



**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**



*Victoria F. Sheehan*  
*Commissioner*

*William Cass, P.E.*  
*Assistant Commissioner*

February 11, 2021

Mr. Paul Grenier  
Mayor  
City of Berlin  
168 Main Street  
Berlin, NH 03570

Mr. Michael Caron, Chair  
Berlin Industrial Development and Park Authority

Mr. Bronson Frizzell, President  
Androscoggin Valley Chamber of Commerce

**RE: NH-110/ Urban Compact discussion, Berlin**

Dear Messrs.:

I am writing in response to your January 11, 2021 letter regarding NH 110 and the proposal to lower the speed limit on the segment of NH 110 between Dalton Motor Sports and the entrance to Jericho Mountain State Park. We recognize the Chamber of Commerce's, the Development Authority's, and the City's cooperative efforts and strong interest in ATV friendly redevelopment opportunities along the NH 110 Corridor. The Department has been actively engaged in discussions with the community in considering how best this could be achieved. Most recently these discussions revolved around the process and timing of the City assuming jurisdictional management and control of this segment on NH 110. This most recent request to just alter the speed limit was surprising and a departure from those recent discussions and the direction being pursued.

This is not a new issue or request. I believe discussions dating back to 2017 about extending the Urban Compact and Berlin assuming jurisdiction of this section of NH 110 were precipitated by similar requests to modify the speed limit to allow ATV use on NH 110. Consistent with prior NHDOT responses with regard to lowering the speed limit on this section of NH 110, I'm afraid we cannot support this proposal. RSA 215-A:9 & :10 and NHDOT policy accommodates permitting on-road ATV use only when the speed limit is not more than 40 mph. This is intended to facilitate reasonable localized connections in lower speed, built up areas while also recognizing the safety implications associated with shared ATV use on higher speed, open roadways. The speed limit on this section of NH 110 has been previously reviewed and the present 50 MPH posting has been determined appropriate for the use and character of the road and abutting land uses. To arbitrarily alter the speed limit along this section for the specific purpose of facilitating ATV use and

promoting related commercial development to change the character of the highway is contrary to the intent of the Policy governing on-road ATV use and the associated safety implications. Essentially, it would be an example of the chicken before the egg in that we would be allowing ATV use with acknowledged speeds well in excess of those considered safe for shared use in the hope that subsequent land use changes would result in reduced traffic speeds. Accordingly, the Department cannot in good conscience support the proposed speed limit change.

Again, we recognize the ATV related development opportunities that improved ATV access along NH 110 to Jericho Mountain State Park presents. I also acknowledge the intention of the City taking responsibility for the roadway if both the City and NHDOT can reach a satisfactory agreement. We believe that would be the preferred way to facilitate and promote the ATV friendly development the City desires. The Department is committed to continue to work with the City to achieve this and has laid out the parameters, process and some options to consider in prior correspondence. We look forward to working with the City and stakeholders toward that end.

Sincerely,



William Cass, P.E.  
Assistant Commissioner

cc: V. Sheehan  
D. Rodrigue  
P. Beaulieu

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