



Town of  
**Lyme**  
NEW HAMPSHIRE  
Chartered 1761

**TOWN OF LYME  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
1 HIGH STREET  
P.O. BOX 126  
LYME, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03768  
603-795-4639**

Judith L. Brotman  
Benjamin Kilham  
David Kahn

October 13, 2022

Jennifer E. Reczek, P.E.  
Project Manager/Bridge Consultant Design Chief  
State of New Hampshire  
Department of Transportation  
121 South Fruit Street  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: Closure of Lyme/East Thetford Bridge During Bridge Repair/Rehabilitation

Dear Ms. Reczek:

The Select Board of the Town of Lyme (the "Select Board") wishes to express its concern regarding the announced upcoming closure of the Lyme/East Thetford Bridge (the "Bridge") while the Bridge is being repaired and rehabilitated. It is our understanding that NHDOT currently anticipates a closure of the Bridge lasting up to 18 months while the necessary work is undertaken. (See, "Rehab of Lyme-East Thetford Bridge Could Keep Span Closed For 18 Months," Justin Campfield, Valley News, September 26, 2022.) Such a protracted closure of the Bridge will, we fear, impose significant economic and other hardships on residents and businesses in the Town of Lyme.

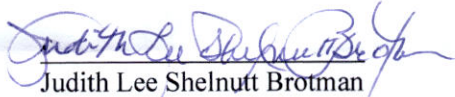
Many Lyme residents regularly conduct business in Thetford and surrounding communities. Lyme residents buy fuel, eat at restaurants, obtain medical/pediatric and childcare services, and use VT 113 to access the 91 highway. Likewise, many businesses and individuals in Lyme employ individuals who rely on the Bridge to travel to their jobs. Schools and childcare facilities on both sides of the Bridge draw both students and teachers/staff from across the Connecticut River, and some of these institutions will undoubtedly lose students as a result of a protracted Bridge closure. During the Bridge's closure, the required detour, either through Hanover/Norwich or Orford/Fairlee, will be long, time-consuming, and, in many cases, is likely to be impractical and/or cost-prohibitive. The Select Board is therefore concerned that the lengthy closure of the Bridge currently envisioned will disrupt many of the arrangements and relationships currently enjoyed by Lyme residents and businesses, resulting in very real economic losses and other difficulties.

The Select Board recognizes the importance of the planned rehabilitation of the Bridge, and the complexity and multiple challenges associated with a project of this type. Nevertheless, the Select Board

respectfully requests that the Department of Transportation explore means by which the hardships associated with the closure of the Bridge during its rehabilitation can be avoided or reduced. As always, we would be happy to meet with you and or members of your team to discuss steps that might be taken to mitigate the hardships to Lyme residents and businesses associated with the planned rehabilitation work.

Thank you for your time and attention, and for all of your work and efforts to get our Bridge back into great condition.

Sincerely,



Judith Lee Shelnuft Brotman  
Lyme Select Board



Benjamin Kilham



David Kahr

Cc: District 12 representatives-

Mary A. Hakken-Phillips: 79 Lebanon Street Hanover, NH 03755

Russell Muirhead: 11 Lyme Road Hanover, NH 03755

James Michael Murphy: Hanover, NH 03755

Sharon L. Nordgren: 23 Rope Ferry Road Hanover, NH 03755-1404