

March 29, 2006

To the Editor:

The report released yesterday by The Road Information Program (TRIP) that gave New Hampshire a grade of "D" for both its bridge and road conditions, and a "C" for safety and congestion, failed to mention that over the next few years, millions of dollars will be available for the state to upgrade its roadways.

The TRIP report pointed out, "While only 45 percent of travel takes place on New Hampshire's rural, non-Interstate roads, 61 percent of fatalities occur on these roads." The greatest single type of crash on these roads is "run off road." There are many cost-effective ways to address this problem, including a larger quantity of brighter warning signs, more reflective roadway markings that benefit all motorists, and rumble strips and "rumble stripes" where a reflective marking is laid over the rumble strip.

New Hampshireites can be confident that the N.H.-DOT will address this issue directly through the new federally funded Highway Safety Improvement Program. Under this new program, the state will receive over \$5 million annually for four years, specifically for roadway safety projects. The DOT is currently developing a "Strategic Highway Safety Plan" to make roadways safer for New Hampshire drivers and visitors. I myself look forward to visiting your beautiful state in May.

Sincerely,

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