



## CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

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Rick Becksted  
Mayor

January 21, 2020

Chairman John Cloutier  
House Public Works and Highways Committee  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

Re: City of Portsmouth's Written Testimony in support of HB 1650

Chairman Cloutier and Members of the House Public Works and Highways Committee:

The elected officials and delegates from the City of Portsmouth have worked for decades to try to get a Type II noise abatement program in place for certain neighborhoods abutting major highways in the City. I am pleased to report to the Committee that these decades of hard work have paid off. The City enacted a Highway Noise Overlay District and met the other necessary requirements and on July 8, 2019, Portsmouth was accepted into the NH Department of Transportation's Type II Noise Abatement Program. The City has the distinction of being the first community to meet the eligibility requirements for participation in the Type II Noise Abatement Program. The Department of Transportation anticipated completing a pilot Type II community noise assessment in order to identify the noise abatement measure for the City and provide those results of the noise assessment to the City.

Unfortunately, the design and construction of the identified Type II noise abatement is subject to available funds within the Department of Transportation's Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan (TYP). At present, there is NO funding identified in the TYP for Type II Noise Abatement.

On behalf of the Portsmouth City Council and the citizens of Portsmouth I urge this Committee to vote Ought to Pass on HB 1650 because it would provide the long awaited funding to create the much needed noise abatement relief that the citizens of Portsmouth and many other New Hampshire communities need.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Becksted".

Rick Becksted, Mayor of the City of Portsmouth  
On behalf of the Portsmouth City Council

cc: Legislative Subcommittee  
Karen Conard, City Manager  
Portsmouth Legislative Delegates