



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Michael S. Bezanson, PE, City Engineer

DATE: March 4, 2024

SUBJECT: New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan (Concord 41468) – Authorization for the City Manager to submit a letter to the NHDOT in regards to project “Concord 41468”, in the 10-Year Plan, requesting consideration be given to improve and widen the existing pedestrian walkway on the I-93 Northbound Bridge (136/117) over the Merrimack River, that connects East Concord (Exit 16) to New Hampshire Technical Institute (NHTI).

Recommendation:

Authorize the City Manager to submit a letter to NHDOT regarding the “Concord 41468” project in the State’s 10-Year Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP), requesting consideration be given for improvement and widening of the existing pedestrian walkway on the I-93 Northbound Bridge (136/117) over the Merrimack River, that connects East Concord (Exit 16) to the New Hampshire Technical Institute (NHTI).

Background:

The I-93 Northbound Bridge over the Merrimack River features a pedestrian sidewalk, which serves as a critical pedestrian connection between East Concord, NHTI, and Downtown. The Bridge is scheduled for replacement in the State’s 10-Year Transportation Improvement Plan. Design of the new Bridge is scheduled to begin in State Fiscal Year 2025.

During its January and February 2024 meetings, the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) discussed the importance of the existing pedestrian walkway. The Committee believes it is a critical pedestrian and bicycle connection between East Concord and NHTI and downtown. It was discussed that the existing walkway is very narrow and does not easily accommodate pedestrian and bicycle traffic in both directions. In addition, due to its narrowness, the walkway over the bridge will not accommodate the City’s sidewalk snow removal equipment and, as such, has historically not been plowed in the winter months.

Discussion:

TPAC recommends that the City Council authorize the City Manager to advocate for improvements to this walkway as part of the proposed Concord 41468 project in the State’s 10-Year Transportation Improvement Plan.