



**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**



**Victoria F. Sheehan**  
**Commissioner**

**William Cass, P.E.**  
**Assistant Commissioner**

December 15, 2016

Secretary Anthony Foxx  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx,

The State of New Hampshire is pleased to submit the enclosed application for the Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-term Achievement of National Efficiencies (FASTLANE) grant program. The application is being submitted for the "*Lancaster, NH – Guildhall, VT U.S. Route 2 Bridge Project*" and requests \$5 million of Federal funds under the FASTLANE 2016 program.

The project will address the important movement of freight and maintain connectivity to the local, regional, national and international freight from the northern portions of New Hampshire and Vermont to/from the Interstate 91 and Interstate 93 corridors between Boston and Montreal, each of which are contained on the draft USDOT Multimodal Freight Network Map. The interstate bridge which crosses the Connecticut River between Lancaster and Guildhall, built in 1950, not only links the two adjacent communities, but is a regionally important connector between the states. U.S. Route 2 is on the National Highway System and serves as the only east-west Principal Arterial roadway between the Canadian border and Littleton, New Hampshire, where Interstate 93 crosses the Connecticut River between New Hampshire and Vermont.

The bridge is in poor condition and will require increasing and costly maintenance in the upcoming years to continue to serve as the primary east-west route in the region. Furthermore, due to the limited vertical clearance of the portals of the truss bridge, vehicle strikes from logging trucks are common and dangerous, reducing the effectiveness of the crossing by disrupting traffic, reducing safety and requiring frequent inspections and repairs. The project will completely address the structural deficiency and functional obsolescence of the existing structure.

The project is consistent with state of good repair plans for both NHDOT and VTrans, and appears in New Hampshire's approved Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan and Vermont's State Transportation Improvement Program.

The bridge replacement project is a significant investment in the region and given that NH receives the least amount of federal transportation funding in the country, this grant would help incrementally improve the condition of deficient bridges in the state, as well as enhance a critical freight connection in this rural area of New Hampshire and Vermont.

You can find all the Letters of Support for the project, Grant attachments, and additional information on the project and public involvement to date on our web page at:  
<http://www.nh.gov/dot/projects/lanaster16155/index.htm>

New Hampshire is appreciative of the opportunity to submit this application and appreciations the consideration of the U.S. Department of Transportation. We look forward to hearing from you upon completion of your review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria F. Sheehan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Victoria F. Sheehan  
Commissioner

cc: Secretary Christopher Cole, VTrans