



## CITY OF MANCHESTER

*Jay Ruais*

*Mayor*

January 20, 2026  
Chairman David Milz  
Vice Chairman Steven Bogert  
House Public Works and Highways Committee

Chairman Milz and members of the House Public Works and Highways Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today.

My name is Jay Ruais, and I am proud to serve as Mayor of the City of Manchester.

Manchester is the economic heart of New Hampshire. As the state's largest city and largest employment center, we serve as a regional hub for commerce, healthcare, education, and innovation. The strength and stability of Manchester's economy directly impact the economic health of the entire state.

Today, Manchester is experiencing its strongest period of economic momentum since the late 1990s and early 2000s. This growth is being driven by sustained public and private investment and by significant current and future development projects. Continued growth at Hackett Hill and the long-term redevelopment potential of the Youth Development Center property represents major opportunities to create new jobs, expand housing options, and strengthen the regional economy.

Manchester's ability to fully realize these investments and continue to grow into the future is directly tied to the reliability and safety of our transportation infrastructure.

The I-293 corridor serves as the primary north-south gateway through Manchester and is a critical connector for workforce mobility, regional and statewide commerce, and New Hampshire's tourism economy. It is essential not only to the City of Manchester, but to businesses, commuters, and visitors from across the state.

Improvements to Exit 6 and Exit 7 represent important safety and capacity investments that will support the region's continued growth. Advancing these upgrades now offers an opportunity to enhance roadway safety, improve traffic flow, and unlock economic potential for surrounding communities. With demand continuing to rise, these projects can play a key role in building a more resilient and connected transportation network for the future.

I appreciate the inclusion of these projects in the Governor and Executive Council's recommended Ten-Year Highway Plan. I respectfully request, and strongly urge the Legislature

to keep these projects in the plan and ensure they are not removed or delayed as the Ten-Year Plan advances.

Without these improvements, safety concerns will continue to escalate, economic growth will be restricted, and Manchester's ability to support statewide prosperity will be significantly hindered.

Investing in Exits 6 and 7 is not just about Manchester. It is about protecting New Hampshire's economic engine and ensuring our state can grow safely, efficiently, and competitively for decades to come.

On behalf of the City of Manchester, I respectfully ask this Committee to ensure that the Exit 6 and Exit 7 projects remain fully included in the final New Hampshire Ten-Year Highway Plan.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Jay Ruais  
Mayor of Manchester