

18  
Amr.

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



*Victoria F. Sheehan*  
Commissioner

*William Cass, P.E.*  
Assistant Commissioner

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu  
and the Honorable Council  
State House  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Bureau of Bridge Design  
September 8, 2020

**REQUESTED ACTION**

Pursuant to RSA 228:39, authorize the Department of Transportation to enter into an Interstate Bridge Agreement with the State of Vermont to allow the Department to bill Vermont for costs associated with bridge rehabilitation efforts on the bridge (NH Br. No. 109/134) carrying NH Route 18 over the Connecticut River between Littleton, New Hampshire, and Waterford, Vermont, effective upon Governor and Council approval, and continuing through engineering design, construction, inspection, and final acceptance of the completed project, in accordance with the Department's 10-Year Transportation Improvement Plan. (Project costs will be shared 67% by NH and 33% by VT).

**EXPLANATION**

The Department is required by RSA 228:39 to enter into an Agreement with an adjoining State, with the approval of Governor and Executive Council, before undertaking a joint project with that State. This project proposes to rehabilitate the above referenced bridge and includes preliminary design, final design, and construction activities. This project (Littleton, NH – Waterford, VT - 27711) is planned in FY 2025 with an estimated construction cost of \$4,000,000.00. Constructed in 1934 and rehabilitated in 1980, this five-span, 530 foot long, deck plate girder with concrete deck structure is in need of deck rehabilitation to extend its life cycle and minimize the overall life cycle cost to maintain this crossing.

The Agreement, after approval by Governor and Council, allows New Hampshire to bill Vermont for Vermont's share of costs for engineering design and applicable construction work incurred by New Hampshire. The division of costs between New Hampshire and Vermont for this project is 67% by New Hampshire and 33% by Vermont, as stated in the Agreement. This cost sharing is based on the location of the State Line and the portions of the bridge located in each state.

The Agreement has been approved by the Attorney General as to form and execution. This Agreement does not involve commitment of funds. Copies of the fully-executed Agreement are on file at the Secretary of State's Office and the Department of Administrative Services and subsequent to Governor and Council approval will be on file at the Department of Transportation.

It is respectfully requested that authority be given for this Interstate Agreement, as outlined above.

Sincerely,

Victoria F. Sheehan  
Commissioner

Attachments

**INTERSTATE AGREEMENT**

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE AND STATE OF VERMONT

LITTLETON, NH – WATERFORD, VT

CONNECTICUT RIVER BRIDGES NOS. 23 - NH BR. NOS. 109/134

NH STATE PROJECT NO. 27711

CA #: OA0028

**DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION PHASES**

THIS AGREEMENT is made this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ by and between the State of New Hampshire, represented by its Department of Transportation, hereinafter referred to as the NHDOT, and the State of Vermont, represented by its Agency of Transportation, hereinafter referred to as VTrans, as follows:

1. The NHDOT will prepare and administer the design and construction of a project to rehabilitate the superstructure of the existing Red List bridge carrying NH 18 over the Connecticut River (NH Br. No. 109/134 and Connecticut River Br. No 23) between the Town of Littleton, NH, and the Town of Waterford, VT. The work includes addressing the poor components (substructure and superstructure) of this bridge and all associated highway approach work. Whereas funding for the project is currently in NH's Ten-Year Plan for construction in federal fiscal year 2025, NH and VT agree to jointly develop a design schedule that is mutually agreeable.

2. The division of all costs for this project will be as follows:

a. Design Costs:

- All design costs for the bridge portion of the project, as designed by the NHDOT and reviewed and approved by VTrans, shall be charged at 67% New Hampshire and 33% Vermont. This division of costs is computed on the basis of the location of the state line as recorded in the Connecticut River Bridge Records and shall apply to preliminary design, final design, and design indirect costs.
- NHDOT shall perform all the necessary design for the roadway approaches in New Hampshire and Vermont, and shall incorporate that design into the overall project plans. For work performed by NHDOT relative to project scoping and determination of project and structure limits, the costs shall be shared on the basis of the bridge ownership lengths. Costs incurred by VTrans in coordinating the design with NHDOT or in providing review of the NHDOT design shall be 100% the responsibility of VTrans.

b. Environmental, Archaeological, and Cultural Resource Costs:

- VTrans shall reimburse NHDOT 100% for the cost of any work regarding environmental, archaeological, and cultural resources located in or associated with Vermont but that is performed or administered by NHDOT.
- NHDOT shall be responsible for 100% of the cost of any work regarding environmental, archaeological, and cultural resources located in or associated with New Hampshire.

c. Right-of-Way Costs:

- All Right-of-Way costs incurred for this project by each State shall be paid in their entirety by the State for which the costs were incurred and shall not be included in any shared costs.

d. Construction Costs:

- The NHDOT will pay all costs for all work performed by the NHDOT, other NH agencies, consultants, and contractors in the construction of this project, including construction engineering and overhead costs. VTrans shall reimburse the NHDOT for its proportional share including indirect costs, based on the following:

- Costs for the superstructure of the shared bridge, any temporary bridge, access for bridge construction (including ROW need), (if required), and Mobilization, shall be shared as described above in Paragraph 2(a) of this Agreement, i.e., 33% Vermont and 67% New Hampshire.

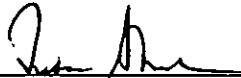
- o VTrans shall reimburse NHDOT for 100% of the costs for the Vermont roadway approaches, the Vermont substructure of the bridge, and all environmental work based on the cost of the actual work performed in Vermont.
  - o VTrans shall reimburse NHDOT for the costs for Field Offices, all Traffic Control items, and any other item not otherwise specified, at a ratio defined as the Vermont project length (State Line to end of project in Vermont) divided by the total project length, including the bridge and approaches.
3. Any funds received by the NHDOT from the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Innovative Bridge Research and Deployment (IBRD) Program, or other such similar and program specific funds, shall be applied to the project construction superstructure costs prior to determining the final cost distribution for each State.
  4. VTrans will make progress payments, if requested, based upon bills rendered by the NHDOT. Any bills sent to VTrans for project payment shall show all previous payments made by VTrans for this project as a credit toward the amount owed to the NHDOT for each phase. Following completion, final inspection, and acceptance by VTrans of the portion of the project within the State of Vermont and the rendering of bills for that portion by the NHDOT to VTrans, VTrans will pay the NHDOT for the remainder of its portion of the audited final costs.
  5. VTrans shall have the right at all reasonable times to inspect and review all plans, contracts, documents, books, vouchers and records pertaining to the bridge project contemplated by this Agreement, including, but not limited to, accounting and auditing records upon which the costs to VTrans are to be based.
  6. VTrans will be responsible for acquiring any permits, utility agreements or other agreements, and any right-of-way acquisitions that relate solely to the Vermont portion of the project. Prior to advertisement for construction, VTrans shall provide copies to NHDOT of all permits, clearances, and agreements for which VTrans is responsible. All other permits, agreements, and acquisitions will be the responsibility of the NHDOT. All costs associated with obtaining the permits and agreements that are specifically for the bridge shall be shared as described above in Paragraph 2 of this Agreement.
  7. The NHDOT will coordinate with VTrans relative to any Public Meetings. Further, the NHDOT will attend any such Public Meetings held in Vermont or New Hampshire to present the project and participate in discussions, as needed and as appropriate.
  8. The NHDOT will submit preliminary plans to VTrans for review and comment. VTrans will respond in writing with their comments and approval prior to any substantive work being performed on the final design of the project by NHDOT. VTrans shall process its review and comment in a timely manner.
  9. NHDOT shall not move from Alternative Analysis to Selected Preferred Alternative without written agreement from VTrans.
  10. NHDOT shall not move from Selected Preferred Alternative to completion of NEPA without written agreement from VTrans.
  11. The NHDOT will send final contract documents to VTrans for review and comment. No portion of this project shall be advertised for construction until the review is complete and all comments resolved, at which time VTrans will approve in writing the advertisement of the project. VTrans shall process its review and comments in a timely manner.
  12. The NHDOT will give VTrans the opportunity to review the contract bids. The construction contract will not be awarded until NHDOT receives a letter of concurrence from VTrans. VTrans shall process its review and comments in a timely manner.

13. NHDOT will notify VTrans when construction of this project is complete, at which time VTrans will inspect the portion of work located in Vermont and will notify the NHDOT of either acceptance of the project or items needing correction. The NHDOT will not make the final billing to VTrans until the Vermont portion has been accepted in writing by VTrans.
14. This Agreement, and all obligations of the parties hereunder, shall become effective on the date of approval of this Agreement by the Governor and Executive Council of the State of New Hampshire.

This AGREEMENT executed on the day and date first above written.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
Department of Transportation

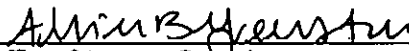
STATE OF VERMONT  
Agency of Transportation

By: 

By: E-SIGNED by Joe Flynn  
on 2020-08-07 15:44:42 EST

This AGREEMENT has been reviewed and is approved as to form and execution.

Date: 9/17/20

  
Office of Attorney General  
State of New Hampshire

Date: August 07, 2020

E-SIGNED by Leslie Welts  
on 2020-08-07 15:42:27 EST  
Office of Attorney General  
State of Vermont

This is to certify that the GOVERNOR AND COUNCIL of the State of New Hampshire on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ approved this AGREEMENT as Item # \_\_\_\_\_.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of State of New Hampshire