



October 7, 2011

Ms. Cynthia Copeland
Executive Director
Strafford Regional Planning Commission
150 Wakefield Street, Suite 12
Rochester, NH 03867

Dear Cynthia:

COAST is formally requesting the inclusion of its long envisioned Spaulding Express Bus Service in the upcoming NH STIP Amendment #4. This project was originally approved by the CMAQ committee in the early 2000 time frame and COAST is in the process of firming up a near term implementation. The funds as originally approved for this project were already transferred by the FHWA to the FTA, at the request of the NHDOT.

The near term implementation of the project will include employment-based commuter service along the Spaulding Turnpike commuter corridor during the peak AM and PM commuting period, with an extension of the originally envisioned service to the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. The project is estimated to attract nearly 260,000 passengers, removing over 3.6 million vehicle miles of travel within the region.

Unfortunately for all involved, the project was apparently "lost" in the last round of preparing the TIP/STIP and we now find ourselves in the position of having to add it back entirely into the Program. As we understand, this will force the revision of the off-model air quality analysis.

Attached please find information on the revised project which will allow for staff to perform the necessary air quality analysis and for it to be reinserted in the STIP.

Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rad Nichols", written over a white background.

Rad Nichols
Executive Director

cc: Cliff Sinnott, RPC
Bill Watson, NHDOT
Kit Morgan, NHDOT