Letters of Support
Lebanon, NH – Hartford, VT TIGER VIII Grant Application

State of NH Governor Margaret Wood Hassan
State of Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin
US Senator, State of NH, Senator Kelly A. Ayotte
US Congress State of NH, Congresswoman Ann McLane Kuster
US Delegation State of Vermont, Senator Patrick Leahy,
Senator Bernard Sanders, Congressman Peter Welch
State of NH Executive Councilor Joseph D. Kenney
State of NH Senator David Pierce
City of Lebanon, NH, City Manager Paula Mayville
Town of Hartford, Vermont, Selectboard Chair, Richard G. Grassi
Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission, Director Nate Miller
Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission, Director Peter G. Gregory

MARGARET WOOD HASSAN
Governor

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

April 22, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I strongly support the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER 8) Discretionary Grant proposal in the amount of $12 million submitted by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) in conjunction with Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) for the "*I-89 Lebanon-Hartford Bridge Project*". This project addresses the needs of a critical interstate bridge that carries Interstate 89 northbound and southbound over the Connecticut River and connects the communities of Hartford, Vermont, and Lebanon, New Hampshire.

Built in 1966, this bridge is in poor condition. Due to its age and harsh northern climate, the deterioration has progressed to the extent where it is now considered structurally deficient. This project will address the bridge's structural deficiency and improve reliability on this critical segment of the overall transportation network in the region.

This bridge is a critical facility for the movement of people and goods locally, regionally and internationally. It is the major Boston-to-Montreal international trade route corridor, providing a junction to Interstate-91 and Interstate-93, which connects New England with Canadian trade markets. It also serves as a connector to New England's major seaports and intermodal facilities. Without the bridge, freight traffic would need to detour 50 or more miles and rely on secondary highways. The bridge serves the Lebanon micropolitan statistical area, one of the nation's largest such area with a population of 218,466 in New Hampshire and Vermont. In addition to commuter traffic and freight, local transit and intercity buses rely on this corridor.

This bridge is also critically important to the connectivity, economy, and quality of life for both New Hampshire and Vermont, supporting economic development and job creation. Businesses in the area utilize this bridge daily to facilitate delivery of goods and services throughout the region, and it serves as a link to the downtown areas of Lebanon, New Hampshire, and White River Junction, Vermont, for our retail, tourism and service industries. This project will address regional transportation needs and ensure the continued economic vitality of these two communities and the region.

107 North Main Street, State House - Rm 208, Concord, New Hampshire 03301
Telephone (603) 271-2121 • FAX (603) 271-7640
Website: http://www.nh.gov/ • Email: governorhassan@nh.gov
TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964

The project is consistent with state of good repair plans for both NHDOT and VTrans, and appears in New Hampshire's approved Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan and Vermont's State Transportation Improvement Program.

The "*I-89 Lebanon-Hartford Bridge Project*" is critical to a strong, modern transportation infrastructure in the region that is essential to the success of our people and businesses, and it represents a significant regional investment that would maintain and enhance the quality of life for residents and promote local and regional economic development. I am pleased to offer my support for this application and hope you will look upon it favorably.

With every good wish,

Margaret Wood Hassan
Governor

CC: Commissioner Victoria Sheehan, NHDOT
Secretary Chris Cole, VTrans

107 North Main Street, State House - Rm 208, Concord, New Hampshire 03301
Telephone (603) 271-2121 • FAX (603) 271-7640
Website: http://www.nh.gov/ • Email: governorhassan@nh.gov
TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964

PETER SHUMLIN
Governor

State of Vermont
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

March 29, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C 20590

Subject: I-89 Lebanon, NH – Hartford, VT Bridge Rehabilitation TIGER VIII Grant Application

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing to inform you of my support for the I-89 Lebanon-Hartford Bridge Rehabilitation Project that is competing for Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER VIII) Discretionary Grant funding.

Over the years, Vermont's harsh northern climate has taken its toll on our transportation infrastructure, and the I-89 Lebanon-Hartford bridge is a good example of how winter conditions accelerate infrastructure deterioration. The bridge was originally constructed in 1966 and has gradually deteriorated to the point of structural deficiency.

The bridge is a critical facility for the movement of people and goods locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. It serves the Lebanon micropolitan statistical area, the nation's largest such area with a population of 218,466 in both Vermont and New Hampshire. Businesses in the area use the bridge daily to facilitate the delivery of goods and services, and it serves as a link to the downtown areas of Lebanon, NH and White River Junction, VT for retail, tourism, and service industries.

The bridge is a critical facility along the I-89 Boston-to-Montreal international trade route, and serves as a junction to I-91 and I-93, the other major New England-Canada trade routes. Intercity bus companies and Amtrak depend on the bridge to reach their stations in White River Junction.

I believe this Project would be an ideal candidate for TIGER VIII funding. The Project is a major priority for both Vermont and New Hampshire, and represents a cooperative partnership by both states to focus on rehabilitating a bridge whose significance reaches far beyond New England.

Thank you for your full consideration of the I-89 Lebanon-Hartford Bridge Rehabilitation Project. I hope you share my enthusiasm for this application. I would be happy to discuss its merits with you.

Sincerely,

Peter Shumlin
Governor

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TELEPHONE: 802.828.3333 ♦ FAX: 802.828.3339 ♦ TDD: 802.828.3345

KELLY A. AYOTTE
NEW HAMPSHIRE

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COMMERCE
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NASHUA, NH 03060

14 MANCHESTER SQUARE, SUITE 140
PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801

19 PLEASANT STREET, SUITE 13B
BERLIN, NH 03570

April 25, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I write to express my support for the Transportation Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER 8) Discretionary Grant proposal in the amount of $12 million submitted by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation in conjunction with Vermont Agency of Transportation for the "I-89 Lebanon-Hartford Bridge Project".

Built in 1966, this bridge is in poor condition due to age and deterioration, and is currently considered as structurally deficient. The project seeks to address the bridge's structural deficiency and improve reliability on a critical segment of the region's transportation network to ensure the movement of goods and people to the New England and Canadian trade markets.

I urge your full and due consideration of the competitive grant application submitted by both the New Hampshire Department of Transportation and Vermont Agency of Transportation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kelly A. Ayotte

Kelly A. Ayotte
United States Senator

KAA/jd

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ANN McLANE KUSTER
SECOND DISTRICT, NEW HAMPSHIRE

WWW.KUSTER.HOUSE.GOV

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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NASHUA, NH 03060
P: (603) 595–2006

NORTH COUNTRY OFFICE:
33 MAIN STREET, SUITE 202
LITTLETON, NH 03561
P: (603) 444–7700

April 26, 2016

Secretary Anthony Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I write in support of the New Hampshire Department of Transportation and the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) in their application for the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER 8) Discretionary Grant for the I-89 Lebanon-Hartford Bridge Project. This grant would fund the much-needed repairs of an invaluable bridge connecting New Hampshire and Vermont. The project is consistent with the state of good repair plans for both the NHDOT and VTrans, and appears in New Hampshire's approved Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan and Vermont's State Transportation Improvement Program.

Built in 1966, the Lebanon-Hartford Bridge has deteriorated over the decades and is now in poor condition. Due to its age and the harsh northern climate, the deterioration has progressed to the extent where it is now considered structurally deficient. This TIGER funding will address the bridge's structural deficiency and improve reliability on this critical segment of the overall transportation network, which impacts residents, commuters and businesses in both New Hampshire and Vermont.

One of my top priorities in Congress has been to make sure that the necessary resources are available to update our failing infrastructure. An up-to-date transportation network is a crucial component of economic development and quality of life, thus making this a significant investment for the region. Businesses throughout the area utilize this bridge daily to facilitate delivery of goods and services throughout the region. It also serves as an important link between the downtown areas of Lebanon, New Hampshire and White River Junction, Vermont for retail, tourism, and service industries. It is critical that we update our infrastructure, and I am pleased to offer my support for this application.

If I can do anything more to help with the application process, please do not hesitate to contact Jake Berry in my office at (603) 226-1002. Please keep my staff updated as you proceed with this process.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Ann McLane Kuster

Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

CC: Commissioner Victoria Sheehan, NHDOT; Secretary Chris Cole, VTrans

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Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 15, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1400 Independence Avenue, Southwest
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Foxx,

We write to you today to express our strong support for the Vermont Agency of Transportation's *I-89 Lebanon, New Hampshire-Hartford, Vermont Bridge Reconstruction* application for the Fiscal Year 2016 TIGER Discretionary Grant Program. We are pleased to bring this proposal to your attention.

This project addresses one of the highest regional transportation and economic needs of the Upper Connecticut River Valley region that straddles Vermont and New Hampshire. Built in 1966, the I-89 Lebanon-Hartford Bridge has weathered 50 years of harsh northern climate and has deteriorated to the point of being structurally deficient. Vermont and New Hampshire have prioritized the reconstruction of this bridge to preserve the movement of interstate commuters and freight.

The I-89 Lebanon-Hartford Bridge connects New England with Canadian trade markets, links New England's major seaports and intermodal facilities, and serves the primary international trade route between Boston and Montreal. The Lebanon metropolitan area depends on this bridge to facilitate commuter and freight traffic; local transit and intercity buses; and the White River Junction Railroad terminal. Without this bridge, freight traffic would be forced to rely on secondary highways that detour 50 or more miles off-route. The importance of this bridge on the region's connectivity, economic prosperity, and quality of life for both Vermont and New Hampshire residents cannot be overstated.

With support from the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Vermont Agency of Transportation will use the requested $12,000,000 to replace steel girders, fix web perforations and superstructure load-induced fatigue-prone details, and restore several superstructure load violations to current AASHTO steel detailing requirements. As a cooperative partnership between Vermont and New Hampshire, this project will rehabilitate the structure and improve its reliability.

We believe the Vermont Agency of Transportation is very well suited for this grant, with a proven track record of successfully implementing TIGER Discretionary funds. We appreciate you giving the application the serious consideration it deserves. If we can provide further evidence of our support for this proposal, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

PATRICK LEAHY
United States Senator

BERNARD SANDERS
United States Senator

PETER WELCH
United States Congressman

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
Executive Council

JOSEPH D. KENNEY
EXECUTIVE COUNCILOR
DISTRICT ONE

STATE HOUSE ROOM 207
107 NORTH MAIN STREET
CONCORD, NH 03301
(603) 271-3632

April 15, 2016

Secretary Anthony Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I strongly support the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER 8) Discretionary Grant proposal in the amount of $12 million submitted by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation in conjunction with Vermont Agency of Transportation for the "*I-89 Lebanon-Hartford Bridge Project*". This project addresses the needs of this critical Interstate Bridge which carries Interstate 89 NB and SB over the Connecticut River and connects the communities of Hartford, Vermont and Lebanon, New Hampshire.

Built in 1966, this bridge is in poor condition. Due to its age and harsh northern climate, the deterioration has progressed to the extent where it is now considered structurally deficient. This project will address the bridge's structural deficiency and improve reliability on this critical segment of the overall transportation network in the region.

This bridge is a critical facility for the movement of people and goods locally, regionally and internationally. It is the major Boston to Montreal international trade route corridor, providing a junction to Interstate-91 and Interstate-93, which connects New England with Canadian trade markets. It also serves as a major connector to New England's major seaports and intermodal facilities. Without the bridge, freight traffic would need to detour 50 or more miles and rely on secondary highways. The bridge serves the Lebanon micropolitan statistical area, the nation's largest such area with a population of 218,466 in NH and Vermont. In addition to commuter traffic and freight, local transit and intercity buses rely on this corridor.

This bridge is also critically important to the connectivity, economy, and quality of life for both New Hampshire and Vermont, which support economic development. Businesses in the area utilize this bridge daily to facilitate delivery of goods and services throughout the region. It serves as a link to the downtown areas of Lebanon, New Hampshire and White River Junction, Vermont for retail, tourism, and service industries. This project will address regional transportation needs, and ensure the continued economic vitality of these two communities and the region.

The project is consistent with state of good repair plans for both NHDOT and VTrans, and appears in New Hampshire's approved Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan and Vermont's State Transportation Improvement Program.

This is a significant investment for the region that would maintain and enhance the quality of life of the area residents and promote economic development. I am pleased to offer my support for this application and hope you will look upon it favorably.

Sincerely,

Joseph D. Kenney

Executive Councilor Joseph D. Kenney
District 1, State of New Hampshire

CC: Commissioner Victoria Sheehan, NHDOT
VT Secretary of Transportation, Chris Cole, VTrans

The Senate of the State of New Hampshire

107 North Main Street, Concord, N.H. 03301-4951

David Pierce
District 5

Legislative Office Building, Room 5
(603) 271-3067

April 20, 2016

Secretary Anthony Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I write to express my strong support for the $12M Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER 8) Discretionary Grant proposal submitted by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation and the Vermont Agency of Transportation for the "*I-89 Lebanon-Hartford Bridge Project*". This project addresses the needs of this critical interstate bridge, which carries traffic on Interstate 89 NB and SB over the Connecticut River and connects the communities of Hartford, Vermont and Lebanon, New Hampshire.

Built in 1966, this bridge is in poor condition. Due to its age and the effects of a harsh northern climate, the deterioration has progressed to the extent where it is now considered structurally deficient. This renovation project will address the bridge's structural deficiency and improve reliability on this critical segment of the overall transportation network in the region.

This bridge is a critical facility for the movement of people and goods locally, regionally and internationally. It is the major Boston to Montreal international trade route corridor, providing a junction of Interstate 91 and Interstate 89, which connects New England with Canadian trade markets. It also serves as a major connector to New England's major seaports and intermodal facilities. Without the bridge, freight traffic would need to detour 50 or more miles and rely on secondary highways. The bridge serves the Lebanon micropolitan statistical area, the nation's largest such area with a population of 218,466 in New Hampshire and Vermont. In addition to commuter traffic and freight, local transit and intercity buses rely on this corridor.

This bridge is also critically important to the connectivity, economy, and quality of life for both New Hampshire and Vermont, which in turn support economic development. Businesses in the area utilize this bridge daily to facilitate delivery of goods and services throughout the region. It serves as a link to the downtown areas of Lebanon, New Hampshire and White River Junction, Vermont for retail, tourism, and service industries. This project will address regional

The Senate of the State of New Hampshire
107 North Main Street, Concord, N.H. 03301-4951

transportation needs, and ensure the continued economic vitality of these two communities and the region.

The project is consistent with state of good repair plans for both NHDOT and VTrans, and appears in New Hampshire's approved Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan and Vermont's State Transportation Improvement Program.

This is a significant investment for the region that would maintain and enhance the quality of life of the area residents and promote economic development. I am pleased to offer my support for this application and hope you will look upon it favorably.

Sincerely,

Sen. David Pierce

Senator David Pierce
District 5 Senator, State of New Hampshire

CC: Commissioner Victoria Sheehan, NHDOT
Secretary Chris Cole, VTrans

City of Lebanon

51 North Park Street
Lebanon, New Hampshire 03766

April 18, 2016

Secretary Anthony Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

On behalf of the City of Lebanon, NH, I am writing to express our strong support for the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER 8) Discretionary Grant proposal in the amount of $12 million submitted by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation in conjunction with Vermont Agency of Transportation for the "*I-89 Lebanon-Hartford Bridge Project*".

This project addresses the needs of a critical Interstate Bridge, which is responsible for carrying Interstate 89 over the Connecticut River and connecting our New Hampshire community with that of Hartford, Vermont. Our two communities are the center of the area that comprises the "Lebanon Micropolitan Statistical Area" (the nation's largest such area with a population of 218,466 in NH and Vermont). For more information on the micropolitan statistical area, I invite you to visit our website: http://lebcity.net/Planning/Documents/studies/MicropolisStudy.pdf

Beyond being a major connection between our communities, this bridge is a critical facility for the movement of people, goods, and services - locally, regionally and internationally. It is the major trade route between Boston and Montreal, and provides travelers with direct access to Northern New England, the Greater Eastern Seaboard, and of course, Canada. Without this bridge, freight traffic would need to detour 50 or more miles and would rely heavily on secondary highways. Without this bridge, the economy of our region (and well beyond) would suffer greatly as our trade, tourism, retail, manufacturing, and service industries are all dependent on this structure to facilitate the transportation requirements of their respective businesses.

We strongly urge your support of this project as it is a significant investment for the region that will continue to promote economic vitality while maintaining and enhancing the quality of life for our region's residents. On behalf of all here in the City of Lebanon, I am pleased to offer our support for this application and hope you will look upon it favorably.

Sincerely,

Paula Maville
Acting City Manager

TOWN OF HARTFORD

MUNICIPAL OFFICES
171 Bridge Street
White River Junction, Vermont 05001

Telephone: 802/295-9353 • Fax: 802/295-6382
website: www.hartford-vt.org

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March 28, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary

The Town of Hartford is in support of the joint TIGER 8 grant application with Vermont and New Hampshire to rehabilitate the I-89 Lebanon-Hartford Bridge.

This bridge is a significantly important connector for the movement of people and goods locally and regionally between Hartford and Lebanon in addition to being critically important to the connectivity, economy, and quality of life for both New Hampshire and Vermont, which support economic development. Businesses in the area utilize this bridge daily to facilitate delivery of goods and services throughout the region. It serves as a link to the downtown areas of Lebanon NH and White River Junction VT for retail, tourism, and service industries. This project will address regional transportation needs, and ensure the continued economic vitality of these two communities and the region.

In addition to commuter traffic and freight, local transit and intercity buses rely on this corridor, as well the Railroad terminal in White River Junction for both passenger rail and freight – making it a truly intermodal and multimodal corridor in this New England region.

Thank you

Sincerely,

Richard S Grasso

Hartford Selectboard Chair

U V L S R P C
Upper Valley Lake Sunapee
Regional Planning Commission

April 18, 2016

Secretary Anthony Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing in strong support of the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER 8) Discretionary Grant proposal in the amount of $12 million submitted by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation in conjunction with Vermont Agency of Transportation for the "*I-89 Lebanon-Hartford Bridge Project*".

This bridge is fundamental the movement of people and goods not only between Vermont and New Hampshire, but between Northern New England, the Greater Eastern Seaboard, and Canada. More people drive over this bridge each day than any other transportation infrastructure anywhere in our 27-town region.

However, this 50-year old infrastructure has significant structural deficiencies. These deficiencies include the deck on the bridge carrying northbound traffic and the superstructure on the bridge carrying southbound traffic. Our region's highest priority is ensuring that interstate highway infrastructure is maintained in a state of good repair. Because of these structural deficiencies, the *I-89 Lebanon-Hartford Bridge Project* has been our region's top transportation project priority for the past five years.

While the bridge is strategically important for the flow of goods and people both nationally and internationally, it also provides crucial local connections. The Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Region of New Hampshire has deep social and economic ties to the Two Rivers Ottauquechee Region of Vermont. This bridge serves as a vital link to the downtown areas of Lebanon, New Hampshire and White River Junction, Vermont for retail, tourism, and service industries.

This is a significant investment that would maintain and enhance the quality of life for our region's residents and promote economic development. I am pleased to offer my strongest support for this application and hope you will look upon it favorably.

Sincerely,

Nathan Miller, AICP
Executive Director

10 Water Street, Suite 225, Lebanon, New Hampshire 03766-1604 (603) 448-1680 Fax: (603) 448-0170 www.uvlsrpc.org

Two Rivers-Ottauquechee
REGIONAL COMMISSION

March 28, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary,

This letter is in support of the joint TIGER 8 grant application with Vermont and New Hampshire to rehabilitate the I-89 Lebanon-Hartford Bridge for the following reasons:

We understand that the bridge dates back 1966 and is in poor condition. As a consequence of its age and harsh northern climate, the deterioration has progressed to the extent that it is now considered structurally deficient. This project will rehabilitate the structure and improve its reliability.

The project is a major priority for both NH and VT, and represents a cooperative partnership the two states. $12 million in TIGER funds is being requested.

The bridge is a critical facility for the movement of people and goods locally, regionally and internationally. It is the major Boston to Montreal international trade route corridor, and serves as a connection between I-91 and I-93, which connects New England with Canadian trade markets. It is also a major connector to New England's major seaports and intermodal facilities. Without the bridge, freight traffic would need to detour 50 or more miles and rely on secondary highways.

The bridge serves the Lebanon micropolitan statistical area, the nation's largest such area with a population of 218,466 in NH and VT. This bridge is critically important to the connectivity, economy, and quality of life for both NH and VT, which support economic development. Businesses in the area utilize this bridge daily to facilitate delivery of goods and services throughout the region. It serves as a link to the downtown areas of Lebanon NH and White River Junction VT for retail, tourism, and service industries. This project will address regional transportation needs, and ensure the continued economic vitality of these two communities and the region.

Thank you for your time and support.

Sincerely,

Peter G. Gregory

Peter G. Gregory, AICP
Executive Director

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Woodstock, VT 05091
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trorc.org

William B. Emmons, III, Chair
Peter G. Gregory, AICP, Executive Director

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