

## Meredith US 3/NH 25 Improvements Project

# PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENT

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### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Meredith US 3/NH 25 Improvements Project is to address seasonal congestion while enhancing Meredith Village by creating a corridor that allows easy access to village destinations while moving traffic through in a slow, steady, safe and efficient manner. Transportation choice will be provided to enhance the transportation system for all users.

### **Need**

#### Capacity

As an important link for vacationers traveling to and from the Lakes Region and the White Mountains, the US Route 3 and NH Route 25 corridors are subject to seasonal congestion. Slow but steady growth is expected in the region and will place an even greater burden on the corridors.

#### Mobility

US Route 3 and NH Route 25 are both major arterial highways within New Hampshire and are part of the National Highway System. The two corridors provide a vital regional link between Interstate 93 (I-93) to the west and the Lakes Region. As such, it is important to maintain the mobility of people, goods, and services along these corridors.

#### Economic Vitality

The economic vitality of Meredith, the Lakes Region and the White Mountains relies on the dependability of the transportation system to bring vacationers to the region and support commercial activities. Vacationers will be more likely to stop along the corridors to patronize the businesses if their travel to Meredith has been comfortable with minimal delay.

#### Transportation Choice

All modes of travel should be considered for these corridors where pedestrian traffic is significant, but where pedestrians and cyclists need more accommodation and comfort. The current network of sidewalks is inconsistent with many gaps. Conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians at crosswalks compromise the safety and efficiency of the corridor. Bicycles currently have no space allotted.

#### Character

Meredith Village contains natural and historic resources and fosters a strong economic, recreational and social vitality. The US Route 3 and NH Route 25 highway corridors, which focus on moving large volumes of traffic, detract from these vital characteristics of the community.

#### Social Vitality

The social life of Meredith Village revolves around attractions and destinations that represent the characteristics described above. The US Route 3 and NH Route 25 corridors currently separate many of these destinations.