

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Executive Council

STATE HOUSE ROOM 207

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03301

(603) 271-3632 FAX: 271-3633



November 29, 2023

His Excellency, Christopher T. Sununu
Governor of New Hampshire
State House
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Governor Sununu:

Pursuant to RSA 228:99 and RSA 240 of the Laws of New Hampshire, enclosed are two copies of the Draft 2025-2034 Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan (Ten Year Plan) for the State of New Hampshire.

The Department met with the Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) on June 28, 2023 to begin the development of the Draft 2025-2034 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, the NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT) developed the Draft Ten Year Plan. It addressed financial constraint using projected funding levels in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) legislation and continues to rely 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 CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality) projects as part of the recent application process. The result was a financially constrained document that identified the needs that best aligned with the priorities of communities, Regional Planning Commissions and NHDOT.

The NHDOT prepared and distributed a financially constrained Draft Ten Year Plan for 2025-2034 to the GACIT members on August 23, 2023, prior to the first public hearing on September 7, 2023. Proposed strategies for the Draft Ten Year Plan included a focus on maintenance and preservation of the existing road and bridge network, continue to invest in core system programs, increased focus on Regional Planning Commission priorities, increased investment on municipally owned red listed bridges, and focusing on existing projects and programs with the revenue to be received from the IIJA.

GACIT held twenty-four (24) in person public hearings with the final hearing held on October 25, 2023. Seven of the 24 meetings were also hybrid meetings. Written comments were accepted through November 3, 2023. 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 1, 2023.

Dozens of comments were shared through the Hearing process: the need to expand travel options (public transportation funding and routes, and bicycle and pedestrian options), the need to invest in renewable energy, EV options, address resiliency and climate change in projects, and the need to address infrastructure condition including safety, pavements, bridges, and congestion were important themes. Also, many attending the public hearings advocated for advancing projects or increasing project funding.

NHDOT met with each GACIT member individually to review comments and Councilor's direction to the DOT on final changes to be made to the Draft Ten Year Plan. On November 8, 2023, NHDOT met with GACIT to present specific project requests heard at the GACIT Hearings, the NHDOT's recommendations to address requests, and to discuss CMAQ applications, the Corridor Study program and other priority items for GACIT.

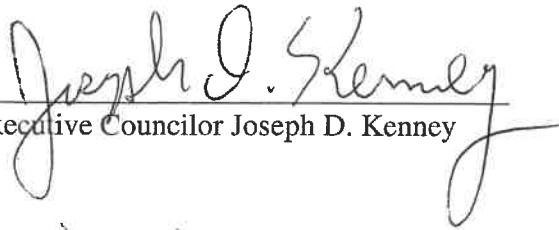
NHDOT identified several projects for discussion and consideration by GACIT in the Draft 2025-2034 Ten Year Plan. These included:

- Fund all eligible and supported 2022 CMAQ project applications (EV and non-EV projects)
- I-293 Exit 6 & 7 projects to be completed within the draft 2025-2034 Ten Year Plan years
- New Castle NH 1B Causeway project – advance preliminary engineering phase to 2025
- Tilton – NHDOT is having ongoing discussions with the town about Calef Hill Road improvements and US 3 Main Street improvements. GACIT will support the agreed to compromises that come out of those conversations
- Add municipal bridge project– Bedford culvert replacement
- Remove Statewide project 40915 Exit sign renumbering
- Make inflation adjustments to several earmark projects so that funding in the draft 2025-2034 Ten Year Plan matches the award amounts (Projects 44142, 44166, 44016, 41586, 44015, 44158, 44160 and 44161)

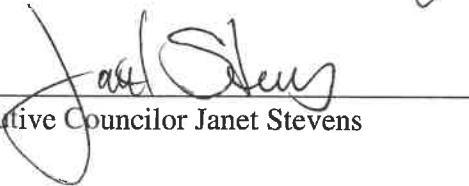
At all of the GACIT Hearings, it was noted that SB367 funds, which have been used in previous Ten Year Plans for rural paving projects on state roadways not eligible for federal funding will not be available after FY2026. The SB367 funds are required to pay debt service payments for the completion of the I-93 expansion between Salem and Manchester. This results in a reduction of about \$20M annually for paving and bridge work. This leads to a reduction in paving of approximately 200+ miles, which is projected to result in a decline of roads in good/fair condition. GACIT sees this as a priority that needs to be addressed at the State level and urges that options be developed and considered to continue funding this effort for roadways not eligible for federal funds.

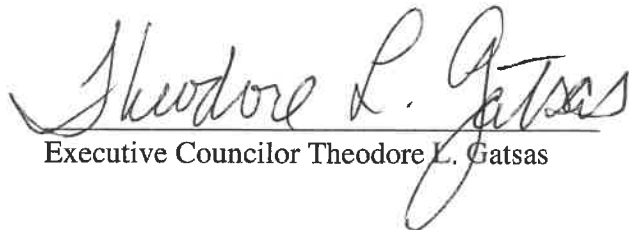
We believe this completes the Commission's work. The Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) hereby presents this recommended update to the Ten Year Plan for 2025-2034. A summary of the changes to the August 23, 2023 version of the Draft Ten Year Plan is attached to this letter for your reference. As you review the Plan document and other supporting information, we are available for any input you feel is needed, and we stand ready to assist you in completing the next step in the Plan.

Sincerely,

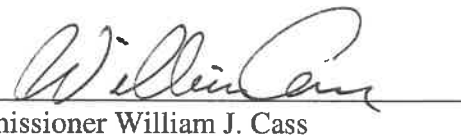

Executive Councilor Joseph D. Kenney


Executive Councilor Conde Warmington


Executive Councilor Janet Stevens


Executive Councilor Theodore L. Gatsas


Executive Councilor David K. Wheeler


Commissioner William J. Cass

Enclosures

1. GACIT Adopted 2025-2034 Ten Year Plan
2. Summary list of changes to August 23, 2023 Draft 2025-2034 Ten Year Plan, and attachments
3. Summary of GACIT process & testimony

cc: David M. Rodrigue, Assistant Commissioner, NH Department of Transportation
Andre J. Briere, Deputy Commissioner, NH Department of Transportation
William J. Oldenburg, Director of Project Development, NH Department of Transportation
William E. Watson, Administrator, Bureau of Planning and Community Assistance, NHDOT
GACIT members