

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

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March 29, 2013

Matthew Langham
State of Vermont
Agency of Transportation
National Life Building – Drawer 33
Montpelier, Vermont 05633-5001

Re: Addison County Regional Planning Commission 2013 Project Priorities

Dear Matthew:

This letter encloses the Addison County Regional Planning Commission's list of priorities for state financed transportation infrastructure within the Addison Region. Addison County's Transportation Advisory Committee ("TAC"), a group of local officials appointed by their town selectboard or City Council to provide VTrans with local input into transportation decisions as required by the TPI process, has spent its last two meetings creating the Region's priorities after reviewing each location in detail. A list of priorities is attached. In addition to merely prioritizing the lists of projects VTrans provided, the TAC also added new projects in several categories and proposes to "substitute" a project within the Safety and Operations category.

The First and most important addition to the priority list adds four projects in the Paving Category. It is simply unacceptable that no paving projects are planned for FY 2015 in all of Addison County, especially when one considers the desperate shape of the main arterial east/west highways within the Region. Each of the four paving priorities the TAC added address east/west highways, including two segments of Route 125 east and west of Route 7 and portions of Routes 73 and 74. All of the TAC's paving priorities have significant portions of roadway that were rated "Very Poor" by VTrans in their 2009 Pavement Management Annual Report. All paving priorities have been brought to VTrans's attention again and again by the TAC and by Addison County's legislative delegation. The TAC strongly urges VTrans to add these roadways to its paving list.

Under Roadway reconstruction, the TAC added another of the Region's east/west highways, Route 17 east of Route 116. VTrans has also rated the condition of this road as "Very Poor" since 2009. Unfortunately, the TAC is concerned that this roadbed has deteriorated to such an extent that merely paving it will not solve the problem. This project should be added to VTrans's Roadway category immediately.

Park and Ride Lots constitute another area of additional priorities. The TAC has added four priorities in this area where none had existed in VTrans's original Capital Program

Addison
Lincoln
Salisbury

Bridport
Middlebury
Shoreham

Bristol
Monkton
Starksboro

Cornwall
New Haven
Vergennes

Ferrisburgh
Orwell
Waltham

Goshen
Panton
Weybridge

Leicester
Ripton
Whiting



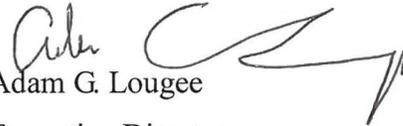
Prioritization list. Each location sits on a major corridor within an area amenable to accommodating high numbers of commuters and other travelers.

The Battell Bridge constitutes the last of the TAC priorities added to the list as a pre-candidate Town Highway Bridge. This historic stone arch bridge in downtown Middlebury has cracks in the stones in all spans and its wing walls are splayed.

Finally, the TAC voted to substitute one project for another. For the Town of Middlebury, the TAC voted unanimously to “substitute” the Creek Road project on Route 7 for a roundabout at Exchange Street on Route 7 in Middlebury. Exchange Street constitutes one entrance to the Middlebury Industrial Park, an area near Middlebury’s downtown that houses over 45 business and a significant number of the town’s total workers. Additionally, locally collected crash data indicates that this intersection constitutes a high crash location.

Thank you for the Agency’s use and support of this valuable local input. We look forward to VTrans’s implementation of these priority projects. In the meantime, please call Daryl Benoit, ACRPC’s Transportation Planner, or me if you have any questions or concerns. ACRPC looks forward to continuing working with VTrans to advance the transportation system of the Addison Region.

Respectfully yours,



Adam G. Lougee

Executive Director
Addison County Regional Planning
Commission

Cc: ACRPC Executive Board
ACRPC Legislative Delegation
Secretary Brian Searles, VTrans
Scott Bascom, VTrans
Daryl Benoit
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