Governor Lynch Announces $20 Million Federal Grant For Replacement of Memorial Bridge

CONCORD – Governor John Lynch today announced the state has been awarded a $20 million federal transportation grant, which will help in New Hampshire's efforts to replace the Memorial Bridge in Portsmouth. Governor Lynch has taken the lead in ensuring funding is in place to replace this critical transportation link.

"I am proud that New Hampshire has taken the lead to ensure the Memorial Bridge will be replaced, and today's announcement brings us one step closer to addressing this critical transportation priority. I feel we should not and we cannot wait any longer to address this transportation need and we aren't waiting. We are moving quickly to replace the bridge," Governor Lynch said.

The New Hampshire 10-Year Transportation Plan makes replacing the Memorial Bridge a priority. The plan includes $45 million in federal GARVEE bonds and $30 million in state bridge funds for the project. The awarding of the $20 million in federal TIGER grant will help New Hampshire partner with Maine to replace the bridge. 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.

The State of Maine supported the New Hampshire Department of Transportation's application for the TIGER grant.

"This $20 million grant is a major step forward in our efforts to replace the Memorial Bridge as soon as possible," Transportation Commissioner George Campbell said. "This was a highly competitive process with billions in grant applications from across the country competing for $450 million in funds. The selection of the Memorial Bridge shows the merit of the project and the application."

Earlier this month, Governor Lynch and Maine Governor John Baldacci signed concurrent Executive Orders creating the Bi-State Bridge Funding Task Force. Each state has appointed three members to the task force, which is charged with determining which mechanisms would best allow the states to maximize funding for necessary work and identify joint financing options. The signing of the order recognizes the need to replace the Memorial Bridge, to replace or significantly rehabilitate the Sarah Mildred Long Bridge and to maintain the Piscataqua River Bridge that carries Interstate-95. The estimated capital costs over the next several years could be as high as $300 million for the three jointly owned bridges.

The Memorial Bridge is New Hampshire’s No. 1 red-listed bridge.