



November 10, 2022

To: Mayor Jim Bouley and Concord City Council
From: Tim Slnk, Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce
RE: Interstate I-93

Dear Mayor Bouley and Concord City Council:

First, on behalf of the Chamber I would like to express our appreciation for the good work and attention the city has given to the I-93 widening project through Concord. It is clear that a number of important improvements have been made over the original design which would not have been incorporated without robust and consistent City involvement.

The Chamber supports additional initiatives that would:

- Improve the image of downtown Concord from the Highway. This may include landscaping improvements, decorative fencing strategically placed, lighting treatments and other creative ways to draw attention to our beautiful city.
- Improved way finding and signage, giving travelers an enticement to make a stop in Concord
- Provide a meaningful connection and access from downtown to the river.

The Concord 2020 initiative envisioned a deck extending over the interstate that could provide green space and access to the river from the downtown. We support city funding to conduct a feasibility study and design concept for such an initiative. Accommodation for the Merrimack River Greenway Trail is an important and welcome addition, but this may be our only chance to realize something truly visionary to reconnect the city to the river.

Once again, thank you for your good work on behalf of the City of Concord.

Sincerely,

Timothy G. Sink, CCE
President

Bonenfant, Janice

From: Katherine Leswing <katherine.leswing@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 30, 2022 1:01 PM
Subject: I-93 Highway Minimization

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Dear Councilor,

Thank you for your service to Concord! I am writing because I am very concerned about what expanding I-93 will do to our Concord community in the immediate and in the future.

Most immediately, the proposed highway expansion will change the intimate feel of our city, divide and further segregate our citizens, increase pollution and be an eyesore. It will encourage more driving, increase the volume of heat-trapping concrete and remove 39 acres of tree cover, all of which are highly concerning given the trajectory of climate change.

For these reasons, I encourage you to use your power to do support the following:

- Minimize highway widening - 8 lane expansion is unacceptable.
- Focus on fixing bridges and interchanges.
- Obtain a deck park/river bridge feasibility study by a firm specializing in deck parks (to include deck park alternatives with comparable benefits) to reduce segregatory and river access impacts.
- Ensure highway plans do NOT preclude deck park/river bridge (or comparable) opportunities.
- Design the highway with a designated speed at 55 mph not 70 mph.
- Design the expansion around the current traffic needs - not outdated data.
- Improve safety design at interchanges for bikes/pedestrians.
- Reduce the barrier effect of the railroad.
- Provide more accommodation and safety considerations for bicyclists and pedestrians especially around multi-lane exits.
- Provide barrier protected bike lanes on major commuting routes.
- Provide plans clearly demonstrating "transitions" that tell drivers they are leaving the highway and entering a low speed city or neighborhood environment.
- Include high quality streetscaping and landscaping at all interchanges.
- Engage in a robust public process including workshops & charrettes - MUCH has changed in Concord since 2019!

Thank you again for your dedication to our city and for helping to keep it a desirable place to live and experience.

Katherine Leswing
20 Badger Street
Concord, NH