

Historic & Cultural Resources - Implementation Actions (DRAFT 10/16/2025)						
ID	Action Type	Action	Timeframe*	Responsible Parties	Source	Priority
HCR-A1	Planning & Survey / Documentation	Initiate amendment to the National Register nomination for the Bristol Waterfront Historic District (update boundaries, add omitted properties, correct errors, expand themes).	Short	Town Council; Community Development Dept.; Historic District Commission; RIHPHC	Re-Survey	
HCR-A2	Regulatory & Policy Tools	Expand the Local Historic District Overlay Zone to align with updated National Register boundaries and include previously omitted properties.	Short; Medium	Town Council; Planning Board; Community Development Dept.; Historic District Commission	Re-Survey	
HCR-A3	Planning & Survey / Documentation	Conduct focused surveys and nomination efforts for the Northern Hope Street Historic District.	Medium	Community Development Dept.; Historic District Commission; RIHPHC	Re-Survey	
HCR-A4	Planning & Survey / Documentation	Conduct survey and nomination for the Wood Street / "New Goree" Neighborhood Historic District.	Medium	Community Development Dept.; Historic District Commission; Bristol Historical & Preservation Society; RIHPHC	Re-Survey	
HCR-A5	Planning & Survey / Documentation	Prepare individual nominations for significant at-risk properties (e.g., St. Michael's Church Bell Tower, St. Elizabeth's Church, Bay View Avenue residences, Linden Place outbuildings).	Short; Medium	Community Development Dept.; Historic District Commission; RIHPHC	Re-Survey	
HCR-A6	Planning & Survey / Documentation	Partner with the Bristol Historical & Preservation Society and other institutions to document underrepresented histories (immigrant, industrial, African American).	Ongoing	Community Development Dept.; BH&PS; Roger Williams University; Town Clerk	Re-Survey	
HCR-A7	Outreach & Interpretation	Develop public awareness initiatives using survey data (signage, digital access, walking tours, interpretive materials).	Medium-Long	Community Development Dept.; Historic District Commission; Explore Bristol; BH&PS	Re-Survey	
HCR-A8	Partnerships & Capacity Building	Coordinate with RIDOT and the Rhode Island Scenic Roadways Board to review proposed changes along designated scenic roadways.	Ongoing	Town Planner; Planning Board; RIDOT Scenic Roadways Board	2017 Comp Plan	
HCR-A9	Regulatory & Policy Tools	Develop and adopt zoning/design standards to protect views, historic streetscapes, landscaping, and stone walls along scenic routes.	Short	Planning Board; Town Council; Historic District Commission; RIDOT Scenic Roadways Board	2017 Comp Plan	
HCR-A10	Regulatory & Policy Tools	Ensure roadway projects incorporate context-sensitive design (pedestrian/bike facilities, drainage, lighting) along scenic corridors.	Ongoing	Department of Public Works; RIDOT; Planning Board	2017 Comp Plan	
HCR-A11	Outreach & Interpretation	Collaborate on implementation of the Revolutionary Heritage Byway Corridor Plan and incorporate interpretive signage, heritage trail connections, and tourism promotion.	Short	Town Planner; Explore Bristol; Historical & Preservation Society; RWU partners	2017 Comp Plan	
HCR-A12	Incentives & Funding	Pursue funding opportunities through federal Scenic Byways grants, RIDOT partnerships, and cultural tourism programs to support corridor preservation and enhancements.	Ongoing	Town Planner; Town Council; Explore Bristol; State/Federal Delegation	2017 Comp Plan	

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HCR-A13	Regulatory & Policy Tools	Implement recommendations of the Historic District Vulnerability Assessment (2023) and FEMA building-level study to mitigate flood and sea level rise impacts on historic resources.	Short	Town Planner; Community Development Dept.; Historic District Commission; RIHPHC; EMA	2017 Comp Plan	
HCR-A15	Education	Maintain annual training for HDC members, ensuring alignment with RIHPHC and land use law requirements.	Ongoing	Historic District Commission; RIHPHC	2017 Comp Plan	
HCR-A16	Incentives & Funding	Advocate for new incentives for preservation, including support for state-level historic tax credits; consider local measures if feasible.	Medium	Town Council; Town Planner; Community Development Dept.	2017 Comp Plan	
HCR-A17	Regulatory & Policy Tools	Incorporate renewable energy and sustainability guidance into HDC Design Guidelines to balance energy efficiency with preservation.	Short	Historic District Commission; Town Planner; RIHPHC	2017 Comp Plan	
HCR-A18	Partnerships & Capacity Building	Advance protection of the Mt. Hope Area in collaboration with the Pokanoket Tribe, Mt. Hope Farm, and Sowams Heritage Area partners; prepare a vision plan for trails, access, and interpretation; pursue NR nominations for Waypoysset and Mt. Hope.	Medium-Long	Town Planner; BH&PS; RIHPHC; Pokanoket Tribe; Mt. Hope Farm	2017 Comp Plan	
HCR-A21	Regulatory & Policy Tools	Continue adaptive reuse and design review for historic downtown properties, ensuring projects protect water views and waterfront access.	Ongoing	Historic District Commission; Planning Board; Zoning Board; Town Council	2017 Comp Plan	
HCR-A22	Regulatory & Policy Tools	Discourage demolition of historic buildings for parking; integrate parking strategy with bicycle/pedestrian connectivity. <i>(broaden this action?)</i>	Short-Medium	Planning Board; Zoning Board; Town Planner	2017 Comp Plan	
HCR-A23	Regulatory & Policy Tools	Adopt streetscape standards for historic downtown (benches, lighting, signage, utilities, granite curbing) to guide RIDOT and local projects.	Short	Town Planner; DPW; RIDOT; Planning Board	2017 Comp Plan	
HCR-A24	Education	Expand heritage education programs in schools, with oral history and intergenerational initiatives.	Ongoing	School Dept.; BH&PS; RWU; Community Development Dept.	2017 Comp Plan	
HCR-A25	Outreach & Interpretation	Partner with Explore Bristol/Discover Newport to promote the Bristol-Newport Heritage Trail and Revolutionary Heritage Byway.	Medium	Explore Bristol; Discover Newport; Town Planner; BH&PS	2017 Comp Plan	
HCR-A26	Facilities & Capital Improvements	Enhance public access to historic resource data through signage, wayfinding, walking tours, and online platforms.	Medium	Town Planner; BH&PS; Explore Bristol; Historic District Commission	2017 Comp Plan	
HCR-A27	Incentives & Funding	Encourage mixed use and creative reuse of historic buildings, in partnership with RWU and local institutions, to support economic vitality.	Ongoing	Town Planner; Planning Board; RWU; Community Development Dept.	2017 Comp Plan	

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HCR-A28	Regulatory & Policy Tools	BWHD Resilience Design Guidance. Develop illustrated, preservation-sensitive guidance for typical BWHD building types (elevation options, dry/wet floodproofing, utilities relocation, foundation/venting details, materials), aligned with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. Include a fast-reference checklist for applicants.	Short	Community Development Dept., HDC; Partners: RIHPHC, BH&PS, RWU, consultants	Climate Vulnerability of Historic Resources Study (cross reference in Climate Element)	
HCR-A29	Planning & Survey / Documentation	Maintain a GIS layer of at-risk historic properties and archaeological sensitivity areas (2' SLR & storm surge scenarios) with condition, significance, and adaptation status. Update every 2-3 years.	Short; Ongoing	CDD/GIS; Partners: HDC, BH&PS, RIHPHC	Climate Vulnerability of Historic Resources Study (cross reference in Climate Element)	
HCR-A30	Incentives & Funding	Create a funding and incentives toolkit (FEMA/RIEMA mitigation funding, CLG grants, tax credits, local fee reductions/expedited review) for homeowners and applicants.	Short	CDD; Partners: Finance, RIEMA, RIHPHC	Climate Vulnerability of Historic Resources Study (cross reference in Climate Element)	
HCR-A31	Education	Select 2-3 representative BWHD properties for demonstration projects (e.g., utility elevation, flood vents, reversible dry floodproofing) with documentation of costs, approvals, and lessons learned.	Short-Medium	CDD/HDC; Partners: Owners, RIHPHC, BH&PS, contractors	Climate Vulnerability of Historic Resources Study (cross reference in Climate Element)	
HCR-A32	Regulatory & Policy Tools	Review Streamlining. Establish an HDC/UDR review track for resilience retrofits that meet the new guidance, with pre-application coaching and checklists to reduce time/cost while protecting historic fabric.	Short	HDC, Planning Board; Partners: CDD, Building Official	Climate Vulnerability of Historic Resources Study (cross reference in Climate Element)	
HCR-A33	Regulatory & Policy Tools	Adopt pre-approved emergency measures for imminent flooding (temporary barriers, sandbag placement, board-up standards) and a post-event stabilization protocol for historic buildings, including archaeological treatment.	Short	Emergency Management, Building Official; Partners: CDD, HDC, BH&PS	Climate Vulnerability of Historic Resources Study (cross reference in Climate Element)	
HCR-A34	Partnerships & Capacity Building	Archaeological Stewardship. Add procedures for archaeological review and salvage in high-risk zones (e.g., Waypoysset vicinity and downtown subsurface resources) within permitting and post-storm response.	Short	CDD/HDC; Partners: RIHPHC, BH&PS	Climate Vulnerability of Historic Resources Study (cross reference in Climate Element)	
HCR-A35	Infrastructure	Utilities & Public Realm Adaptation. Coordinate streets/sidewalks, drainage, and utility elevation/relocation in the BWHD so public-realm projects do not undermine historic resources; incorporate compatible curb/edge treatments and access design.	Medium	DPW, CDD; Partners: RIDOT, Utilities, HDC	Climate Vulnerability of Historic Resources Study (cross reference in Climate Element)	
HCR-A36	Incentives & Funding	Leverage the Town's Community Rating System (CRS) participation by earning credits tied to historic-district risk communication, mapping, and mitigation—reducing premiums while advancing preservation.	Short; Ongoing	CDD, Emergency Management; Partners: Insurance/CRS consultant	Climate Vulnerability of Historic Resources Study (cross reference in Climate Element)	

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ID	Action Type	Action	Timeframe*	Responsible Parties	Source	Priority
HCR-A37	Education	Provide annual workshops and office hours on resilience retrofits for historic buildings; publish a “BWHD Resilience Starter Pack” (guidance, funding routes, sample details).	Ongoing	CDD/HDC; Partners: BH&PS, RWU, RIHPHC	Climate Vulnerability of Historic Resources Study (cross reference in Climate Element)	
HCR-A38	Planning & Survey / Documentation	Monitoring & Metrics. Track: (a) number of at-risk properties with completed retrofits, (b) time to approval for compliant projects, (c) external dollars leveraged, and (d) flood-damage claims in the BWHD. Report annually.	Ongoing	CDD; Partners: HDC, Finance, Emergency Management	Climate Vulnerability of Historic Resources Study (cross reference in Climate Element)	
HCR-A39	Regulatory & Policy Tools	Where needed, amend local codes to remove unintended barriers to preservation-compatible retrofits (e.g., height for elevated utilities, flood vents in contributing façades when screened/placed appropriately).	Short-Medium	Planning Board, HDC, Town Council; Partners: Building Official	Climate Vulnerability of Historic Resources Study (cross reference in Climate Element)	
HCR-A40	Facilities & Capital Improvements	Establish a permanent or shared performing arts space through partnerships, funding, and potential adaptive reuse of underutilized public or historic buildings.	Short	Town Council	Workshop Public / Stakeholder Comment	
HCR-A41	Facilities & Capital Improvements	The SHPO commissioned FEMA to study 9 commercial/public buildings in the downtown historic district. A draft report makes recommendations for mitigation of these buildings. Review and consider implementation.	Varied	Medium	2017 Comp Plan	
*Timeframe Codes: Short = 1–3 years; Medium = 4–7 years; Long = 8–10 years; Ongoing = continuous effort.						