



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

January 14, 2022

The Honorable John Graham
Chairman
House Public Works and Highways Committee
Legislative Office Building
33 North State Street, Room 201
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Chairman Graham:

Pursuant to RSA 228:99 and RSA 240 of the Laws of New Hampshire, enclosed are two copies of the draft 2023-2032 Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan (Ten Year Plan) for the State of New Hampshire.

The Department of Transportation ("NHDOT") first met with the Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation ("GACIT") on July 16, 2021 and September 1, 2021 to start the development of the 2023-2032 Ten Year Plan and to receive strategic direction on a number of policy issues regarding funding, prioritization of investments, financial constraint, and unfunded needs. Based on discussions with and direction received from GACIT, NHDOT developed the Draft Ten Year Plan. It addressed financial constraint assuming funding levels projected in the base Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act ("IIJA") legislation and continued reliance on turnpike toll credits in lieu of State hard match to the federal highway program. The draft plan addressed the highest priorities developed by each Regional Planning Commission and new TAP projects as part of the recent application process. The result was a financially constrained document addressing the needs that best aligned with the priorities of communities, Regional Planning Commissions, and NHDOT.

NHDOT prepared and distributed a financially constrained Draft Ten Year Plan for 2023-2032 to GACIT members prior to the first public hearing on September 21, 2021. Proposed strategies for the Draft Ten Year Plan included a focus on maintenance and preservation of the existing road and bridge network, continued investment in core system programs, a focus on Regional Planning Commission priorities, and increases to existing projects and programs with the additional revenue to be received from the IIJA.

GACIT held twenty (21) in person public hearings and one all virtual hearing throughout the state in September and October, with the final hearing held on November 4, 2021. Written comments were accepted through November 8, 2021. In addition, an online transportation survey was made available to anyone with access to the internet, and the survey was also open for input until November 8, 2021.

Over 400 comments were expressed through the Hearing process: the need to expand travel options (transit, bicycle, pedestrian and other non-vehicle efforts) was heard the most, and the need to address infrastructure condition including safety, pavement, bridge, and congestion were important themes. Among those comments was a requested review of underfunded transit needs and a comprehensive assessment of condition, challenges, demand, and future investment potential. Also, many attending the public hearings advocated for advancing projects or increasing project funding. The purpose of the online survey was to gather public feedback on ten-year plan strategies. Over 750 surveys were completed. The themes were very similar to the in person

comments. That is, the need to expand travel options, followed by improving safety, maintaining the existing system, then reducing congestion and addressing resiliency.

On November 10, 2021, NHDOT met with GACIT to present a summary of the online survey findings, to present specific requests heard at the GACIT Hearings and NHDOT's recommendations on how best to address those requests, and strategies to incorporate additional federal funding in the just passed IJA.

NHDOT then met with each of the GACIT members individually to review their comments and for the Councilors to provide direction to NHDOT on final changes to be made to the draft 2023-2032 Ten Year Plan.

On December 8, 2021, NHDOT met with GACIT again. The Department presented recommendations for consideration by GACIT. Recommendations included administrative adjustments to existing projects, proposed state-aid municipal bridge projects to be accelerated, scope modifications based on public comments and requests, new projects to be added, and the potential advancement of 29 municipal bridges to take advantage of additional funding available through IJA.

The modified plan included \$242M in additional new federal funds for bridges (\$225M total/\$45M per year) and electric vehicle charging (\$17M) as part of the IJA. Fifteen percent (\$6.75M annually) of the bridge funds will be allocated to the municipal bridge program, and the remainder to existing bridge projects to free up funds that have greater spending flexibility. In addition to the above noted changes, GACIT unanimously voted to remove Statewide 40915 (Exit Sign renumbering project) from the Draft Ten Year Plan.

In this draft Ten Year Plan, NHDOT, GACIT, and my office have worked to fully fund prior Ten Year Plan commitments such as corridor improvements on NH 16 (Dummer - Cambridge - Errol) and US 2 (Jefferson - Randolph), NH 108 (Dover, Somersworth), and NH 101 (Wilton, Amherst, Milford, Bedford). However, it is important to continue focusing on preservation, maintenance, and safety of the existing pavement and bridge infrastructure throughout the state.

In all, this is a financially constrained plan that identifies and addresses the transportation priorities that best align with the public input received from citizens, Regional Planning Commissions, and transportation stakeholders. I hereby present this recommended update to the Ten Year Plan for 2023-2032. As you review the Plan document and other supporting information, both my staff and NHDOT staff are available for any input you feel is necessary.

Sincerely,



Christopher T. Sununu
Governor

Enclosures

1. Governor's Recommendations for the Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan 2023-2032

cc: The Honorable Sherman Packard, Speaker of the House
The Honorable Chuck Morse, President of the Senate
Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation