

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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DEBORA B. PIGNATELLI

September 4, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

As Executive Councilor for District One, I write in support of the application being submitted by the City of Berlin, the Town of Gorham, the Town of Shelburne, the Town of Colebrook, the Town of Milan and the New Hampshire Department of Transportation for a grant for Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery ("TIGER") funding. This road pavement rehabilitation and management program project deals with the paved roads in this economically stressed region of rural northern of New Hampshire. This region of New Hampshire, prior to the economic downturn, was already by far the most economically distressed region in the state due to the closing of the major pulp and paper mills that had been the economic engine of the region for a century earlier. Berlin and Colebrook, NH have the highest unemployment rates in the state.

Because of the economic decimation in this region, the paved streets and roads in the City of Berlin and the surrounding towns have been deteriorating for many years and currently are, in many cases, in a state total disrepair. The closest interstate is I-93 some 43 miles away. The future of this region is highly dependent on a rural road system that must be raised from its current patchwork condition to a reliable system that affords mobility through the region. The ability to attract and retain people and business is highly dependent on a first class rural road network.

This project will take a "best practice" approach to refurbishing these paved roads to a standard and then managing their continued maintenance in a far more cost efficient way in the future which will result in a substantially lower cost of continued maintenance. The communities will benefit tremendously from this major improvement to their transportation infrastructure making them more marketable to outside businesses.

This project demonstrates what can be accomplished when the municipalities in a region work together with local and state offices to accomplish an important regional improvement. It is this kind of collaboration that makes this project stand out!

Sincerely,


Raymond S. Burton
Executive Councilor

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