

**Federal Railroad Administrator Joseph C. Szabo
Prepared Remarks
TIGER Announcement Event
Rochester, New Hampshire
September 6, 2013**

Good morning.

I'm honored to be here with New Hampshire DOT Deputy Commissioner Mike Pillsbury and CEO of Boston Sand & Gravel Dean Boylan

And on behalf of President Obama and Secretary Foxx, I am honored to announce a \$1.4 million TIGER grant to the New Hampshire Department of Transportation.

TIGER stands for Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery.

The program catalyzes economic growth, creating good-paying jobs while building a stronger transportation system for future generations.

It's been four years since the program was created through the Recovery Act.

And through five rounds, in all 50 states, TIGER has invested in transportation projects – just like this one – that state, city, and community leaders tell us are essential. These are projects that target aging infrastructure, as President Obama has proposed to do through a Fix It First program.

These are transportation projects that improve the safety, reliability, and efficiency of service.

And these are projects – above all – that make a real difference in peoples' lives.

This freight project now moving forward is a perfect example.

It will repair 42 miles of rail along the New Hampshire-Maine border, including close to a mile of rail that has not been used since a washout in 1993.

It will enable the track to support modern 286,000 pound rail cars and heavier loads, resulting in efficiency gains and improved safety.

And it will strengthen New Hampshire Northcoast Railroads' connection to Pan Am Railways, while also re-establishing connections to the St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad to reach ports in Portland and Portsmouth.

Today, I'd like to add, is a win not just for rail service in New Hampshire, but in New England. Another project awarded funding will strengthen 20 miles of rail in Vermont.

And rail – overall – continues to be a huge winner with TIGER.

In just this fifth round, TIGER invested \$146 million – more than a quarter of the available funding – in rail projects in 16 states.

And through five rounds, TIGER has now invested \$808 million in rail projects in 48 states.

This is particularly impressive when you consider how competitive TIGER is.

In this round, New Hampshire's project is one of 52 projects in 37 states receiving a total of \$474 million in funding.

But if you take all the funding requests we received in the applications and you add it all up, the figure is astounding:

It adds up to roughly \$9 billion – 20 times more than what Congress provided us.

This shows us the enormous pent-up demand that exists in states, regions, cities, and communities all across American to move forward with top-of-the-list transportation projects.

And it shows us why – for this fifth round of TIGER – the private sector and our state and local partners were willing to further leverage our federal investment by committing \$1.8 billion in overall project costs.

For this project, we have a \$150,000 grant coming from the state and \$450,000 coming from the private sector.

Because, to our partners, these projects are not luxuries, but absolute necessities.

And they're hard at work today finding innovative ways to fund them.

So to everyone who planned and supported this project: Thank you for your leadership; and thank you for exemplifying why Congress should support President Obama's plan to continue making bold investments in transportation.

Keep up the great work.