



State of New Hampshire

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCORD

August 20, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter will serve as a strong letter of support for the application being submitted by the New Hampshire northern municipalities of Berlin, Gorham, Shelburne, Colebrook, Milan and, the NH Department of Transportation for a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant. Funding will provide for a demonstration road pavement rehabilitation and management program project dealing with the paved roads in the economically stressed county of Coös located in the rural region of northern New Hampshire.

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

The project will ensure a "best practice" approach to refurbish these paved roads to a standard followed by a management plan to ensure continued maintenance in a far more cost effective way which ultimately will result in a substantial lower cost of on-going maintenance. The above municipalities will benefit a great deal from this major improvement to their transportation infrastructure rendering them more competitive and marketable for outside businesses wishing to relocate.

The above project clearly demonstrates what may be accomplished when municipalities in a region work together with local state offices to accomplish an important regional improvement which may serve as a model for other regions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert L. Théberge".

NH-State Representative

Robert L. Théberge

Coös District 4