Governor Lynch Signs 10-Year Transportation Plan
Includes Funding for Memorial Bridge in Portsmouth, Continues I-93 Widening, Addresses 59 Red Listed Bridges

CONCORD - Governor John Lynch today joined lawmakers, Executive Councilors, State Transportation and local officials in signing the State's 10-Year Highway Transportation Plan into law.

The fiscally responsible plan, maintains New Hampshire's high quality roads and bridges, continues to move forward with the Interstate-93 widening, addresses 59 red listed bridges and includes funding to fix the memorial Bridge in Portsmouth - which is No. 1 on New Hampshire's red list for bridges in need of repair.

"This responsible and thoughtful 10-Year Transportation Plan addresses critical needs, helps to maintain our existing transportation infrastructure and continues to move forward on important transportation projects across our state," Governor Lynch said. "This plan allows us to move forward with important projects, such as the widening of I-93 and replacing the Memorial Bridge, that will stimulate economic growth and make our citizens safer."

The plan was developed by the Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT). GACIT worked with Department of Transportation, using input from the regional planning commissions and general public, to develop the plan over nearly three years.

GACIT, which is comprised of the Executive Council and commissioner of transportation, along with the Department of Transportation held 37 public hearings throughout the State on the plan.

This 10-year plan makes replacing the Memorial Bridge in Portsmouth a priority. The plan includes $45 million in federal GARVEE bonds and $30 million in state bridge funds for the project. The state DOT is also pursing $20 million in federal TIGER grants to complete the project. New Hampshire and Maine jointly own the three bridges over the Piscataqua River. The two states share the responsibility and costs associated with the maintenance of the three bridges, which include the Memorial, the Sarah Long and the Interstate-95 bridges. New Hampshire officials have been working with Maine to address the critical and immediate needs of the Memorial Bridge.

"The Memorial Bridge is a critical transportation link for the people of Portsmouth and the surrounding area. We continue to work with Maine to address this serious issue, but this bridge is in desperate need of replacement," Governor Lynch said. "As Governor, I feel we should not and we cannot wait any longer to address this transportation priority. We have included the funding in this plan so we can move forward with this critical project immediately with the use of state and federal funds."