



Route 106 in Belmont to be widened, thanks to federal bill

BELMONT — Reconstruction of the intersection of state Route 106 and Seavey Road is among at least seven highway and bridge projects in New Hampshire that will be funded by five-year highway trust fund bill, which U.S. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen said yesterday Congress is expected to approve as early as this week.

Speaking to the press by telephone yesterday, Shaheen said that the bill is the first to provide long-term federal funding for road and bridge construction since 2003 and ensures funding that will enable state officials and private contractors to schedule and complete projects.

The improvements at the intersection of Route 106 and Seavey Road include widening Route 106 to provide turning lanes for both north- and southbound traffic entering Seavey Road and widening Seavey Road from 26 feet to 40 feet, as well as configuring the junction for vehicles turning onto Route 106 to accommodate school buses and box trucks.

Bill Cass, assistant commissioner and chief engineer of the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, estimated the cost of the project, including construction and resurfacing, at approximately \$5 million. With the assurance of funding, he anticipated the project would be advertised in April.

Christian Zimmerman, president of Pike Industries of Belmont who joined the press call, welcomed the bill, which he stressed would provide the "certainty that we can stay busy for the next five years." He said contractors have been downsizing for some time and the assurance of funding "will reverse that trend and enable us to increase employment and invest in our business."

Zimmerman was echoed by Gary Abbott, executive vice president of the Associated General Contractors of New Hampshire, who estimated the legislation would return some \$15 million in federal funding to New Hampshire during the next five years and accelerate the projects in the state's Ten-Year Highway Plan.

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