



THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



Victoria F. Sheehan
Commissioner

William Cass, P.E.
Assistant Commissioner

April 27, 2016

Secretary Anthony Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

Please find enclosed an application for the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER 8) Discretionary Grant Program. It is being submitted by the State of New Hampshire in conjunction with the State of Vermont for the "I-89 Lebanon-Hartford Bridge Project" and requests \$12 million of Federal funds under the TIGER 8 Program. This project will address major movement of freight, local multimodal transportation needs, and ensure the continued economic vitality of these two communities and the region.

The Interstate 89 Northbound and Southbound bridges over the Connecticut River between Hartford, Vermont, and Lebanon, New Hampshire, built in 1966, links these two communities and provides a critical major river crossing between the two states. These twin bridges are in poor condition due to their age and the harsh northern climate, and the deterioration has progressed to the extent where they are now considered structurally deficient. This project will address the bridges' structural deficiency and improve reliability on this critical segment of the overall transportation network in the region.

These bridges are a critical facility for the movement of people and goods locally, regionally and internationally. It is the major Boston to Montreal international trade route corridor, and serves to provide a junction to Interstate-91 and Interstate-93, which connect New England with Canadian trade markets. It also serves as a major connector to New England's major seaports and intermodal facilities. Without the bridges, freight traffic would need to detour 50 or more miles and rely on secondary highways.

These bridges are also critically important to the connectivity, economy, and quality of life for both New Hampshire and Vermont, which support economic development. Businesses in the area utilize these bridges daily to facilitate delivery of goods and services throughout the region. It serves as a link to the downtown areas of Lebanon, New Hampshire and White River Junction, Vermont for retail, tourism, and service industries. This project will address regional transportation needs, and ensure the continued economic vitality of these two communities and the region.

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

You can find all the Letters of Support for the project, Grant attachments, and additional information on the bridge inspections and public involvement to date on our web page.

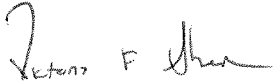
<http://www.nh.gov/dot/projects/lebhart16148/index.htm>.

Anthony Foxx, Secretary
US Department of Transportation
April 27, 2016
Page -2-

New Hampshire receives the lowest total apportionment of all the States, therefore investing in larger projects such as this one limits the Department's ability to take on the many smaller projects across the State. This project will help maintain and enhance the quality of life for area residents and promote economic development, making it extremely important to the State. Given the other competing needs however, the Department anticipates funding this project with GARVEE bonds. The TIGER grant would be a significant boost toward accomplishing this much needed project, as it would reduce the need for bonding and consequently lower the overall project cost for the State of New Hampshire.

New Hampshire is grateful for the opportunity to submit this application and appreciates the consideration of the U.S. Department of Transportation. We look forward to hearing from you upon completion of the review process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria F. Sheehan".

Victoria F. Sheehan
Commissioner

cc: Secretary Chris Cole, VTrans