

January 12, 2017

Victoria Sheehan, Commissioner
NH Department of Transportation
7 Hazen Drive
PO Box 483
Concord, NH 03302-0483

RE: RPC MPO FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program

Dear Commissioner Sheehan,

The Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is enclosing the FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) including the signed MPO Self-Certification. The TIP is being submitted to you in final form that includes all changes requested during the development process and during the public comment period.

The 30-Day Public Comment Period occurred from November 14th through December 13th, 2016 with the final Public Hearing held in conjunction with the MPO Policy Meeting on December 14th, 2016 in Hampton. The TIP and an updated project list for the MPO Long Range Transportation Plan were recommended for approval by the MPO Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) on November 30th, 2016 and adopted by the MPO Policy Committee on December 10th, 2016 incorporating the appropriate project changes listed in the 2015-2018 TIP Minor Revisions from July to December, 2016.

During the Comment period, and at the public hearing, citizens from the City of Portsmouth raised concerns regarding project #29640 which involves capacity expansion on US 1 from Ocean Road to White Cedar Blvd, and from Constitution Ave to Wilson Road. These individuals, and the neighborhood they represent, are concerned about the large amount of traffic generated by US 1 businesses, specifically Water Country, and that this traffic is spilling over into adjacent neighborhood streets. They are advocating that the engineering and design of project #29640 incorporate appropriate improvements to keep traffic on US 1 and off nearby residential streets. We are also aware that the City of Portsmouth has submitted comments to the NHDOT Project Manager regarding the scope of the project and the need for updated traffic analysis on the corridor. While these comments did not suggest changing the 2017-2020 TIP in any way, the MPO does concur with the need to perform a full traffic analysis as part of the design and engineering for this project. While the US Route 1 Corridor Plan/Study does provide historical support for the need for capacity improvements in that area, enough time has passed that a more up-to-date analysis needs to be completed to account for the substantial growth and development along that portion of Route 1.

We would also like to note that substantive progress has been made in the transfer of transportation project information between NHDOT and the MPOs. While NHDOT Planning and Community Assistance

and MPO staff are still working on ways to improve this process, we are encouraged by this progress and, in the future, this should promote greater consistency between the MPO TIPs and the State TIP, as well as enable timely transmittal of approved documents.

Please call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cliff Sinnott", is written over a horizontal line.

Cliff Sinnott

Executive Director, RPC

Enclosure

cc: MPO TAC and Policy Committees
Peter Stamnas, NHDOT Director of Project Development
Bill Watson, NHDOT Bureau of Planning and Community Assistance Administrator