

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN  
AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION  
AND  
AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES,  
FISH AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT  
REGARDING  
TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE  
AND  
FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES

THIS MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT ("Agreement" or "MOA"), is entered into this 19 day of OCTOBER, 2005, by and between the Agency of Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife Department ("VF&W"), and the Agency of Transportation ("VTrans");

WHEREAS, the parties desire to improve accommodation of wildlife and aquatic organism movement around and through transportation systems and to minimize habitat fragmentation resulting from the presence of transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the parties desire to reduce the potential for wildlife collisions along transportation infrastructure through improved planning for fish and wildlife impacts from transportation infrastructure;

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties agree as follows:

**1. Inter-agency Committee.** The parties will convene an inter-agency committee co-chaired by the Secretary of Transportation and the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife or their designee(s). The Committee will include representatives from the VF&W Wildlife and Fisheries divisions and the VTrans Program Development and Policy and Planning divisions and will meet quarterly or as needed to oversee the activities identified below.

**2. Identification of Transportation Impacts on Fish and Wildlife Resources.** The parties will identify the impacts of highways on the state's fish and wildlife resources, including but not limited to: (a) wildlife mortality from vehicle collisions; (b) direct and indirect effects to habitat from the existing transportation system; (c) increased traffic; (d) proposed highway expansions; (e) reducing wildlife and aquatic organism passage; and (f) effects of vehicle emissions on ecological health.

**3. Minimization of Transportation Impacts on Fish and Wildlife Resources.** To address the issues identified in Paragraph 2, above, the parties will work together to minimize transportation impacts on fish and wildlife resources. This effort will include the following:

(a) Investigating use of underpasses, bridge extensions, culvert installations and modifications and associated fencing, land conservation and other techniques to facilitate and guide wildlife movement across highways.

(b) Continuing GIS and other modeling techniques to help predict wildlife movement and associated linkage habitats.

(c) Coordinating between the agencies to better plan, predict problems, and evaluate resources in advance of project design to help minimize conflicts regarding specific species, habitats, and indirect and cumulative impacts during regulatory and environmental review processes.

(d) Planning for mitigation at the watershed or bioregional level when feasible and appropriate, rather than mitigating transportation impacts on a case-by-case basis, with the goal of reducing mitigation costs and achieving greater overall ecological benefit.

(e) Conducting research and establishing policy regarding culvert installation practices and design guidance for aquatic organism passage.


(f) Participating in inter-agency and other efforts to address air quality and its effect on the state's wildlife, fisheries and ecological health.

(g) Keeping up-to-date on national and international developments, by sharing information, exploring research and funding opportunities from governmental and non-profit sources, and participating in relevant regional, national, and international conferences.

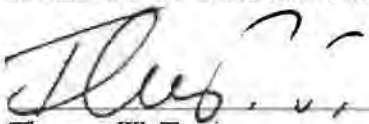
(h) Continuing to facilitate regional conferences and workshops among the New England states on matters relating to the interaction between transportation planning and development and fish and wildlife conservation.

**4. Duration; Termination.** This MOA will remain in effect for an indeterminate period. Either party may terminate this MOA upon ninety (90) days' notice to the other party.

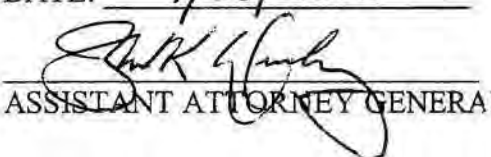
AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION

  
Dawn A. Terrill  
Secretary

AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

  
Thomas W. Torti  
Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM

DATE: 9/30/2005  
  
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE

  
Wayne A. Laroche  
Commissioner