



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Transportation



David Rodrigue, P.E.
Commissioner

Susan M. Klasen, P.E.
Assistant Commissioner

Michelle L. Winters
Deputy Commissioner

June 23, 2026

Michael Bezanson, PE
City Engineer
Engineering Services Division
City of Concord
41 Green Street
Concord, NH 03301

RE: CONCORD, X-A004(564), #41212
NH 9 (Loudon Road) over Merrimack River – Br. #163/111
State and Federal Aid Bridge Program
Bridge Investment Program (BIP) Grant Application Letter of Support Request

Dear Mike:

I am writing to request a letter of support from the City of Concord to the U.S. Department of Transportation regarding a one-time grant application to help fund the above noted Loudon Road Bridge project. The federal grant we are applying for, Bridge Investment Program (BIP), has several advantages to the City and the Department including:

- Enough funding to cover 80% of all Construction Phase costs including Construction Engineering,
- Enough funding to increase the scope of the project to include superstructure (steel girder) replacement that otherwise would likely be too expensive for the NHDOT LPA normal federally funded bridge program,
- With superstructure replacement rather than existing steel rehabilitations and modifications, the ability to save one or maybe two construction seasons, thereby having a significant reduction to local traffic impacts during construction,
- The ability to reduce the City's current match requirement from 20% to 10%, therefore saving the City substantial funds (see table below),
- No additional grant requirements aside from the normal Federally funded bridge rules and regulations currently being applied to this City managed federally funded bridge rehabilitation project,
- The ability for the Department to increase the amount of funds going to other statewide local red listed bridges,
- No delays to the current project schedule or implementation timeline from this potential funding source change should be grant application be successful,
- No risk to the City should we not be successful with our grant application as we currently have an executed Local Public Agency (LPA) Municipal Agreement between NHDOT and the City that confirms our commitment to implement a bridge rehabilitation and widening project for the Loudon Rd Bridge over the Merrimack River.

The following table illustrates the potential cost savings for the City:

*Comparison of Costs	80% Federal Share	10% State Share	City Share 20% or 10%	Total
Current Cost: Construction Phase only including Construction Engineering and Inspection	\$25,600,000.00	\$0.00	\$6,400,000.00 (20%)	\$32,000,000.00
Proposed Cost: Construction Phase only (new superstructure with BIP Grant) includes Construction Engineering and Inspection	\$38,400,000.00	\$4,800,000.00	\$4,800,000.00 (10%)	\$48,000,000.00
		City Savings	\$1,600,000.00	

*Costs shown do not include Preliminary Engineering

The Department will be submitting this application on Monday June 29, 2026; however, letters of support can follow after the application submission deadline. As the City may need to receive City Council approval prior to issuing a letter of support, we are kindly asking to place this item on the July 2026 City Council agenda as a late item.

Once the City has the letter of support completed, it can be returned to me for forwarding to the U.S. DOT.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter and I look forward to helping you bring this project to the construction phase. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



C.R. Willeke, PE
Municipal Highways Engineer
Bureau of Planning and Community Assistance
Telephone: (603) 271-6472
Charles.r.willeke@dot.nh.gov

Attachment: Draft Letter of Support

cc via email: Tony Puntin