New Hampshire DOT
Department of Transportation

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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August 20, 2010

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood,

Please find enclosed an application for the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER II) Discretionary Grants program. It is being submitted by the State of New Hampshire on behalf of the New Hampshire Port Authority, for the "*Piscataqua River Marine Terminal Improvements*" and requests $14 million of Federal stimulus funds under the TIGER II program.

This project improves the marine wharf facility at the NH Port Authority's Market Street Marine Terminal along the Piscataqua River. This port facility supports marine vessels delivering cargo to various nearby businesses and supports tourist related services. It addresses local multimodal transportation needs with direct access to trucking and rail service and contributes to the continued economic vitality of New Hampshire. This terminal provides marine support service to vessels carrying 5 million tons of cargo in and out of the harbor annually, handling over 247,000 tons of cargo in 2008.

The main wharf at the Market Street Marine Terminal, last repaired in 1977, requires critical repairs to specific elements of the facility, along with complete replacement of wharf access bridges. Areas of advanced deterioration include the failed deck topping, deck underside, superstructure framing elements, and corrosion of the steel caisson shells. These deficiencies have resulted in a significant reduction to its live load capacity, as well as other restrictions and operational limitations.

Rehabilitation and expansion of the Marine Terminal main wharf will increase operational opportunities and extend the terminal's useful working life. Easier and more direct access would be provided for shipping activities. In addition, full rehabilitation of the existing main wharf will restore its structural integrity, which is greatly needed. These maritime activities provide commercial opportunities and jobs for the Seacoast area as part of this active working seacoast port.

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This marine terminal rehabilitation will provide long term benefits to the region by improving port services for all vessels (public and private; commercial and pleasure) utilizing the Piscataqua River waterway. Further, it will improve the economic competitiveness and vitality of these seacoast communities, and will generate a number of jobs for the region during construction. The result will be greater opportunity for increased commercial activity, thereby enhancing the economic vitality of the region.

This is a significant investment in support of maritime activities in the Portsmouth, NH – Kittery, ME, region that would enhance the quality of life of the area residents and promote economic recovery and development. This facility requires extensive investment that is beyond the means of New Hampshire to fund, and receipt of the requested TIGER II Grant Program funds would greatly assist our efforts to address the deficiencies in this maritime facility for this bi-state region.

New Hampshire is grateful for the opportunity to submit this application and appreciates the consideration of the U.S. Department of Transportation. We look forward to hearing from you upon completion of the review process.

Sincerely Yours,

George N. Campbell, Jr.
Commissioner
NH Department of Transportation