



JOHN H. LYNCH
Governor

State of New Hampshire

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August 21, 2009

Mr. Pat MacQueen
City Manager
Berlin City Hall
168 Main Street
Berlin, NH 03570

Dear Mr. MacQueen:

I am writing in support of the Androscoggin Valley Consortium request for federal Transportation Investment Generating Economy Recovery (TIGER) Grant funds to support the execution of a pavement rehabilitation and management program in the economically disadvantaged region of northern New Hampshire. The City of Berlin, the Town of Gorham, the Town of Shelburne, the Town of Milan, and the Town of Colebrook have partnered with the New Hampshire Department of Transportation to bring an integrated approach to restoring and maintaining connectivity in the region.

Due to the faltering paper industry, the Androscoggin Valley has been an economically distressed region of the state for many years. The recent economic downturn has heightened the problem with a recent shutdown of the Wausau pulp mill in Groveton and of an Ethan Allan facility employing hundreds of skilled workers. The City of Berlin and the Town of Colebrook have the some of the highest unemployment rates in the state.

TIGER grant funds will provide resources needed to bring a network in extremely poor condition into good repair. Once it is restored and a pavement management program is in place, the lifecycle costs of these facilities will be greatly reduced. The grant will create jobs to restore a key transportation network in the short term. A sustainable program to maintain the roads will ensure that the infrastructure can support the needs of new business development as the economy improves.

I am pleased to support the application for a TIGER discretionary grant to the City of Berlin on behalf of the Androscoggin Consortium for an integrated pavement maintenance and management program in the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John H. Lynch".

John H. Lynch
Governor