

To: State of Vermont Agency of Transportation Secretary Joe Flynn

Rep. Harvey Smith

Rep. Matt Birong

Rep. Diane Lanpher

Sen. Christopher Bray

Sen. Hardy

Members of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission

Members of the ACRPC Transportation Advisory Committee

Town of Addison Selectboard

Town of Waltham Selectboard

Town of Ferrisburgh Selectboard

January 8, 2019

It is our understanding that the Addison County Regional Planning Commission and the Vermont Agency of Transportation are considering three options to address the truck traffic in downtown Vergennes, VT. One of our members attended both the Transportation Advisory Committee meeting and the Public Hearing in Vergennes held during the fall, 2018.

We are writing you to express our support for ONLY the option that constructs a westerly bypass to reroute truck traffic away from downtown Vergennes.

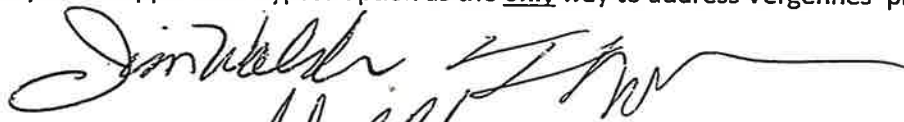
On January 8, 2016 we wrote you to express our unanimous opposition to the idea of routing trucks through Route 17 and Route 7. We were joined in that opposition by the Addison, VT. Selectboard on March 8, 2016. The Selectboard of the Town of Ferrisburgh also rejected that idea.

Our opposition to the option of rerouting trucks onto Routes 17 and 7 remains steadfast. The reasons stated in our letter of January 8, 2016 remain the same. – see attached.

There is simply no safe way to put that many trucks on Route 17 no matter what changes you could imagine for that road.

Therefore, we write you to support the bypass option as the only way to address Vergennes' problem.

Sincerely,



The New Haven Vt. Selectboard

Voted and approved January 8, 2019



Addison County Regional Planning Commission

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Middlebury, VT 05753

www.acrpc.org

Phone: 802.388.3141

Fax: 802.388.0038

February xx, 2019

VIA Regular Mail and E-mail

Mr. Wayne Symonds
Chief Engineer
VTrans Highway Division
National Life Building
1 National Life Drive
Montpelier, Vermont 05633-5001

Re: Safety Improvements Requested for State Highway Route 125 West of Middlebury

Dear Mr. Symonds:

This letter acknowledges and responds to your letter dated January 8, 2019, which replies to the original request of the Transportation Advisory Committee of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission (“ACRPC”) and the Selectboards of the Towns of Bridport, Cornwall and Middlebury for actions to improve the safety of Route 125 in Middlebury. We appreciate the work your staff completed to further investigate and assess the site. We welcome VTrans’ willingness to continue to monitor the location, install centerline rumble strips, improve signage and conduct a full scoping study of the area, as promised in your letter. We respectfully request that you send us a timeline concerning when VTrans will implement each of those actions.

At the same time, we request that VTrans act with more urgency to program and implement a solution to this safety hazard. Specifically, when VTrans completes the scoping study offered above, we request that VTrans act to include the action items it recommends in the capital budget and that VTrans implement the improvements. Your letter indicates VTrans’ preference is to wait for the next roadway or paving project on this stretch of Route 125 before taking action. We believe that it will be at least a decade or more before VTrans schedules another paving project on this stretch of Route 125. According to VTrans Pavement Condition report, VTrans resurfaced this section of Route 125 in 2014. VTrans currently rates the pavement condition as fair to good. A full reconstruction, which we believe will be required to address the safety issues this knoll poses, will be even further out into the future.

Your staff’s review indicates approximately one crash occurs every year in the vicinity of this knoll. The staff review noted that two of those crashes have involved fatalities. Those fatalities killed at least three adults and one child. Yet, the staff review concludes that the site “would likely not meet the criteria for a high priority safety project.” Many citizens that use this roadway on a daily basis disagree with that conclusion. We request that VTrans conduct its scoping study of the area as soon as possible. Upon completion of that study, we request that VTrans actively work to fund and implement the results of the study and address this significant safety hazard before another accident occurs.

Addison Bridport Bristol Cornwall Ferrisburgh Goshen Leicester
Lincoln Middlebury MonktonNew Haven Orwell Pantton Ripton
Salisbury Shoreham Starksboro Vergennes Waltham Weybridge Whiting



Addison County
Regional Planning Commission

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to VTrans implementing the remedial activities to which it has agreed and beginning its scoping analysis to identify actions to remediate the remaining safety issues. We also look forward to working together to resolve these safety issue.

Sincerely,

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

By: _____
Adam Lougee, Executive Director

Middlebury Selectboard

By: _____
Brian Carpenter, Chair

Cornwall Selectboard

By: _____
Ben Marks, Chair

Bridport Selectboard

By: _____
Joan Huestis, Chair

Middlebury College

By: _____

Cc: Addison County Legislative Delegation
Phil Scott, Governor
Joe Flynn, Secretary, Agency of Transportation
Michele Boomhower, PPAID Director
Chad Allen, Bureau Director, Asset Management Division
Jackie Cassino, AOT Planning Coordinator
District 5, District Manager

RANK		PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Paving			
	Front Of Book	NEW HAVEN-BRISTOL	Resurface VT 17 starting in New Haven at MM 3.455 and continuing to Bristol MM 0.599.
	Write-in	VERGENNES	Class 1 paving 22A
	Write-in	MIDDLEBURY	Class 1 paving VT125 and VT30
Roadway			
	Candidate	BRANDON-LEICESTER	RECONSTRUCTION OF US7, BEGINNING BY THE BRANDON TRAINING SCHOOL AND EXTENDING NORTHERLY 7.29 KM TO THE INTERSECTION OF TH5 IN LEICESTER. OMIT 484 METERS IN BRANDON AND 2.13 KM IN LEICESTER.
	Front Of Book	FAIR HAVEN-ORWELL	PROJECT IS FOR WIDENING OF VT-22A FROM FAIR HAVEN TO ORWELL
	D & E	NEW HAVEN	RECONSTRUCTION OF US7 IN NEW HAVEN, BEGINNING 2.6 MILES NORTH OF THE MIDDLEBURY-NEW HAVEN TOWN LINE AND EXTENDING NORTHERLY 0.72 MILE.
	Front Of Book	RIPTON	GUARDRAIL SLOPE AND ASSOCIATED ROADWAY REMEDIATION ON VT125 IN RIPTON, BEGINNING AT THE MIDDLEBURY-RIPTON TOWN LINE AND EXTENDING EASTERLY 5.71 MILES. DDIR #D5-07 & NEW-DDIR-013.
		WRITE-IN	
State Bridge			
	Front Of Book	BRISTOL	REHABILITATION OF BRIDGE NO. 12 ON VT116 IN BRISTOL OVER BALDWIN CREEK, INCLUDING REPLACEMENT OF THE EXISTING SUPERSTRUCTURE.
	Front Of Book	MIDDLEBURY	LOWER GRADE OF THE VERMONT RAILWAY IN MIDDLEBURY TO ACCOMMODATE 21-FT. VERTICAL CLEARANCE, AND REPLACEMENT OF THE VT30 AND MERCHANTS ROW BRIDGES AT THEIR LOCATIONS.
	Front Of Book	WEYBRIDGE-NEW HAVEN	REPLACEMENT OF BRIDGE NO. 8 ON VT17 BETWEEN WEYBRIDGE AND NEW HAVEN, OVER OTTER CREEK.
		WRITE-IN	
Town Bridge			
	D & E	LEICESTER	SCOPING TO EVALUATE ALTERNATIVES FOR BRIDGE NO. 4 ON TH12 IN LEICESTER, OVER THE LEICESTER RIVER.
	Candidate	SALISBURY-CORNWALL	SCOPING FOR REPLACEMENT OF BRIDGE 8 ON TH1 OVER OTTER CREEK
	Write-in	VERGENNES	Scoping for replacement of bridge on 22A over Otter Creek
Traffic & Safety			
2	Candidate	MIDDLEBURY	PROJECT IS FOR A US7 CORRIDOR ACTION PLAN AND SCOPING FOR A ROUNDABOUT AT THE INTERSECTION OF US7 AND EXCHANGE ST. IN MIDDLEBURY.
	Front Of Book	NEW HAVEN	REALIGNMENT OF THE VT17/EAST ST. (TH22 & TH18) INTERSECTION IN NEW HAVEN, AND ELIMINATION OF THE VT17/TH19 INTERSECTION.
1	Write-in	WRITE-IN – Cornwall/ Middlebury	125 Knoll
3	Write-in	WRITE-IN – Ferrisburgh	Old Hollow/Stage Rd. intersection with Rt. 7