State of New Hampshire
By His Excellency
John H. Lynch, Governor

Executive Order 2010-4

AN ORDER ESTABLISHING A BI-STATE BRIDGE FUNDING TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, New Hampshire and Maine jointly own three bridges across the Piscataqua River connecting Portsmouth, New Hampshire and Kittery, Maine: the Piscataqua River Bridge hereinafter referred to as the High Level Bridge, which carries Interstate 95, the Sarah Mildred Long Bridge, which carries the US 1 Bypass, and the Memorial Bridge, which carries US Route 1; and

WHEREAS, these bridges are essential to the movement of people and goods between and through the two states, serving as the primary travel route between population centers to our south and through to Canada to the north as well as key routes for people and goods between and within our states; and

WHEREAS, the Memorial Bridge, built in 1923, links the thriving business, social, religious and arts communities of Kittery and Portsmouth, is the only bicycle and pedestrian crossing of the Piscataqua River, supports community cohesion and quality of life, and has experienced structural deterioration that would necessitate closure within one to three years; and

WHEREAS, the Sarah Mildred Long Bridge, built in 1940, provides a critical link across the river, including a rail line used to transport heavy freight to the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, which employs approximately 4,200 workers, heavy truck transit to and from the commercial service stations along the US 1 Bypass, serves as a critical back-up route in the event of a disruption of service on Interstate 95, and has experienced structural deterioration reducing its life expectancy to five to seven years for vehicle traffic; and

WHEREAS, following many years of evaluation and discussion, New Hampshire and Maine agree that replacement of the Memorial Bridge, replacement or extensive rehabilitation of the Sarah Mildred Long Bridge, and on-going maintenance and repair of the High Level Bridge are necessary to maintain and improve existing connections, service levels, and mobility; and

WHEREAS, the financial resources needed to address these bridges are extensive, currently estimated at $200 million to $300 million in capital costs over the next several years, which will require legislative approval; and

WHEREAS, New Hampshire and Maine seek a cooperative, comprehensive, sustainable, cost-effective, and long-term solution that addresses all three bridges;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN H. LYNCH, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me under Part II, Article 41 of the New Hampshire Constitution, do hereby establish the Bi-State Bridge Funding Task Force ("Task Force") to work with the State of Maine Bi-State Bridge Funding Task Force established this same day by Executive Order of His Excellency John E. Baldacci, Governor of Maine, to coordinate the states' long-term financing plan for the capital and operating needs of the bi-state transportation corridor, as follows:

1. The Task Force shall be known as the Bi-State Bridge Funding Task Force.

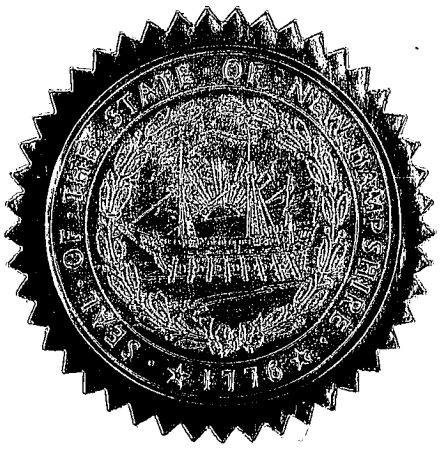
2. The New Hampshire members of Task Force shall be the New Hampshire Commissioner of Transportation, George Campbell, the Executive Councilor from District 3, Honorable Beverly Hollingworth, and Henry B. Stebbins of Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

3. The duties of the Task Force are as follows:

   a. Identify mechanisms that will allow the two states to jointly identify and maximize funding for the replacement, rehabilitation, repair, maintenance, and operation of the three bridges;
   b. Identify methods to jointly structure financing for the replacement of the Memorial Bridge, the replacement or rehabilitation of the Sarah Mildred Long Bridge and the repair of the High Level Bridge;
   c. Propose such legislation that may be necessary in each state to facilitate the funding structure and other contractual authority for state agencies or authorities consistent with each state's laws; and
   d. Deliver a report to the Governors of the States of New Hampshire and Maine no later than December 15, 2010 with the proposals and recommended legislation required by this Order.

4. All New Hampshire state agencies and departments shall make reasonable efforts to cooperate with the Task Force and shall furnish such information and assistance as the Task Force reasonably deems necessary to accomplish its purposes.

5. The New Hampshire Department of Transportation shall be the lead New Hampshire agency in furnishing assistance to the Task Force.



Given under my hand and seal at the City of Portsmouth, this 5th day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand and ten.

Governor of New Hampshire