January 15, 2014

The Honorable David B. Campbell
Chairman
House Public Works and Highways Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 201
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Chairman Campbell and Members of the Committee:

Pursuant to RSA 228.99 and RSA 240 of the Laws of New Hampshire, enclosed are the copies of the draft 2015-2024 Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan for the State of New Hampshire.

The Governor’s Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation developed this draft plan after holding 25 public hearings throughout the state and three public work sessions in Concord. The Commission heard and considered testimony from town officials, representatives of private industry and business leaders, regional planning commissions, legislators and the general public.

The plan that I am submitting to you today addresses many regional and local transportation goals, and works to balance and prioritize the competing needs of the state, within the limits of existing funding. Under this plan, New Hampshire will repair or replace approximately 100 red-listed bridges, ranging from the full replacement of the Sarah Mildred Long Bridge in Portsmouth to the replacement of a critical truss bridge connecting Hinsdale, NH to Brattleboro, VT, originally constructed in 1920.

This plan also addresses critical road projects, such as New Hampshire Route 101 in Bedford, as well as advances and funds safety improvements to and engineering studies of Route 106 in Loudon, the primary access road to one of our state’s great economic engines, the New Hampshire Motor Speedway.

This plan builds on the substantial progress that we have made in improving our transportation infrastructure in recent years and aspires to do more to ensure that New Hampshire’s roads and bridges adequately serve a growing innovation economy. In the past year alone we opened the new Memorial Bridge in Portsmouth, made significant progress on the construction of I-93 and continued widening the Spaulding Tumpike in Newington and Dover while also completing the Little Bay Bridge. New open-road tolling on I-93 in Hooksett is making for swifter commutes
for many Granite Staters, and the ground-breaking of the new Hooksett Welcome Centers is an important step forward for our growing travel, tourism and hospitality industries.

These accomplishments represent real progress on behalf of the people and businesses of New Hampshire. However, we must continue working together to ensure that we are sufficiently investing in our roads and bridges in order to meet the transportation needs of our citizens and our business community. The lack of sufficient revenues for transportation needs is reflected in this plan through the absence of funding for many priority projects, including future phases of the widening of Interstate 93 through to Manchester.

To lay the foundation for a stronger, more innovative New Hampshire, we must build a solid, modern infrastructure that will attract new businesses and industries while helping our existing businesses grow, transport their goods, and create good jobs. I appreciate that there is broad agreement in the Legislature about the need to take action to strengthen investment in our roads and bridges, and I will continue to work with both Republicans and Democrats to reach a consensus-based, bipartisan solution.

The plan I am submitting to you today moves our state forward within our current fiscal constraints, while also acknowledging the challenges that we must meet together in order to achieve New Hampshire’s potential. I look forward to working with you and your colleagues in the Legislature to ensure that our challenges are met.

With every good wish,

[Signature]

Margaret Wood Hassan
Governor