

**Watson, Bill** <BWatson@dot.state.nh.us>  
to me, Benoit, Patrick, Shelley, Louis, Nancy, Tom

Oct 7 (10 days ago)



Good Morning Jo –

Thank you for your patience. My wife passed away about 2 ½ weeks ago, and we are still going through the process of healing, figuring out the new normal for myself and the kids, and just started back at work yesterday.

The Department is sympathetic to the impacts that Haverhill (and other communities such as Claremont) are feeling. FHWA has interpreted the federal rules in a way that may be different from when the rail corridors were purchased in the 1990s. It is also possible that FHWA did not see any issues at the time of the original application. However, FHWA has not allowed any leeway in the current interpretation, as was evident with the recent Claremont waiver request that was deemed incomplete and not approved. And in fact, potential options that were identified by FHWA for a similar situation in Claremont to remedy the circumstances you are now in. some of these options FHWA is now determining to be potentially unallowable.

The NH Department of Transportation does not have funding available to assist in the purchase back of these corridors.

And as eluded to above, FHWA has recently indicated to us that purchasing these corridors back (or repaying FHWA for federal funds used) may not allow for the lifting of restricted use.

If they were to allow for payback I do not expect that there is any consideration for depreciation.

And they have also indicated that these Corridors must be protected in perpetuity.

These issues are handled by FHWA on a case by case basis.

If you would like to meet in person to see some of the information we have available, I would recommend that you come down to Concord. This is something that we have spent a significant amount of time and effort on with the City of Claremont, and the information is all directly transferable to your circumstances in Haverhill.

**Regards,**  
**Bill**