

Historic & Cultural Resources – Implementation Actions (DRAFT 12/10/2025)				
ID	Action Type	Action	Timeframe*	Responsible Parties
HCR-1	Planning & Survey / Documentation	Review and consider recommendations of the Historic Resources Re-Survey (Final Report 2024) to guide future preservation priorities, including boundary updates for the Bristol Waterfront Historic District, evaluation of additional eligible areas (Northern Hope Street, Wood Street / “New Goree”), and preparation of nominations for at-risk properties (e.g., St. Michael’s Bell Tower, St. Elizabeth’s Church, Bay View Avenue residences, Linden Place outbuildings).	Short–Medium	Town Council; HDC; Dept. of Community Development
HCR-2	Planning & Survey / Documentation	Rezone the conserved Mt. Hope Area to Open Space.	Short	Dept. of Community Development; Town Council
HCR-3	Planning & Survey / Documentation	Pursue National Register nomination for the Mt. Hope Area in partnership with the Pokanoket Tribe.	Short- Medium	Dept. of Community Development
HCR-4	Planning & Design / Interpretation	Prepare a vision plan for trails, access, and interpretation at the Waypoyset Preserve in partnership with the Waypoyset Preserve Trus and pursue the National Register nomination for the Waypoyset Area	Short	Dept. of Community Development
HCR-5	Partnerships & Capacity Building	Coordinate with RIDOT and the RI Scenic Roadways Board to review proposed changes and manage alterations, and reduce visual clutter , along designated scenic corridors.	Ongoing	Dept. of Community Development; Planning Board
HCR-6	Regulatory & Policy Tools	Develop and adopt design standards to protect views, historic streetscapes, landscaping, street trees , and stone walls along scenic routes.	Short	Planning Board; HDC; Town Council
HCR-7	Infrastructure & Design Coordination	Ensure roadway projects incorporate context-sensitive design (pedestrian/bike facilities, drainage, lighting) along scenic corridors.	Ongoing	DPW; Planning Board
HCR-8	Outreach & Interpretation / Partnerships	Collaborate on implementation of the Revolutionary Heritage Byway Corridor Plan (cite), adding interpretive signage, heritage trail connections, and tourism promotion.	Short	Dept. of Community Development
HCR-9	Incentives & Funding	Pursue Scenic Byways grants and cultural tourism funding to support corridor preservation and enhancements.	Ongoing	Dept. of Community Development; Town Council
HCR-10	Outreach & Interpretation	Partner with Explore Bristol and Discover Newport to promote the Bristol–Newport Heritage Trail and Revolutionary Heritage Byway.	Medium	Dept. of Community Development
HCR-11	Facilities & Capital Improvements	Enhance public access to historic resource information through signage, wayfinding, walking tours, and digital mapping.	Medium	Dept. of Community Development

HCR-12	Regulatory & Policy Tools	Implement priority recommendations of the Historic District Vulnerability Assessment (2023) and <u>consider recommendations from any future Final FEMA/SHPO Building-Level Study</u> to mitigate flood and sea-level-rise impacts on historic resources.	Short	Dept. of Community Development; HDC
HCR-13	Incentives & Funding	Create a resilience funding and incentives toolkit (FEMA/RIEMA funds, CLG grants, tax credits, fee reductions).	Short	Dept. of Community Development; Finance Dept.
HCR-14	Education / Demonstration Projects	Select 2–3 demonstration projects in the BWHD to showcase resilience retrofits.	Short–Medium	Dept. of Community Development; HDC
HCR-15	Regulatory & Policy Tools	Adopt pre-approved emergency measures (temporary barriers, sandbag placement, stabilization protocols) for imminent flooding of historic structures.	Short	Emergency Management; HDC
HCR-16	Infrastructure & Capital Coordination	Coordinate public-realm adaptation projects (streets, sidewalks, drainage, utilities) in the BWHD to avoid impacts to historic resources.	Medium	DPW; RIDOT; HDC; CDD
HCR-17	Regulatory & Policy Tools	Amend local codes to remove barriers to preservation-compatible retrofits (e.g., height for elevated utilities, façade vent placement).	Short–Medium	Planning Board; Town Council; HDC; Building Official
HCR-18	Education / Training	Maintain annual training for HDC members for RIHPHC and land-use law requirements.	Ongoing	HDC
HCR-19	Incentives & Funding	<u>Explore and evaluate local preservation incentives, such as a local historic tax credit program or the waiving of permit and review fees to make historic rehabilitation more affordable for property owners.</u>	Short–Medium	Dept. of Community Development; Town Council; Planning Board
HCR-20	Regulatory & Policy Tools / Design Guidance	<u>Complete the grant-funded update of the HDC Design Review Guidebook to clarify standards, materials, and review criteria; include guidance for cost-effective modern materials and best practices. Incorporate photographs and renderings into the Guidebook to clearly illustrate preferred architectural treatments, materials and design approaches.</u>	Short	HDC; Dept. of Community Development; RIHPHC
HCR-21	Regulatory & Policy Tools / Design Guidance	<u>Develop enhanced HDC applicant guidance materials, including a short instructional video, example application packets, and recommended style books in the library for common architectural types within the district.</u>	<u>Short</u>	HDC; Dept. of Community Development
HCR-22	Regulatory & Policy Tools / Design Guidance	<u>Establish monthly open office hours with planning staff and/or HDC representatives to provide early technical guidance to applicants preparing for HDC review.</u>	<u>Short; Ongoing</u>	HDC; Dept. of Community Development

HCR-23	Regulatory & Policy Tools	Evaluate and implement an opt-in program allowing owners of historically significant properties outside the HDC boundary to voluntarily <u>(or with the encouragement of incentives)</u> join the overlay district for protection. Streamline zoning amendments and conduct owner outreach to encourage participation. Identify potential properties and provide outreach/marketing of the program.	Medium	Dept. of Community Development; Planning Board; HDC; Town Council
HCR-24	Education	<u>With partners, organize periodic tours of lesser-known historic sites, such as Wayposset, to broaden community awareness and appreciation of Bristol's cultural and architectural heritage.</u>	Long	
HCR-25	Regulatory & Policy Tools	Discourage demolition of historic buildings for parking; promote shared and structured parking integrated with pedestrian and bicycle access.	Ongoing	Planning Board; Zoning Board; Dept. of Community Development
HCR-26	Design Standards / Infrastructure Coordination	Adopt streetscape standards for the historic downtown (benches, lighting, signage, granite curbing) to guide RIDOT and local projects.	Short	DPW; Planning Board
HCR-27	Education	Expand heritage education programs in schools and through oral history projects.	Ongoing	School Dept.
HCR-28	Facilities & Capital Improvements	Establish a shared performing arts space through partnerships and adaptive reuse of underutilized historic or municipal buildings.	Medium	Town Council
HCR-29	Facilities & Capital Improvements	Re-purpose decommissioned historic school buildings (Guiteras, Reynolds, Byfield, Walley) for community or municipal uses <u>or private when applicable</u> and evaluate long-term lease or reuse opportunities.	<u>Short</u> - Medium	<u>Town Administrator</u> ; Town Council; Dept. of Community Development
HCR-30	Facilities & Capital Improvements	<u>Form a multi-stakeholder advisory committee (including HDC participation) to evaluate and recommend potential reuse strategies for decommissioned school buildings.</u>	<u>Short</u> - Medium	<u>Town Administrator</u> ; Town Council
	Planning & Design Guidance	Develop illustrated, preservation-sensitive design guidance for BWHD building types (elevation, utilities, materials) aligned with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards.	Short	Dept. of Community Development; HDC
	Planning & Survey / Documentation	Maintain and update every 2-3 years a GIS inventory of at-risk historic and archaeological resources with condition, significance, and adaptation status.	Ongoing	Dept. of Community Development; HDC
	Regulatory & Policy Tools	Establish an HDC/Unified Development Review (UDR) streamlined review track for resilience retrofits with pre-application coaching and checklists.	Short	HDC; Planning Board; Building Official

	Partnerships & Capacity Building	Add archaeological review and salvage procedures in high-risk zones (e.g., Waypoysset, downtown subsurface areas).	Short	Dept. of Community Development; RIHPHC
	Education / Outreach	Conduct annual workshops on resilience retrofits and publish a “BWHD-Resilience Starter Pack.”	Ongoing	Dept. of Community Development; HDC
	Monitoring & Metrics / Documentation	Track metrics for resilience projects (retrofits, approvals, funding-leveraged, flood claims reduced) and report annually.	Ongoing	Dept. of Community Development; HDC