

## THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



Victoria F. Sheehan Commissioner

October 22, 2020

City of Berlin City Councilors 168 Main Street Berlin, NH 03570

Re:

Conway Bypass Project # 11339

Dear Councilors:

I write to inform you of the New Hampshire Department of Transportation's intent regarding the future of the Conway Bypass Project. As you may know, on October 11, 2017, the Department hosted an informational meeting to discuss the outlook of the Conway Bypass. As discussed at the meeting, the 25-year projected traffic volumes through the corridor have not increased as was anticipated in 1993. Upgrades to US Route 302/NH Route 16, as well as the construction of the North South Local Road have improved the overall traffic flow through much of the area.

The current draft Ten Year Plan, presently before the Legislature, does not include the Bypass project, nor has the project been appropriately funded for over the last 10 years. I believe it is generally acknowledged and understood, and has been for some time, that there are realistically no resources and the wherewithal to construct the Conway Bypass, and as such the disposition of the corridor needs to be finally and formally determined. Accordingly, the Department will present a resolution to the Governor and Executive Council to formally dissolve the project layout. Dissolving the project layout will remove the cloud of uncertainty over the community and allow the Department to begin the process of disposing the properties acquired for the project, thus allowing them to be placed back on the Town's tax roll.

The community's patience over the past several years has been appreciated.

Sincerely,

Victoria F. Sheehan Commissioner

cc:

Sen. David Starr

Rep. Larry Laflanne

Rep. Henry Noel

Rep. Yvonne Thomas

Michelle Moren-Grey, North Country Council