43 Adm

New Hampshire DOT
Department of Transportation

# THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

*Victoria F. Sheehan*
*Commissioner*

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

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Bureau of Mechanical Services
November 5, 2021

**REQUESTED ACTION**

Pursuant to ADM 611.08(g), the Department of Transportation is requesting to increase the fleet by one attenuator truck, to be assigned to Highway Maintenance, effective upon approval from Governor and Council.

**EXPLANATION**

I-93 has undergone substantial construction over the last decade essentially expanding 20.2 miles of interstate highway from 2 lanes to 4 lanes. I-93 is now open to four lanes from the Massachusetts state line to the interchange with I-293 in Manchester. With this expansion, traffic volume has increased and the motorists are traveling at a greater rate of speed that adds to the risk level to those who maintain said highway. This creates the need to add better protection to our highway workers.

Attenuator trucks are an important safety tool on interstate worksites and motor vehicle accidents. These trucks are specially designed and configured to absorb the impact of an oncoming motor vehicle to protect the personnel on the job site or first responders on the scene of an accident or other work assignments.

For attenuator trucks, we repurpose an existing plow truck that has been utilized for maintenance activities, but still has useful life and is relatively mechanically sound. Repurposing an existing truck is felt to be the best use of funding, as attenuator trucks are felt to be sacrificial in the event they fulfill their purpose and experience a collision. Attenuator trucks are dedicated for such purpose and allow us to operate more efficiently and react quickly to offer protection. We avoid attaching an attenuator unit to an operating plow truck because if the attenuator gets hit, as it's designed to, then a plow truck may be down for significant repair and may not be available for winter operations. In addition, adding and removing the attenuator components (attenuator unit and message board) creates a level of complexity for the operators. The Department also utilizes attenuator-trailer configurations, but they are difficult to back up and not suited for interstate operations.

Having a dedicated truck, with message board and its own attenuator unit is more efficient when DOT is called on to respond to motor vehicle accidents or other work assignments in a timely manner. The higher speeds and traffic volumes on this section of I-93 causes a need for an attenuator truck more than ever before.

Your approval of this resolution is respectfully requested.

Sincerely,

Victoria F. Sheehan

Victoria F. Sheehan
Commissioner

JOHN O. MORTON BUILDING • 7 HAZEN DRIVE • P.O. BOX 483 • CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03302-0483
TELEPHONE: 603-271-2171 • FAX: 603-271-7025 • TDD ACCESS: RELAY NH 1-800-735-2964 • INTERNET: WWW.NHDOT.COM