



**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**



December 4, 2013

**CHRISTOPHER D. CLEMENT, SR.**  
**COMMISSIONER**

**JEFF BRILLHART, P.E.**  
**ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER**

Her Excellency, Margaret Wood Hassan  
Governor of New Hampshire  
State House  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Governor Hassan:

Pursuant to RSA 228:99 and RSA 240 of the Laws of New Hampshire, enclosed are two copies of the draft 2015-2024 Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan (Ten Year Plan) for the State of New Hampshire.

On July 24, 2013 the Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) met with the NH Department of Transportation to discuss the update process for the 2015-2024 Ten Year Plan. The Department and the nine Regional Planning Commissions cooperatively developed relevant criteria that were used to objectively prioritize transportation needs for Federal funding on a regional level. Based on these priorities, the Department developed a Draft Ten Year Plan that focused on safety, preservation and maintenance. The plan assumes level federal funding (approximately \$150 million per year, with continued reliance on turnpike toll credits in lieu of State hard match to the Federal program) for the foreseeable future. Essentially, the draft plan represents a status quo approach of continuing existing programs at present funding levels with no major changes. It was apparent from the input received and analysis of present conditions that needs far outweigh available resources. The draft plan seeks to balance and prioritize those competing needs, while addressing those highest regional strategic priorities developed in conjunction with the Regional Planning Commissions. The result is a financially constrained document identifying the needs that best align with the priorities of communities, the Regional Planning Commissions and the Department.

The draft update of the 2015-2024 Ten Year Plan was provided to GACIT on August 30, 2013. The financially constrained update focused on the priorities of fixing and maintaining the existing system through the continued emphasis on preservation and the repair of red list bridges. The Commission held twenty-five Public Hearings throughout the State between September and October to inform and receive input from the public on the draft Plan and transportation funding issues the State is facing. The themes that were heard most often included: the adequacy of transportation funding and the need to continue the discussion; preservation and maintenance efforts to safeguard and improve infrastructure conditions; increasing funding assistance for transit service for a growing elderly and disabled population.

On November 6, 2013 and November 20, 2013, the Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) met to review the Public Hearing feedback, the Ten Year Plan's funding status and to discuss strategies for moving forward with the Draft update. Discussions among GACIT members also focused on financial constraint of all funding sources included in the Draft Ten Year Plan, including Turnpike Capital and Aeronautics funding.

At these meetings, the Department provided a summary of the twenty-five hearings and a record of the testimony received through the hearing process. A copy of this information is attached. GACIT members focused their discussions on a few key issues of importance to them all, including the completion of I-93 expansion, Capital Corridor, transit funding, and project information specific to Council districts. In order to preserve a financially constrained Ten Year Plan while recognizing additional strategic needs, a listing of unfunded priorities was created. This is reflected in the two sections of the Ten Year Plan:

- Funded Projects – Projects that are expected to be financed with federal, turnpike, aeronautics and other funds.
- Unfunded Priorities – Projects that are included in the Ten Year Plan but lack sufficient money to complete. These include a number of Turnpike priorities (totaling about \$550M), the completion of I-93 expansion (\$250M), Aeronautics projects and the Capital Corridor project (Feasibility Study to be completed in late 2014).

A number of project changes were also recommended (a summary of those changes is attached). All of these changes are based on comments received from constituents, and all allow the Ten Year Plan to remain financially constrained.

Through the GACIT hearings, there was also recognition regarding the importance of the transportation infrastructure to the local economy and economic development activities. One local transportation and economic development opportunity identified was Pettengill Road in Londonderry. Pettengill Road is a local road (not eligible for state or regularly appropriated federal funds) with access directly to the Manchester-Boston Regional Access Road. When completed, Pettengill Road will allow Londonderry to open its largest parcel of industrial land (about 1000 acres), and potentially create over 4.6 million square feet of new development. Although not able to be funded as part of the State's Ten Year Plan, GACIT expressed its strong support for this project should grant or other competitive funding opportunities become available.

Additionally, as noted, there was much discussion and comment throughout the process regarding transit funding. In particular, there were calls to restore State funding of local transit assistance to match federal funds to 2009 levels of approximately \$188,000. GACIT concurred with this recommendation for further consideration by the Governor and Legislature.

We believe this completes the Commission's work on this step in the update for the State's Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan. The Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) hereby presents this recommended update to the Ten Year Plan for 2015-2024. As you review the Plan document and other supporting information, we are available for any input you feel is needed, and we stand ready to assist you in preparing the Plan.

Sincerely,



Executive Councilor Colin Van Ostern



Executive Councilor Christopher T. Sununu



Executive Councilor Christopher C. Pappas



Executive Councilor Debora B. Pignatelli



Commissioner Christopher D. Clement Sr.

Executive Councilor Raymond S. Burton

Enclosures

cc: David J. Brillhart, Assistant Commissioner, NH Department of Transportation  
William J. Cass, Director of Project Development, NH Department of Transportation  
William E. Watson, Administrator, Bureau of Planning and Community Assistance, NHDOT  
GACIT