

## Belmont's Seavey Road intersection project receives funding

By ED PIERCE

[epierce@citizen.com](mailto:epierce@citizen.com)

BELMONT — Funding for a long anticipated highway project in Belmont has been included in a five-year \$350 billion transportation bill approved by the U.S. Senate on Thursday.

During a conference call with transportation officials and the media on Thursday afternoon, New Hampshire U.S. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen said support for passing the bill was bipartisan and welcome relief for the state's beleaguered roads and bridges system.

"The Department of Transportation has 32 percent of roads rated poor or in poor condition in the state," Shaheen said. "This legislation will allow us to better address those needs in New Hampshire."

Among the funding is \$5.5 million to build turn lanes at the Route 106 and Seavey Road intersection in Belmont.

The project has been on the drawing board for the past few years awaiting funding as Route 106 is essentially unchanged from when it was first built in the 1940s. With a 50 mph speed limit on the road and only a stop sign at Seavey Road, the intersection can be deadly for motorists.

According to the state DOT automatic traffic recorder information dating back to October 2007, Route 106 north of Brown Hill Road averages 13,221 cars daily. Between 2003 and 2012, 31 crashes were reported near the Route 106 and Seavey Road intersection.

The project will widen the highway to allow for a right turn lane for cars traveling southbound, and add a left turn lane for vehicles traveling north. It will begin about 750 feet south of the intersection and end about 850 feet north of Seavey Road.

New Hampshire DOT Assistant Commissioner and Chief Engineer Bill Cass said the project will take place following \$800,000 of repaving work on Route 106 in Belmont and DOT will begin advertising for bids in April.