

## NH Celebrates 50th Anniversary of Interstate System

*The "Open Road" Began with Ike's Signature on June 29, 1956*



One of the largest engineering projects in US history celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on June 29, 2006. The New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT), the NH Good Roads Association and the Associated General Contractors of NH celebrated the anniversary. The recognition of the System's anniversary featured a caravan of vintage cars that traveled north on Interstate 93.

On June 29, 1956 President Eisenhower signed the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956 which created the construction of the Interstate System which is approximately 47,000 miles long. This changed the way people and freight moved. It put everyone in US within a few days drive of each other and redefined the relationship between urban and rural America.

Sections of Interstate 93 from Salem to Manchester and from Bow to Tilton, and I-293 from I-93 in Manchester to the Queen City Bridge were completed in 1963. The Franconia Notch section of I-93 was dedicated on June 2, 1988. The notch passes through an environmentally fragile corridor and was a significant engineering achievement.

The interstate system consists of only 1.2% of all roadway lane miles in the country but carries 24% of all vehicle traffic. "The 225 miles on Interstate Highway in New Hampshire serves us well. It dramatically increases mobility, fuels our economy and makes our state an even more appealing place to live and visit," said NHDOT Commissioner Carol Murray.

## IRF Presents Maintenance Management Award

The International Road Federation (IRF) presented the 2006 Global Road Achievement Award for Maintenance Management to the Tri-State Partnership of NHDOT, Maine DOT, and Vermont AOT and their consulting firm, Delcan.

The award, presented at the 11<sup>th</sup> AASHTO/TRB Maintenance Management Conference in Charleston, South Carolina, recognizes the innovative and collaborative solution to successfully support the maintenance management and reporting needs of each organization while providing effective stewardship of the public trust with respect to the partner states' road network.

The states developed and implemented a successful maintenance management system which:

- Meets the specific needs of each state,
- Advances maintenance accountability, and
- achieves cost efficiencies that far exceeds the leveraged, collaborative investments of the Tri-State Partners.

*From left, SCDOT State Highway Engineer Tony Chapman, Paul Corti (VT AOT), IRF Director General, Patrick Sankey, Samuel Lewis (VTAOT), Caleb Dobbins (NHDOT), David Bernhardt (ME DOT), Michael Burns (ME DOT), Delcan Program Manager Gordon Zophy, SCDOT Executive Director Elizabeth S. Mabry, FHWA SC Division Administrator Bob Lee.*

