

L-3.2 Status of Actions Contained in the 1992 Plan

The 1992 Comprehensive Plan (adopted by the State in 1995) had the implementation program organized by “major municipal actions” and then assigned priority ratings, i.e., timeframes for implementation of “highest”, “high”, and “medium”. This section serves to provide the status of those 1992 proposed actions. The section titles and their sequence are the same as appeared in the 1992 Plan, however, for the sake of brevity, the “Responsible Agencies”, Adopting Agencies”, “Comments”, and “Costs” were removed, leaving only a description of the progress made to date. Those tasks that remain ongoing have also been included in the 2005 Action Table.

Codes and Ordinances - Highest Priority

Zoning Ordinance and Map

Progress: The Zoning Ordinance and map were updated in 1994. The Zoning Map is in substantial conformance with the Land Use Plan. The exceptions where the Zoning Map has not caught up to the Land Use Plan include the following:

Mixed Use – A – Slatersville Mill Site. Rezoning of this site is likely within the short term as the current owners are negotiating the sale of the property. All potential buyers have expressed interest in developing the site as described in the 1992 Land Use Plan and again in the 2005 Update.

Mixed Use – B – North Smithfield/ Woonsocket Town Line. Rezoning of this site is likely in the short-term. Some small scale mixed use development has already occurred in this proposed district. The Planning Board has recommended that the residential component of this proposed district be eliminated.

Lot sizes in the vicinity of the aquifer were increased. An Aquifer and Groundwater Overlay Ordinance has been adopted.

A number of zone changes have been implemented since the plan was adopted and while none of them were specifically envisioned by the land use plan they were such that existing zoning districts were expanded as infrastructure was extended to accommodate new development.

Subdivision Regulations

Progress: Initial update based on 1992 recommendations complete. Last amended September 2003.

Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance

Progress: Ordinance adopted in 1992 will need to be amended to incorporate Phase II Stormwater Management Plan provisions.

Regulations Enforced by RIDEM

Progress: Use of alternative septic treatment technology has allowed development in areas previously presumed to be unbuildable. DEM has amended regulations for ISDS with respect to setbacks from drinking water supply reservoirs and contributing streams and wetlands. Sand filters are required where there is a hydrologic link to a drinking water supply.

EPA/RIDEM CERCLIS Review

Progress: Monitoring reports continue to be periodically forwarded to the Planning Department.

Codes and Ordinances - High Priority

Subdivision Regulations

Progress: Completed (see earlier description above).

Soil and Earth Removal Ordinance

Progress: Completed in 1994, need revisions to address expansion of operations onto merged lots.

Scenic Roads Inventory

Progress: Woonasquatucket River Greenspace Project and the Scenic Roadways Board identified roads that have scenic qualities. The Town still needs to develop specific criteria to rank roads, establish the critical features for preservation, and develop a Scenic Road Ordinance.

Site Plan Review/Subdivision Amendments

Progress: Site Plan Review ordinance will become Development Plan Review in Land Development Regulations. Design standards still need to be adopted.

Codes and Ordinances - Medium Priority

Underground Storage Tank Regulations

Progress: Task removed because State should provide sufficient Regulations.

Stormwater Management Ordinance

Progress: Task to be revisited now that the Storm Water Management Plan is complete.

Special Studies - Highest Priority

Branch River Industrial Park Area Feasibility Study

Progress: Task to be reconsidered because private studies are underway.

Wastewater Facilities Plan

Progress: Plan was completed in May 1993, an update is needed. See 2005 Action Table.

Special Studies - High Priority

North Smithfield/ Woonsocket Townline Mixed Use B Area

Progress: A residential component is being considered for this Mixed Use district.

Slatersville Feasibility Study

Progress: Sale of property to a private concern is pending. Master plan for a mixed-use development including one and two bedroom units, live-work space, health club, and possible municipal space was approved by the Planning Board and is pending before Zoning Board.

Branch River Greenway Plan

Progress: Slatersville Area Plan covers part of this area. Work continues to implement this task with the Blackstone River Valley Heritage Corridor. See 2005 Action Table.

Sayles Hill Road / Route 146 Intersection

Progress: Submitted to DOT for inclusion in the TIP. The project was initially ranked positively, but was then removed from the TIP. See 2005 Action Table.

Pooled Parking Site Feasibility Studies

Progress: Included in the 2005 Action Table

Special Studies - Medium Priority

Trout Brook Pond Area Study

Progress: Private development plans propose construction of a turf-farm on 250 acres – groundwater study recently completed by U.S.G.S.

Town Hall Study

Progress: No action taken to date. See 2005 Action Table.

Study New Road - Pound Hill Road to Greenville Road

Progress: No action to date. Task removed – the slim likelihood of funding, coupled with the geography of the area, suggests this project will not be realized.

Rankin Path Extension Study

Progress: Design work/feasibility study completed.

School Street Extension / East Harkness Road Study

Progress: A traffic light was installed at School Street and the Route 102 intersection.

Pavement Management Study

Progress: No action – DPW will be developing a five-year improvement list for roads. See 2005 Action Table.

Mapped Streets Study

Progress: Research on streets initiated. See 2005 Action Table.

Sidewalks Plan

Progress: No action- DPW will look at sidewalks when developing the five-year road improvement list. See 2005 Action Table.

Administrative Action - Highest Priority

Retention of Existing Industries

Progress: North Smithfield Advisory Group represents many of the businesses in Town and receives periodic updates from the Town. Retention of existing businesses is an ongoing effort, see 2005 Action Table.

Water Commission

Progress: A Water Authority was established in 1994 and was recently disbanded. Various water systems have been consolidated.

Housing Partnership

Progress: An affordable Housing Plan was developed (and submitted to the State as an appendix of the Comprehensive Plan). The Plan calls for the establishment of a Housing Commission to implement the Plan. See 2005 Action Table.

Regional Watershed Protection Committee

Progress: The Department of Health in cooperation with the URI Cooperative Extension have developed Source Water Assessments for Woonsocket and North Smithfield surface and ground water watersheds. These assessments look at contamination risks and suggest ways of minimizing exposure. The Blackstone River and Woonasquatucket River Watershed Councils have been established to look at issues in and out of their respective watersheds. See 2005 Action Table.

Hazardous and Emergency Spill Response

Progress: Fire Department is responsible for first response- DEM is called in once containment is achieved. Environmental Advocate, acts as liaison between DEM, Town offices and the public. The North Smithfield component of the regional plan has been completed.

Land Trust

Progress: A Land Trust was created. Its efforts should be supported and municipal funding for operating expenses, like insurance need to be explored. See 2005 Action Table.

Change Highway Functional Classification

Progress: Task removed because the State continues to shift more responsibilities to municipalities, and the likelihood of the Town shifting some responsibility to the State is slim.

Administrative Action - High Priority

Rehabilitation/Code Enforcement

Progress: CDBG Housing Rehabilitation program in place and ongoing. See 2005 Action Table.

National Register Listing

Progress: No action to date, see 2005 Action Table.

Wastewater Management Districts

Progress: Wastewater Management Plan identified areas where wastewater districts should be established. See 2005 Action Table.

Other tasks completed but not previously included in this section, but included in the 1992 body of the Plan that deserve mentioning are:

- The various Fire Departments and Rescue Services have been consolidated into one town wide organization.
- While the library was expanded just prior to the 1992 Plan's completion, the Town's growth rate has accelerated and current space deficiencies exist. As such, a new library is being called for. The Animal Shelter was expanded and remains sufficiently sized, to date.
- North Smithfield supported the establishment of the Woonsocket Visitor Center and Museum, as well as the historic Slater Mill site in Pawtucket.
- Centennial Park has been upgraded.
- Improved pedestrian accessibility in Slatersville is well underway.
- Use of CDBG funds for the Slatersville area was explored. However, CDBG funds can not be used because Slatersville is not blighted or comprised mainly of low to moderate-income citizens.
- Pacheco Park's size was expanded.