

VIA EMAIL January 18, 2022

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

I write today to support the Department of Transportation's Ten Year Plan as Mayor of the City of Portsmouth. We are thankful that DOT has sought to include sound barriers as part of the upcoming lane widening project for the I 95 lane corridor. It's been a long road with many involved to successfully make the case that sound mitigation is an essential part to quality of life for our residents and affected neighborhoods. We thank the DOT and the members of the Committee for supporting this plan.

I'd be remiss if I did not raise one question that I'd leave with the Committee both as Mayor and as a father. The New Franklin School was left off the project list for sound barriers in this plan. This comes down, as I understand, to a calculation that compares frontage with no further evaluation of use. For example, there is no differentiation between the assessment for a school and a cemetery.

I'd ask the Committee to look at this policy in light of the needs of our children.

Thank you for your consideration and support of the Ten Year Plan.

Mayor Deaglan McEachern
City of Portsmouth NH