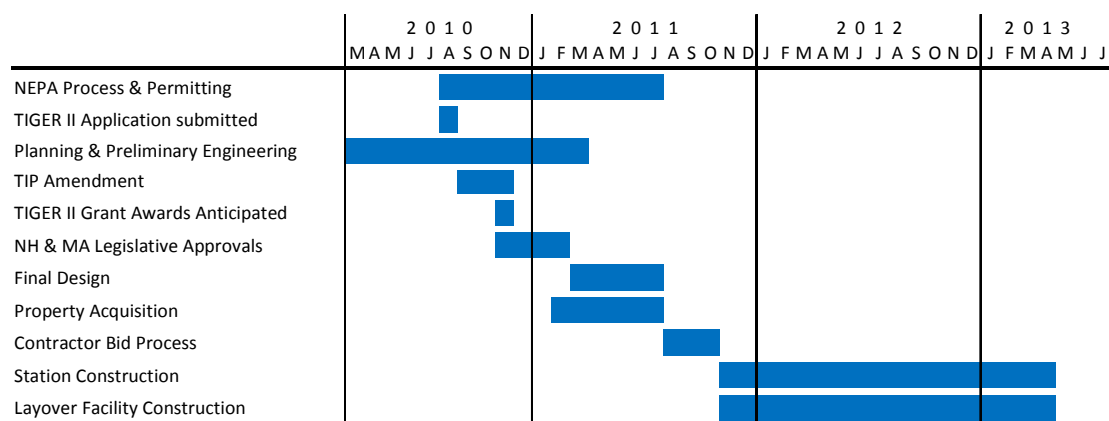


V. Project Readiness, Environmental Review Process, Other Approvals

5.1 Project Schedule

Figure 5.1 shows an anticipated schedule for project implementation, pending award of TIGER II funding. The NEPA process for the project is already underway, and preliminary engineering will commence in the fall of 2010. An amendment to the MPO 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) will be made by November 2010 to make previously awarded \$0.8 million in CMAQ funding available for use in 2011. We anticipate that approvals from the Massachusetts and New Hampshire state legislatures can be secured early in the respective legislative sessions, by March 2011. Once legislative approval is secured, final design and property acquisition will proceed, with anticipated completion by July 2011. Contractor procurement is anticipated for August-October 2011, with construction beginning in late 2011 and completing in mid-2013. Should the project be selected for TIGER II funding, NHDOT anticipates no difficulty obligating funding by the September 30, 2012 deadline in the FY2010 Appropriations Act.

Figure 5.1 – Project Schedule



5.2 National Environmental Policy Act Compliance

The NH Department of Transportation has initiated the environmental review process with a presentation of the project on August 18, 2010 to relevant state and federal agencies charged with enforcement of respective environmental protection regulations. The meeting included representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), NH Department of Environmental Services, NH Fish and Game, and the NHDOT Bureau of Environment. Equivalent interagency consultation regarding cultural and historic resources is scheduled for early September 2010.

Preliminary review of natural and cultural resource inventory data compiled for previous projects adjacent to the project area, including construction of the Westville