Press Release

For Immediate Release
September 9, 2011

Kancamagus Highway to Open Sunday
Loon Mountain Bridge will Also Open to Pedestrian Traffic

CONCORD – Governor Lynch today announced the Kancamagus Highway will reopen Sunday nearly a week ahead of its ambitious repair schedule. The historic scenic highway had been closed for two weeks due to significant damage caused by Tropical Storm Irene.

Governor Lynch inspected the progress being made on the Kancamagus on Friday. Sunday’s opening is days ahead of the September 15 deadline Governor Lynch had set for the road’s opening, and well in advance the upcoming fall foliage tourist season.

On Friday, September 16, Governor Lynch will lead a bus tour across the Kancamagus to kick off fall foliage season in New Hampshire.

"We made it a priority to open the Kancamagus and we got done faster than anyone had anticipated. This is was a complete team effort, with our Department of Transportation working with three contractors around the clock to get this road open," Governor Lynch said. "Having traveled this road just last week, I am amazed at what has been accomplished in such a short period of time and this is a real testament to the department. I want to thank everyone who worked on the Kanc for their dedication and commitment to getting the job done."

"Fall is a spectacular time in New Hampshire. It was important to me as Governor that we open the Kancamagus so that our many visitors can enjoy the splendor of the foliage season as they always have," Governor Lynch said. "I am proud to be able to say that New Hampshire is open for business."

DOT crews are nearly finished with work on the Loon Mountain Pedestrian Bridge, which will also open on Sunday. Town officials had hoped to open the bridge to pedestrians by the start of the annual Highland Games, which start on September 16th.

Road crews continue to make progress on repairs to Route 302 in Hart’s Location in the area of the Sawyer River Bridge. DOT officials hope to have that stretch of road open before the end of September. Until the work on Route 302 is complete, motorists can continue to use alternate routes.