



**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**



*Victoria F. Sheehan*  
*Commissioner*

*William Cass, P.E.*  
*Assistant Commissioner*

August 19, 2016

Town of Chesterfield  
Board of Selectmen  
PO Box 175  
Chesterfield, NH 03443

Dear Select Board:

I am writing as a follow up to discussions at the August 1, 2016 meeting and the Town's August 10 letter regarding the recently installed rumble strips along NH 9 in Chesterfield. We acknowledge the concerns expressed by a significant number of citizens who provided feedback including, constant noise from the rumble strips, loss of sleep, quality of life, the residential zoning of NH 9, the potential impact to businesses and property values, and the lack of advance notice or the opportunity for public input in advance of the project. Given the level of negative feedback, the Department believes remedial action is warranted to address and rectify the situation.

At the meeting, we discussed specific targeted areas for removal. However, it is clear from the feedback received that a more comprehensive remediation is warranted. Toward that end, the Department is planning to take the following actions:

1. The edge line rumble stripes on the white line along the length of NH 9 from Keene to the Vermont border will be removed – milled and paved in. Future installations of shoulder rumble strips, further offset from the white line, may be considered at some point.
2. The centerline rumble strips on NH 9 will remain. This is consistent with the rest of the NH 9 corridor of similar width and character.

We believe this will address the majority of concerns that have been brought forward. The Town had requested the complete removal of the rumble strips including those on the centerline. We recognize this concern, but believe there are very real safety benefits to be gained in deterring centerline encroachment and crossovers, especially noting character and speeds along NH 9.

We have engaged a contractor to perform the work. When we have a definitive schedule, we will advise the Town and the abutters. The contractor expects to accomplish the work in the next 2-4 weeks.

We believe that installing rumble strips is a worthwhile safety benefit. However, we recognize the need to reevaluate and modify our guidelines for placement and location of rumble strips, as well as

the need to improve public participation, outreach, and awareness. We regret the frustration that this project has caused and the need for remediation.

Thank you for your patience as we have listened to concerns, completed field reviews, have tried to determine the best way to proceed, and have made arrangements for the remediation with a contractor.

With regard to the Road Safety audit for NH 9 and NH 63 intersection, the report is mostly finished and overdue. We will look to complete the report by the end of September. The results will be shared and discussed with the community to determine the next steps.

In the letter we received from the town it was also requested that we attend a meeting to present our recommendations. We are happy to do so. Please contact William Cass at 271-1484 to discuss a time and date.

Sincerely,



Victoria F. Sheehan  
Commissioner

cc: Her Excellency, Margaret Wood Hassan, Governor  
Councilor Colin Van Ostern, Executive Councilor, Dist. 2  
Senator Molly Kelly  
The Honorable Michael Abbott, State Representative  
The Honorable Paul Berch, State Representative  
The Honorable Tara Sad, State Representative  
The Honorable Lucy Weber, State Representative  
William Cass, Assistant Commissioner  
Ted Kitsis, NHDOT  
Ronald Grandmaison, NHDOT  
John Kallfelz, NHDOT