

August 3, 2015

Christopher M. Waszczuk  
Director of Project Development  
NH Department of Transportation  
P.O. Box 483  
Concord, NH 03302-0483

**RE: RPC MPO Approval of FY 2015-2018 TIP Amendment #1**

Dear Mr. Waszczuk,

This letter is to inform you that on July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the Rockingham Planning Commission, meeting as the MPO Policy Committee, approved Amendment #1 to the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Amendment #1 was approved following appropriate public notice, a 10 day comment period, and public hearing as required in our Prospectus. The public notice and project information can be found at the RPC website ([www.rpc-nh.org](http://www.rpc-nh.org)), and these documents detail the changes that Amendment #1 has made to the RPC 2015-2018 TIP.

There were many aspects of TIP/STIP Amendment 1 that generated substantial discussion at both the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) and MPO Policy Committee meetings. While many projects and programs generated discussion and questions, NHDOT staff was able to address most of them adequately to allay concerns and give the background information necessary for making informed decisions. There were two items with substantial concerns remaining when the amendment was approved as presented. It was agreed that these concerns would be both noted in the approval letter as well as be a part of our comments regarding the draft 2017-2026 State Ten Year Plan.

- First, concerns were raised regarding the amount of CMAQ funding going towards intercity bus replacement (40284). FTA Section 5307 funds available to COAST (and to other regional transit agencies) are inadequate to meet their long term needs for vehicle replacement. The transit agencies have been told to wait for future CMAQ rounds to have an opportunity to compete for additional funding through the CMAQ program. However, the intercity bus set aside, combined with the anticipated transfer of 50% of CMAQ funds to other funding programs, would seem to leave very little remaining to aid these regional transit providers or fund any other CMAQ eligible projects. The recent increase in FTA Section 5307 funding available to NH from the Boston Urbanized Area is likely a more appropriate source of funding for intercity bus replacement, as much of that funding increase is attributable to Boston Express and C&J beginning to report revenue miles in the National Transit Database. This would help meet the need for intercity bus replacement while keeping CMAQ funding available for regional transit needs and other project types that have traditionally relied on that program.

- Second, the Policy Committee was informed that the TAC had recommended that the changes proposed for Plaistow-Kingston 10044E not be approved as part of the amendment. While it is understood that the movement of the engineering and right-of-way work to the 2019-2022 timeframe lines up that work to coincide with the expected construction in 2023, the concern is that the further postponement of this project decreases the likelihood of it ever happening at all, especially because the proposed delays will remove it from the TIP entirely. The Kingston TAC representative submitted a letter expressing her displeasure with the project delays and reminding the MPO and DOT of previous commitments to continue to move that project forward. Several others spoke at both the TAC and Policy meetings in support of not delaying work on that project as well. While the MPO ultimately voted to disregard the TAC recommendation and include the changes to that project as presented in Amendment 1 in the approval, continued progress on the NH 125 improvements in Plaistow and Kingston remains a priority for the region. It was noted during the discussion that the cost of this project has grown from \$2.7 million when it was first listed as a separate component of the Plaistow-Kingston project in the 2005-2007 STIP (most certainly an underestimated cost) to over \$36 million in 2015-2018 TIP Amendment #1. Given that cost, and the fact that the 2016 horizon year of the Plaistow-Kingston NH125 Corridor Study has nearly been reached with substantially lower than anticipated traffic levels, it would be prudent to open a dialogue directly with the town of Kingston regarding the future of this project and the needs of NH125 in that area. A review of the original design against current and forecast traffic volumes, along with additional planning and community dialogue, would help to determine if a less expansive and expensive solution maybe more appropriate and able to be implemented sooner.

Based on the information provided regarding the movement of projects in time, changes in project scopes and costs, and taking into account the comments received, it has been determined that:

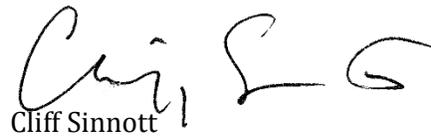
- The changes proposed by this TIP amendment are primarily the result of programming changes determined to be necessary by the NHDOT and subsequently endorsed by the MPO.
  - The fiscal constraint of the TIP/STIP is maintained according to the DOT documentation is included in the informational packet on the RPC website as well as on the NHDOT STIP Amendment page on the NHDOT website.
  - The projects listed in first four years of the financially constrained Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) are consistent with the project listings in the 2015-2018 TIP which, by design, is incorporated as the LRTP's short range project-specific list.
  - The projects listed in the TIP are the result of a regional project selection process undertaken by the RPC as part of the development of the 2015-2024 State Ten Year Plan. This process evaluated 104 projects pulled from previous plans, corridor studies, and submitted by member communities to establish priorities for the State Ten Year plan using a common set of selection criteria agreed upon by each MPO and NHDOT. At the April, 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013 meeting of the RPC MPO a motion was passed to submit a prioritized and constrained list of 76 projects could potentially be funded. These project recommendations are consistent with the goals of the region's Long Range Transportation Plan.
  - As of July 20, 2013 all of New Hampshire is unclassifiable/attainment for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (the 2008 ozone standard); and the 1997 8-
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Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (the 1997 ozone standard) is revoked for transportation conformity purposes in the Boston-Manchester-Portsmouth (SE), NH area.

- Consistent with the RPC's Public Participation Process, this notice and comment period is also intended to meet FTA requirements for public comment on the programs of transit projects put forward by NHDOT, UNH and the COAST and CART transit systems.

Based on these points the MPO voted to approve Amendment#1 to the 2015-2018 TIP inclusive of the project changes listed on the following pages.

Sincerely,



Cliff Sinnott  
Executive Director

cc: Patrick Bauer, Division Administrator, FHWA NH Division Office  
Nick Garcia, FTA Region 1  
Don Cooke, EPA Region 1  
Chris Skoglund, NH DES Air Resources Division  
MPO TAC/Policy members

<b>Location:</b>	<b>Statewide</b>	<b>Project ID:</b>	<b>5310</b>	<b>Facility:</b>	<b>Transit</b>
<u>Description:</u>	FTA 5310 Program – Capital, Mobility Management, and Operating for seniors and individuals with disabilities.				
<u>Proposed Amendment:</u>	More descriptive scope. Increasing funds for Fiscal Years 2015-2018 by \$1,952,770.				
<u>Total Proposed 2015-2018 TIP Funding:</u>	\$10,764,640				
<b>Location:</b>	<b>CART-1</b>	<b>Project ID:</b>	<b>2985</b>	<b>Facility:</b>	<b>CART Transit</b>
<u>Description:</u>	CART Preventive Maintenance Program				
<u>Proposed Amendment:</u>	Funding increase for Fiscal Years 2015 and 2016. New funding for FY 2017 and 2018. Total increase in funding of \$471,671.				
<u>Total Proposed 2015-2018 TIP Funding:</u>	\$828,342				
<b>Location:</b>	<b>CART-2</b>	<b>Project ID:</b>	<b>7239</b>	<b>Facility:</b>	<b>CART Transit</b>
<u>Description:</u>	Operating Assistance for public transit (CART) in Derry-Salem region				
<u>Proposed Amendment:</u>	Decreased funding for FY2015. FY2016 funding source change to 50% FTA/50% Other. Funding for FY2017 and FY2018 Added. Net decrease of \$310,100.				
<u>Total Proposed 2015-2018 TIP Funding:</u>	\$2,585,648				
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Statewide</b>	<b>Project ID:</b>	<b>40284</b>	<b>Facility:</b>	<b>Intercity Bus Transit</b>
<u>Description:</u>	Replacement (and potential expansion) of state-owned coaches used for commuter and intercity bus. For FEE Turnpike, I-93, and I-95 intercity services.				
<u>Proposed Amendment:</u>	<b>New Project.</b> Using CMAQ and Other funding to purchase replacement buses for commuter and intercity services.				
<u>Total Proposed 2015-2018 TIP Funding:</u>	\$14,667,474				
<b>Location:</b>	<b>East Kingston</b>	<b>Project ID:</b>	<b>26942</b>	<b>Facility:</b>	<b>NH 107A</b>
<u>Description:</u>	NH 107A bridge over B&M Railroad and road. Deck replacement and rehabilitation. Br. # 061/064				
<u>Proposed Amendment:</u>	Construction postponed from 2018 to 2019. Change in funding source to STP-Off System bridge. TIP Funding reduced by \$3,627,046				
<u>Total Proposed 2015-2018 TIP Funding:</u>	\$392,920				
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Boston UZA</b>	<b>Project ID:</b>	<b>FTA5307</b>	<b>Facility:</b>	<b>Transit</b>
<u>Description:</u>	FTA 5307 Funding for the Boston Urbanized Area				
<u>Proposed Amendment:</u>	<b>New project</b> listing and funding for transit capital and operations in the Boston Urbanized Area.				
<u>Total Proposed 2015-2018 TIP Funding:</u>	\$14,768,613				
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Statewide</b>	<b>Project ID:</b>	<b>FTA5339</b>	<b>Facility:</b>	<b>Transit</b>
<u>Description:</u>	FTA 5339 Capital Bus and Bus Facilities program				
<u>Proposed Amendment:</u>	New Federal funding available for FY2015-2018 to match with local funding. Total Increase of \$1,812,052.				
<u>Total Proposed 2015-2018 TIP Funding:</u>	\$11,267,224				
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Hampton-Portsmouth</b>	<b>Project ID:</b>	<b>26485</b>	<b>Facility:</b>	<b>Rail Corridor</b>
<u>Description:</u>	Purchase rail corridor from Hampton to Portsmouth approximately 9.7 miles and improve trail surface				
<u>Proposed Amendment:</u>	Matching CMAQ funding with toll credits. Decrease in total cost by \$125,765				
<u>Total Proposed 2015-2018 TIP Funding:</u>	\$4,382,195				
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Hampton</b>	<b>Project ID:</b>	<b>23821</b>	<b>Facility:</b>	<b>Hampton Beach</b>
<u>Description:</u>	Transportation and Community and System Preservation Grant to conduct update to Hampton Beach Master Plan.				

Proposed Amendment: **New project** in the TIP.  
Total Proposed 2015-2018 TIP Funding: \$275,000

<b>Location:</b> Hazmat Statewide	<b>Project ID:</b> 16344F	<b>Facility:</b> Statewide
<u>Description:</u> Post Construction monitoring of contaminated projects		
<u>Proposed Amendment:</u> <b>New project</b> in the TIP.		
<u>Total Proposed 2015-2018 TIP Funding:</u> \$27,864		
<b>Location:</b> Londonderry-Salem	<b>Project ID:</b> 2903	<b>Facility:</b> Transit
<u>Description:</u> Capital funding for bus service on the I-93 corridor		
<u>Proposed Amendment:</u> Project is being removed from the STIP and TIP		
<u>Total Proposed 2015-2018 TIP Funding:</u> \$0		
<b>Location:</b> Londonderry-Salem	<b>Project ID:</b> 6292	<b>Facility:</b> Transit
<u>Description:</u> Commuter bus preventive maintenance for the I-93 bus service		
<u>Proposed Amendment:</u> Project is being removed from the STIP and TIP		
<u>Total Proposed 2015-2018 TIP Funding:</u> \$0		
<b>Location:</b> New Castle-Rye	<b>Project ID:</b> 16127	<b>Facility:</b> NH 1B Bridge over Little Harbor
<u>Description:</u> Bridge rehab or replace, single leaf bascule moveable bridge, NH 1B over Little Harbor (Red List)		
<u>Proposed Amendment:</u> PE increasing by \$26,682. Construction is delayed beyond the scope of the STIP decreasing funding by \$9,408,529. Change in funding source.		
<u>Total Proposed 2015-2018 TIP Funding:</u> \$7,934,317		
<b>Location:</b> Newington-Dover	<b>Project ID:</b> 11238S	<b>Facility:</b> General Sullivan Bridge
<u>Description:</u> General Sullivan Bridge Rehabilitation		
<u>Proposed Amendment:</u> Project is being removed from the STIP and TIP and postponed to 2019-2022		
<u>Total Proposed 2015-2018 TIP Funding:</u> \$0		
<b>Location:</b> Plaistow	<b>Project ID:</b> 10044G	<b>Facility:</b> NH 125
<u>Description:</u> Reconstruct NH 125 from East Road to Old Road		
<u>Proposed Amendment:</u> Change in funding source. Small increase in CON cost (\$87,000) as the timeframe is shifted from mostly occurring in 2016 to occurring in 2016 and 2017.		
<u>Total Proposed 2015-2018 TIP Funding:</u> \$8,665,993		
<b>Location:</b> Plaistow	<b>Project ID:</b> 68082	<b>Facility:</b> Rail
<u>Description:</u> Rail Service from Haverhill, MA to Plaistow. Construct platform and waiting area. Acquire easements.		
<u>Proposed Amendment:</u> Project is being removed from the STIP and TIP		
<u>Total Proposed 2015-2018 TIP Funding:</u> \$0		
<b>Location:</b> Plaistow-Kingston	<b>Project ID:</b> 10044E	<b>Facility:</b> NH 125
<u>Description:</u> Reconstruct from Town Line (Plaistow/Kingston) approximately 1.8 mile.		
<u>Proposed Amendment:</u> PE and ROW funds moved from 2017-2018 to 2019-2022 to comply with fiscal constraint. Construction scheduled for 2024. Change will remove the project from the TIP/STIP.		
<u>Total Proposed 2013-2016 TIP Funding:</u> \$0		
<b>Location:</b> Portsmouth	<b>Project ID:</b> 13455	<b>Facility:</b> US 1 Bypass
<u>Description:</u> Replace bridges along the US 1 Bypass		
<u>Proposed Amendment:</u> <b>New Project</b> in TIP. Added PE and ROW funding for FY2015		
<u>Total Proposed 2015-2018 TIP Funding:</u> \$831,918		

<b>Location:</b>	<b>Portsmouth</b>	<b>Project ID:</b>	<b>13455E</b>	<b>Facility:</b>	<b>US1 Bypass</b>
<u>Description:</u>	Albacore Access Road reconstruction and intersection improvements with US 1 Bypass and Market Street				
<u>Proposed Amendment:</u>	Shifted project from FY2015 to FY2016. Increased funding by \$44,000.				
<u>Total Proposed 2015-2018 TIP Funding:</u>	\$1,419,000				
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Portsmouth</b>	<b>Project ID:</b>	<b>20222A</b>	<b>Facility:</b>	<b>Portsmouth Transportation Center</b>
<u>Description:</u>	Expand Portsmouth Transportation Center parking to accommodate future needs				
<u>Proposed Amendment:</u>	Shifted project from FY2015 to FY2016. Increased funding by \$15,840.				
<u>Total Proposed 2015-2018 TIP Funding:</u>	\$510,840				
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Portsmouth</b>	<b>Project ID:</b>	<b>20255</b>	<b>Facility:</b>	<b>Woodbury Ave, Market St, Granite St</b>
<u>Description:</u>	Upgrade 5 existing traffic controllers and interconnects on Woodbury Avenue, Market Street, and Granite Street				
<u>Proposed Amendment:</u>	Project is being removed from STIP/TIP and has been replaced by project #29781 that was added to the TIP/STIP as part of the December, 2015 Minor Revisions.				
<u>Total Proposed 2015-2018 TIP Funding:</u>	\$0				
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Portsmouth</b>	<b>Project ID:</b>	<b>20258</b>	<b>Facility:</b>	<b>Peverly Hill Road</b>
<u>Description:</u>	Construct new sidewalk and striped bicycle shoulders and associated drainage along Peverly Hill Road.				
<u>Proposed Amendment:</u>	Change in funding source to reflect matching funds from the Portsmouth. Slight decrease in PE, ROW, and CON costs, ROW and Construction shifted to 2016. Total cost decrease of \$34,298.				
<u>Total Proposed 2015-2018 TIP Funding:</u>	\$491,263				
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Portsmouth</b>	<b>Project ID:</b>	<b>29781</b>	<b>Facility:</b>	<b>Woodbury Ave, Market St, Granite St</b>
<u>Description:</u>	Upgrade 5 existing traffic controllers and interconnects on Woodbury Avenue, Market Street, and Granite Street				
<u>Proposed Amendment:</u>	<b>New TIP/STIP listing</b> that adds PE for 2015 (\$157,000) and Construction for 2016 (\$286,305).				
<u>Total Proposed 2015-2018 TIP Funding:</u>	\$443,305				
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Portsmouth, NH – Kittery, ME</b>	<b>Project ID:</b>	<b>15731</b>	<b>Facility:</b>	<b>Sarah Mildred Long Bridge, US 1 Bypass</b>
<u>Description:</u>	Bridge Replacement, US 1 Bypass over Piscataqua River (Sarah Mildred Long Bridge) (Red List)				
<u>Proposed Amendment:</u>	Funding category change. Increased PE funding by \$1,575,000; Increase ROW funding by \$500,000; Increase Construction Funding by \$12,132,265. (Project is 50% funded by Maine & \$25,000,000 in TIGER funding). Total increase of \$14,207,264				
<u>Total Proposed 2015-2018 TIP Funding:</u>	\$195,473,751				
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Portsmouth, NH – Kittery, ME</b>	<b>Project ID:</b>	<b>16189</b>	<b>Facility:</b>	<b>I-95</b>
<u>Description:</u>	Rehabilitation of Bridge over Piscataqua River (High Level Bridge)				
<u>Proposed Amendment:</u>	Funding decreased by \$1,596,513 and all shifted from 2017 to 2018. Category of funding changed.				
<u>Total Proposed 2015-2018 TIP Funding:</u>	\$6,133,005				
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Portsmouth, NH – Kittery, ME</b>	<b>Project ID:</b>	<b>29694</b>	<b>Facility:</b>	<b>Sarah Mildred Long Bridge, US 1 Bypass</b>
<u>Description:</u>	Debt service project for NH share of Sarah Long Bridge construction (15731)				



<b>Location:</b>	<b>Statewide</b>	<b>Project ID:</b>	<b>14744</b>	<b>Facility:</b>	<b>Statewide</b>
<u>Description:</u>	Scour and Hydraulic analysis on 130 bridges and waterways; Foundation and Hydraulic analysis on 48 bridges with unknown foundations; develop scour manual and POA.				
<u>Proposed Amendment:</u>	<b>New Project.</b> Funding added for FY2016				
<u>Total Proposed 2015-2018 TIP Funding:</u>	\$283,800				
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Statewide</b>	<b>Project ID:</b>	<b>15610</b>	<b>Facility:</b>	<b>Statewide</b>
<u>Description:</u>	Install Road and Weather Information Systems (RWIS) stations around the state				
<u>Proposed Amendment:</u>	<b>New Project.</b> Funding added for FY2015				
<u>Total Proposed 2015-2018 TIP Funding:</u>	\$33,000				
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Statewide</b>	<b>Project ID:</b>	<b>FBRPI</b>	<b>Facility:</b>	<b>Various</b>
<u>Description:</u>	Bridge rehabilitation, painting, preservation & improvement projects (Federal Program)				
<u>Proposed Amendment:</u>	Increased funding for PE of \$338,425.				
<u>Total Proposed 2015-2018 TIP Funding:</u>	\$37,264,359				
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Statewide</b>	<b>Project ID:</b>	<b>GRR</b>	<b>Facility:</b>	<b>Various</b>
<u>Description:</u>	Guardrail replacement [Federal Aid Guardrail Improvement Program] (Annual Project)				
<u>Proposed Amendment:</u>	Decreased funding for PE (-\$151,452), ROW (-\$8,079), and Construction (-\$3,037,595) FY 2015-2018. Total decrease of \$3,197,125.				
<u>Total Proposed 2015-2018 TIP Funding:</u>	\$6,195,909				
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Statewide</b>	<b>Project ID:</b>	<b>HSIP</b>	<b>Facility:</b>	<b>Various</b>
<u>Description:</u>	Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)				
<u>Proposed Amendment:</u>	Removed indirect charges that should not have been included in listing. Result is a net decrease in funding for Construction (-\$5,618,063) FY 2015-2018.				
<u>Total Proposed 2015-2018 TIP Funding:</u>	\$35,923,612				
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Statewide</b>	<b>Project ID:</b>	<b>IMPPP</b>	<b>Facility:</b>	<b>Various</b>
<u>Description:</u>	Interstate Maintenance and Interstate Pavement Preservation Program (Annual Program)				
<u>Proposed Amendment:</u>	Increased funding for PE (+\$538,425) and decreased funding for Construction (-\$7,528,928) FY 2015-2018. Net decrease of \$6,990,500				
<u>Total Proposed 2015-2018 TIP Funding:</u>	\$20,796,265				
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Statewide</b>	<b>Project ID:</b>	<b>MOBRR</b>	<b>Facility:</b>	<b>Various</b>
<u>Description:</u>	Municipal Owned Bridge Rehabilitation & Replacement Projects (MOBRR Program)				
<u>Proposed Amendment:</u>	Decreased funding for Construction (-\$9,877,523) FY 2015-2018.				
<u>Total Proposed 2015-2018 TIP Funding:</u>	\$15,067,361				
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Statewide</b>	<b>Project ID:</b>	<b>PRRCS</b>	<b>Facility:</b>	<b>Various</b>
<u>Description:</u>	Pavement Resurfacing, Rehabilitation & Crackseal program and related work (Annual Fed Res Prog)				
<u>Proposed Amendment:</u>	Increased PE by \$194,097 and decreased Construction by \$6,488,324. Net decrease of \$6,294,227.				
<u>Total Proposed 2015-2018 TIP Funding:</u>	\$68,365,394				
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Statewide</b>	<b>Project ID:</b>	<b>PVMRK</b>	<b>Facility:</b>	<b>Various</b>
<u>Description:</u>	Statewide Pavement Marking Annual Project				
<u>Proposed Amendment:</u>	Decreased funding for Construction (-\$3,745,163) FY 2015-2018.				
<u>Total Proposed 2015-2018 TIP Funding:</u>	\$10,563,636				
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Statewide</b>	<b>Project ID:</b>	<b>RCTRL</b>	<b>Facility:</b>	<b>Various</b>
<u>Description:</u>	Recreational Trails Fund Act – Projects Selected Annually				
<u>Proposed Amendment:</u>	Decrease in PE funding (-\$20,032) and increase in CON funding (+\$583,691). Change in funding source to include matching funds. Net increase of \$563.659.				

