

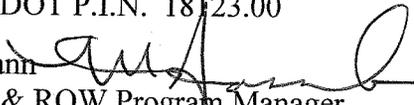


U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

# Memorandum

Subject: Rationale for Adoption of Environmental Document  
prepared by NHDOT and FHWA HDA-NH for:  
Memorial Bridge (U.S. Route 1) Replacement Project,  
Portsmouth, NH - Kittery Maine, NHDOT A000(911),  
13678F. MaineDOT P.I.N. 18123.00

Date:  
March 18, 2011

From: Mark Hasselmann   
Environmental & ROW Program Manager

Reply to Attn of: HDA-ME

To: Jonathan McDade  
Division Administrator, Maine

David Bernhardt, MaineDOT

I have reviewed the submittal by the FHWA New Hampshire Division Office (HDA-NH) of the Environmental Study (Final Environmental Study, Final Section 4(f) Evaluation) for the subject project as prepared by the New Hampshire DOT (NHDOT) and HDA-NH with substantial input from this office.

NHDOT and the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT), propose a jointly funded combination Federal-aid/TIGER II project to replace the Memorial Bridge which carries U.S. Route 1 over the Piscataqua River between Kittery, Maine and Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The replacement project is being administered by NHDOT by a written funding agreement between MaineDOT and NHDOT.

FHWA (NH and ME) has worked closely with MaineDOT, NHDOT, the New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Officer, the Maine State Historic Preservation Officer, numerous consulting parties, and the FHWA Office of Chief Counsel in the coordination and review of this study. This document fully explores and evaluates resources covered under the Endangered Species Act, the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Management Act, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and Section 4(f). A Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement for adverse effects was executed for the project and will be provided to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. The Section 4(f) Evaluation is determined legally sufficient.

Based on the information contained in this Environmental Study, I have determined that the proposed project will not have any significant impacts to planned growth or land use for the area, does not require the relocation of people, and will not have a significant impact on any natural, cultural, recreational, historic, or other resource on the environment, either individually or cumulatively. Therefore, this project is properly classed a Categorical Exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.