

Planning for Climate Change Resilience in Transportation in Northern New England by Anna Schulz

As concerns about climate change continues to grow, transportation systems are facing new demands. Climate change *mitigation*, or the reduction of factors that cause change, remains an important challenge. More recently, however, the dialogue around climate change and transportation has begun to stress the importance of *adaptation*, or activities that make our systems more resilient to predicted changes such as increased precipitation. My research examines the processes by which states in northern New England (Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont) undertake planning for climate change. Little research currently addresses the state of adaptation and resilience planning in the transportation field in our region. Through both qualitative and quantitative methods, including conversations, interviews, and data collection and analysis, I am in the process of gathering more information about the project prioritization practices in each state. Preliminary analysis of project prioritization data indicates that, in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont, climate change adaptation is underemphasized in the transportation sector. This preliminary finding points to a major gap in transportation planning.