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The State of New Hampshire
Department of Transportation



David Rodrigue, P.E.
Commissioner

Susan M. Klasen, P.E.
Assistant Commissioner

Michelle L. Winters
Deputy Commissioner

Her Excellency, Governor Kelly A. Ayotte
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, NH 03301

Bureau of Finance
August 14, 2026

Requested Action

The Department of Transportation requests approval to pay small claims for the current fiscal year, July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027. At the conclusion of the State fiscal year, the Department will submit a report identifying the small claims activity.

Explanation

RSA 228:29 authorizes the Commissioner to use funds accruing to the Department of Transportation for the payment of small claims occasioned by accidents due to the activities of the Department of Transportation. Any person claiming damage due to the activities of the Department of Transportation may seek payment of the small claim if the amount is less than \$2,000 for FY 2027.

To improve efficiency in processing these small claims, and to be more responsive to those claimants' awaiting payment for a small claim, the Department of Transportation initiated a blanket approval process at the beginning of Fiscal Year 1996. The revised process was approved by Governor and Council on July 19, 1995 as (Item #171). The process requires the Department of Transportation to seek approval from Governor and Council prior to each Fiscal Year and to submit the claims paid in the previous Fiscal Year.

Each claim is investigated and thoroughly reviewed before approval (or denial) by the Assistant Commissioner. The investigations can take some time and when a decision is reached, claimants are often anxious to receive timely compensation. The annual reporting provides the Council with an overall summary of the claim activity and promotes transparency. This process has proven to be a long time efficient and practical means of administering these small claims.

Your consideration of this request is respectfully requested.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "DR", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

David M. Rodrigue, P.E.
Commissioner