

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Executive Council

STATE HOUSE ROOM 207

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03301

(603) 271-3632 FAX: 271-3633



MARGARET W. HASSAN, GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE COUNCILORS:

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU

JOSEPH D. KENNEY

CHRISTOPHER C. PAPPAS

COLIN VAN OSTERN

DAVID K. WHEELER

December 16, 2015

Her Excellency, Margaret Wood Hassan
Governor of New Hampshire
State House
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Governor Hassan:

Pursuant to RSA 228:99 and RSA 240 of the Laws of New Hampshire, enclosed are two copies of the draft 2017-2026 Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan (Ten Year Plan) for the State of New Hampshire.

On July 22, 2015 the Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) met with the NH Department of Transportation to discuss the update process for the 2017-2026 Ten Year Plan. Building upon the success of the 2015-2024 prioritization process, the Department and the nine Regional Planning Commissions refined relevant criteria that were used to prioritize transportation needs for Federal funding on a regional level. It was apparent from the input received that needs far outweigh available resources. Based on these priorities, the Department developed a Draft Ten Year Plan that focused on preservation, maintenance and safety of the existing pavement and bridge infrastructure throughout the state. It also aggressively addressed financial constraint, assuming federal funding of about \$160 million per year, with continued reliance on turnpike toll credits in lieu of State hard match to the Federal program. The draft plan addressed the highest priorities developed by each Regional Planning Commission. The result was a financially constrained document identifying the needs that best align with the priorities of communities, the Regional Planning Commissions and the Department.

The draft update of the 2017-2026 Ten Year Plan was provided to GACIT on August 26, 2015. GACIT held sixteen Public Hearings throughout the State between September and October to receive input from the public on the draft Plan and transportation funding issues the State is facing.

DISTRICT ONE

JOSEPH D. KENNEY
P.O. Box 201
UNION, NH 03887
TELEPHONE: 473-2569

DISTRICT TWO

COLIN VAN OSTERN
P.O. Box 193
CONCORD, NH 03302
TELEPHONE: 290-5848

DISTRICT THREE

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
71 HEMLOCK COURT
NEWFIELDS, NH 03856
TELEPHONE: 658-1187

DISTRICT FOUR

CHRISTOPHER C. PAPPAS
629 KEARNEY CIRCLE
MANCHESTER, NH 03104
TELEPHONE: 867-8438

DISTRICT FIVE

DAVID K. WHEELER
523 MASON ROAD
MILFORD, NH 03055
TELEPHONE: 672-6062

The themes that were heard most often included: preservation and maintenance efforts to safeguard and improve infrastructure conditions of all roads, but especially secondary and unnumbered state roads; recognizing that the transportation needs of our older population in NH are changing, that millennials are also very interested in transportation options that do not include the use of vehicles, and the support for transit and safety funding through the CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality) program and HSIP (Highway Safety Improvement Program).

On November 12, 2015, the Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) met to review the Public Hearing feedback, the Ten Year Plan's funding status and to discuss strategies for moving forward with the Draft update. The Department provided a summary of the sixteen hearings and a compilation of the written testimony received through the hearing process (copy attached). Discussions among GACIT members also focused on financial constraint in the Draft Ten Year Plan and specific projects that came up at the public hearings.

On November 30, 2015, GACIT met to finalize the recommendations for the Draft Ten Year Plan. GACIT made decisions regarding the following key issues of importance that are incorporated into the recommended plan.

- GACIT continues to emphasize a financially constrained Ten Year Plan, both in total and per year. Accordingly, GACIT did not want to include any unfunded projects, such as the capital corridor and future turnpike priorities.
- GACIT agreed by vote of 5-0 with the use of GARVEE bonds to advance and complete bridge improvements on NH 119 over the Connecticut River between Hinsdale, NH and Brattleboro, VT., and I-89 bridges over the Connecticut River in Lebanon. GARVEE bonds would be issued to advance and start both projects in FY 2019, with total bonding about \$67M.
- I-93 Exit 4A project – GACIT is advancing project engineering and ROW so that the first phase of construction can begin in FY 2019. The annual financial impact to the Ten Year Plan will be offset by the use of GARVEE bonds on the Connecticut River bridge projects.
- CMAQ and HSIP funding – GACIT was concerned about the proposed 25% cut to HSIP and 50% cut to CMAQ and agreed by vote of 5-0 that this plan include HSIP funding at 100% levels, and CMAQ funding at 75% in FY 2017-2020, and full funding for the remainder of the Ten Year Plan. These programs will be reviewed again in future Ten Year Plan updates.
- GACIT debated whether and how to show the Capital Corridor rail project within the Ten Year Plan. The previous plan had shown the project as an unfunded priority. After a vote of the GACIT members, a motion to include the Capital Corridor project in the Ten Year Plan was defeated 3-2.
- GACIT also discussed the Turnpike capital program and toll revenues. GACIT voted 4 - 1 to show only funded Turnpike projects as scheduled in the current draft Plan. However, GACIT noted that this is an important topic to continue to discuss as it is recognized that both the Legislature and the Executive Council play a critical role in prioritizing the schedule for Turnpike capital projects and determining the toll revenue

needing to deliver those projects. It was recommended that perhaps the Department convene discussions with the Executive Council and legislative officials separate from the Ten Year Plan process to have a more thorough policy discussion of toll revenues and turnpike priorities. GACIT also asked that this information be conveyed as part of the transmittal of the Ten Year Plan to the Governor.

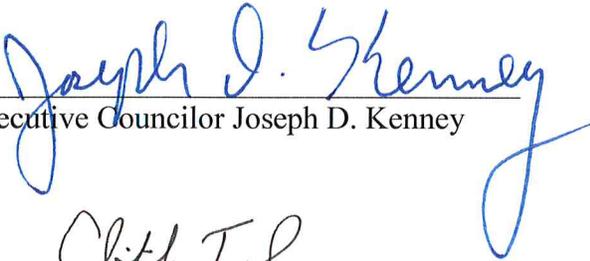
In addition to the key issues above, GACIT made the following additional specific project changes to :

- Include \$2.25M (2015 dollars) in construction funding for US 4 (Mechanic Street) improvements in Lebanon. This requires that the City seek additional funding for the remaining portion of project estimated to be approximately \$10M+.
- Include funding to complete improvements to the US 2 Corridor in Jefferson and Randolph.
- Include \$5.0M (2015 dollars) in construction funding to improve Ocean Boulevard in Hampton, which will partially fund infrastructure improvements currently being addressed through an update to the Hampton Beach Master Plan.
- Advance the currently funded Jaffrey “dog-leg” project to begin construction in FY 2020.
- Re-scope an existing funded Center Harbor-New Hampton bridge project to be a bridge rehabilitation project. Construction is currently scheduled in FY 2021.
- Re-scope the existing NH 125 project in Plaistow-Kingston from a 5 lane section to a 3 lane section with access management elements, saving approximately \$5.9M in FY 2023 and FY 2024.
- Advance improvements to US 3 in Colebrook to FY 2020, allowing a local water and sewer infrastructure improvement project, roadway resurfacing and sidewalk improvements to all occur at the same time.

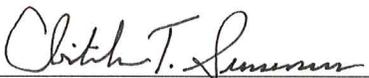
Subsequent to the November 30th meeting, Congress passed, and the President signed, the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, which provides increased federal funding to States for a five-year period, beginning this federal fiscal year (FY 2016). For New Hampshire, federal funding is estimated to be increased by 5.1% in FY 2016, and approximate 2% annual increases thereafter resulting in estimated increases in federal funding over current funding levels of \$7.6M in FY 2016, \$10.9M in FY 2017, \$14.4M in FY 2018, \$18.1M in FY 2019 and \$22.1M in FY 2020. These anticipated increases help to fully financially constrain the draft Ten Year Plan in the first five years while providing additional capacity in the remaining five years to enhance the program. The GACIT recommendation is that this supplementary funding be used to address additional red list bridges and to continue to improve pavement condition across the State, however, GACIT defers to the Governor and Legislature to determine how best to utilize the additional federal funds in the future years.

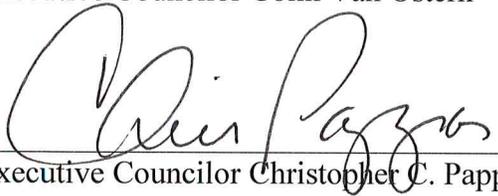
We believe this completes the Commission's work on this step in the update for the State's Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan. The Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) hereby presents this recommended update to the Ten Year Plan for 2017-2026. As you review the Plan document and other supporting information, we are available for any input you feel is needed, and we stand ready to assist you in preparing the next step in the Plan.

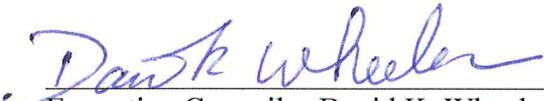
Sincerely,

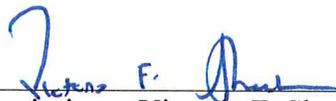

Executive Councilor Joseph D. Kenney


Executive Councilor Colin Van Ostern


Executive Councilor Christopher T. Sununu


Executive Councilor Christopher C. Pappas


Executive Councilor David K. Wheeler


Commissioner Victoria F. Sheehan

Enclosures

cc: William J. Cass, Assistant Commissioner, NH Department of Transportation
Christopher M. Waszczuk, Director of Project Development, NH Department of Transportation
William E. Watson, Administrator, Bureau of Planning and Community Assistance, NHDOT
GACIT