subsidization of energy
- Maximize the economic lifespan of existing resources while integrating new entrants on a levelized basis
- Protect against neighboring states’ policies that socialize costs
- Ensure that appropriate energy infrastructure is sited while incorporating input and guidance from stakeholders.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- The State has a number of programs available to NH municipalities including potential funding opportunities, to help towns increase energy awareness, reduce greenhouse emissions, and conserve energy

REGIONAL PLANNING: SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE PLANNING COMMISSION (SNHPC)

SNHPC has a chapter on Energy in its most recent Regional Plan. This states that while New Hampshire “has no fossil fuel reserves, it has substantial renewable energy potential.”² Potential benefits from renewable energy sources mentioned include:

- More energy dollars retained in local or regional economy
- Annual operation costs are low
- “Waste” such as manure, landfill gas, landscape trimming, etc. can be converted to energy sources
- Reduced pollution as compared with fossil fuels

¹ New Hampshire Office of Strategic Initiatives, *New Hampshire 10-Year State Energy Strategy*, April 2018.

² Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission Regional Comprehensive Plan (2010), Chapter 5 (Energy).

The Plan also identifies Land Use Planning as another way to reduce energy consumption.

MUNICIPAL EFFORTS: DERRY'S ENERGY CONSERVATION, CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION & FUTURE RESILIENCY PLANNING MEASURES

Derry has been proactive in its efforts to plan for future resilience. Some of the Town's efforts include:

- In 2016 Derry created a **Net Zero Task Force** focused on conserving energy in the Town's municipal buildings and schools and replacing carbon based energy sources with renewable energy where feasible. The Task Force has a goal of becoming Net Zero in terms of carbon footprint from electricity by the year 2025.
- Derry adopted a **"Green Building and Vehicle Ordinance"** (which gives preference to the purchase or lease of alternative fuel and hybrid vehicles for Town use, requires that new construction or major renovation of Town-owned facilities incorporate environmentally friendly building methods and technology, and encourages the Town to promote and assist business owners and local Town, state and federal agencies to build in environmentally responsible ways.
- The Town has installed 4 **electrical car charging stations** accessible to the public free of charge to help promote the downtown area to residents and visitors. They are located in the Municipal Office Building parking lot.
- **Solar and Wind Exemption.** Property owners who have installed wind or solar powered energy equipment can submit the cost of their installation to receive an exemption in the amount equal to 100% of the assessed value of qualifying solar and wind-powered energy equipment.
- **Recycling.** Derry has had a mandatory recycling program since 1990. Trash quantities have decreased over time and the recycling rate has increased to 36% of all waste.
- Derry has developed a **Stormwater Management Program** that includes a Stormwater ordinance that prohibits non-stormwater discharges so as to maintain and improve the quality of water into water bodies and establishes minimum requirements and procedures to control the potential adverse effects of increased Stormwater runoff due to development.
- Derry has a **Hazard Mitigation Plan** (updated in 2015) that outlines action steps for the Town to take to reduce or eliminate long-term risks to lives and property resulting from hazards. These steps include preventive measures intended to mitigate the effects of such natural and human-caused hazards.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- The Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission Regional Plan lists a number of ways in which municipalities can use Land Use planning to conserve energy; these include impact fees, smart growth development, transit-oriented development, among others. Derry can consider these as its plans for the future.
- Conserving energy by leading by example, retrofitting town facilities with energy saving technologies and by implementing energy efficient measures in town activities and ordinances are critical steps in planning for the Town's future resilience.
- Derry has been proactive in terms of setting up systems and implementing measures to move towards reducing its carbon footprint and becoming more resilient in general.
- There is more Derry can do to conserve energy, mitigate climate change impacts, and plan for future resiliency