



2024

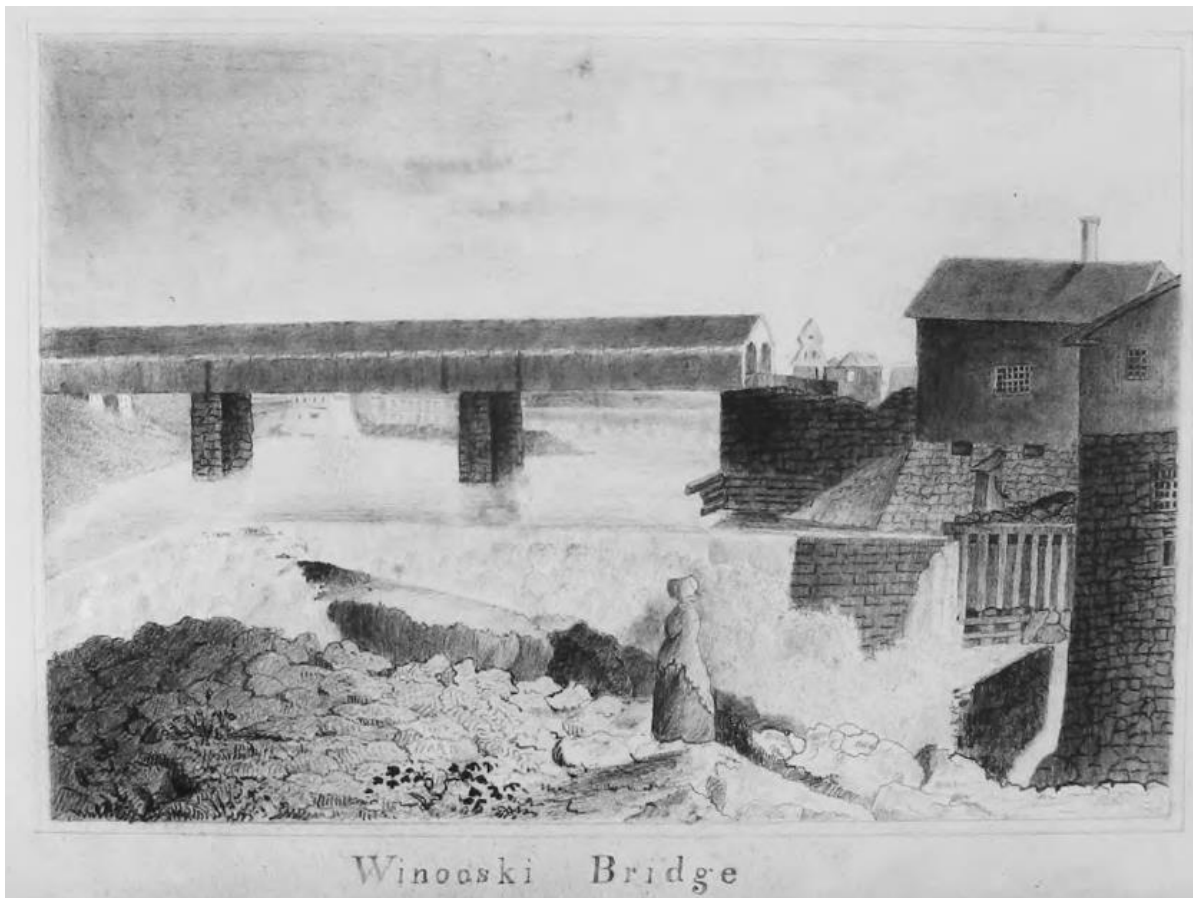
Vermont Agency of Transportation

Annual Report on Section 106

Historic and Archaeological Resource Project Reviews

Submitted to the Vermont State Historic Preservation Officer and
Federal Highway Administration pursuant to requirements of the:

**2023 Programmatic Agreement Among the Federal Highway Administration, the Vermont
State Historic Preservation Officer, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the
Vermont Agency of Transportation, Regarding Implementation of the Federal-Aid
Highway Program in Vermont**



Submitted December 13, 2024

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Cover Image: Sketch view of the 1829-1871 Burlington-Winooski Bridge, looking east (upstream)
(Artist and date unknown. Burlington Image File, University of Vermont Special Collections,
Billings Library Annex, Burlington, Vermont)

I. Introduction:

While a substantial portion of the VTrans Environmental Section's workload under Section 106 is conducted under the *VTrans Programmatic Agreement Among the Federal Highway Administration, the Vermont Agency of Transportation, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the Vermont State Historic Preservation Officer Regarding Implementation of the Federal-Aid Highway Program in Vermont* (PA), VTrans cultural resources staff are also reviewing Federal Rail Administration (FRA), Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) projects. Those projects are not addressed or accounted for in this report. This report addresses FHWA Federal Aid Projects reviewed by VTrans under the PA and one project that resulted in a determination of Adverse Effect.

This programmatic agreement is essential in assisting VTrans' 36 CFR qualified staff keep up with the constant flow of work requests, while maintaining our steadfast commitment to the mitigation hierarchy and our agency-wide ethos of environmental excellence and top-notch customer service. Without this tool, both VTrans and VDHP staff would be unable to keep VTrans projects on schedule and budget.

Staff changes have been a theme this past year. VTrans has a new Chief Engineer, Jeremy Reed, and the Environmental Section Manager, Nick Wark, is moving to exclusively manage the Right of Way Section. Al Honsinger has moved on to work in the private sector, and thankfully is still supporting VTrans projects as a consultant. In March, the Environmental Section welcomed Cultural Resources Specialist, Emily Baker. Along with tremendous enthusiasm, Emily brings to VTrans a BA in Anthropology from UNH and a MS in Historic Preservation from UVM. She has quickly become an essential part of the team supporting both archaeology and historic preservation disciplines. And after 14 years of dedicated service as a VTrans archaeologist, Brennan Gauthier is moving on to greener pastures. Happy Trails, Brennan!

Other changes include a partial return to the office. VTrans staff is returning to the office for, at least, one day per week - which will foster greater collaboration and team building.

In addition to project review, VTrans Cultural Resources Team is actively involved with streamlining and stewardship initiatives supported by FHWA. These include:

- Participating in rewriting the guidelines for conducting historic archaeology in Vermont
- Mobile Properties MPDF
- Historic Bridge Program status review of historic bridges of the state

We are extremely grateful to our peers at VDHP for their quick and collaborative response to emergency, emergent, and priority projects – which land on top of our normal programmed projects. The flood of 2024 has added a significant amount of ER projects to the cultural resource team's already full plate. Moreover, both VTrans and VDHP staff have spent copious hours on the Burlington-Winooski Bridge project – which has resulted in an excellent and massive S106 document. It has been a very busy year. VTrans Qualified Staff continues to enjoy the ongoing project dialogs with their colleagues at VDHP, whether that is spontaneous project

phone calls or the open invitation to VDHP's Environmental Review meetings. We look forward to continued collaboration during the next reporting period.

II. Table of Summary Statistics

Section 106 Effect Determination	Effect Determination Counts
Exempt (Appendix A)	7
Screened (Appendix B)	13
No Historic Properties Affected	25
No Historic Properties Affected – Reevaluation	2
No Adverse Effect	9
Adverse Effect with MOA	1
Adverse Effect--Reevaluation	0
Total Projects	57

VTrans reviewed a total of 56 projects for potential impacts to historic and cultural resources as part of the project review process under the *Programmatic Agreement Among the Federal Highway Administration, the Vermont Agency of Transportation, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the Vermont State Historic Preservation Officer Regarding Implementation of the Federal-Aid Highway Program in Vermont (PA)*. One additional project, Fairfield BO 1448(46), was also reviewed this year but as it resulted in an Adverse Effect determination, the project was not reviewed under the terms of the PA.

VTrans is streamlining roadway corridor projects involving culvert replacements. In the past, the Cultural Resources Team reviewed culvert replacement projects that typically included one or possibly several culverts. VTrans project designers are now submitting culvert replacement projects for long corridor improvement projects and these new submittals include all the culverts to be repaired or replaced along that entire length of roadway. So, instead of reviewing multiple submittals that look at only one or a few culverts along a length of road, we are instead reviewing fewer submittals that each contain multiple culverts. This means that the counts above, mostly for Exempt, Screened, and NHPA projects, may appear reduced from previous years. Despite this change, we will continue to have isolated culvert repair and replacement projects that are not part of any overall corridor improvement initiative.

III. Assessment of Effectiveness of PA, Concerns, and Recommendations for Changes

This Programmatic Agreement enables VTrans and SHPO to process a large amount of FHWA funded undertakings as efficiently as possible while ensuring S106 is adequately addressed. This agreement serves as a first-rate example of effective efficient and collaborative interagency partnership within VT state government.

At this point VTrans does not have any recommendations for changes to this agreement and continues to enjoy the benefits of an agreement that can serve as a model for interagency cooperation. We look forward to working with our colleagues at VDHP and FHWA in 2025.

IV. Appendices

Appendix A -Exempt Activities

The projects below were reviewed during the federal fiscal year beginning on October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024, and were determined to meet criteria under Appendix A – Exempt Activities:

Bradford I-91

Hartland I-91

Ludlow NH PC25(4)

Ludlow STP PC25(3)

Middlesex I-89

Newbury I-91

South Burlington I-89

Appendix B – Screened Activities

The projects below were reviewed during the federal fiscal year beginning on October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024, and were determined to meet criteria under Appendix B – Screened Activities:

Bennington STPG SGNL(63)

Chester BM24202

Fair Haven STP BP21(12)

Hinesburg TAP TA22(7)

Jay BM25901

Middlesex-Worcester STP CULV(152)

Montpelier STP BP20(5)

Newport City BM25902

Rutland Town BM24301

Thetford STP 0113(87)

West Fairlee TH-2

Williston TAP TA(6)

Waltham TH-1

Appendix C - Full List of Projects and Determinations of Effect

The projects listed below were reviewed under the requirements of the PA during the reporting period of October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024. In addition, the list contains one project, Fairfield BO 1448(46), that was reviewed outside the PA due to it resulting in an Adverse Effect determination. This list is sorted by the Section 106 Clearance Date.

Project Name	Project Number	Brief Description	Section 106 Clearance Date	Determination of Effect
Waterbury	BF 0284(33)	Bridge Replacement	10/2/2023	NHPA
Thetford	STP 0113(87)	Slope Remediation	10/5/2023	Screened
Buel's Gore	BF 0200(11)	Culvert Replacement	10/6/2023	NHPA
Williston	NH CULV(110)	Culvert Replacement	10/13/2023	NHPA
Rochester	STP CULV(115)	Culvert Replacement	10/17/2023	NHPA
Hinesburg	TAP TA22(7)	Intersection Improvement	10/18/2023	Screened
Colchester	STP 5600(22)	Intersection Improvement/Roundabout	11/3/2023	NAE
Brandon	TAP TA21(2)	Sidewalk/Ped Path	11/8/2023	NAE
Eden	BF 029-2(15)	Bridge Replacement	11/9/2023	NHPA
Fair Haven	STP BP21(12)	Sidewalk/Ped path	11/14/2023	Screened
Bradford	I-91	EVSE expansion	11/14/2023	Exempt
Sharon	CMG PARK(51)	Park and Ride	11/15/2023	NAE
Hartland	I-91	Ledge Stabilization and Repair	11/27/2023	Exempt
Bennington	STPG SGNL(63)	Signal Replacement	12/6/2023	Screened
West Fairlee	TH-2	Ledge Removal and ROW Reclaim	12/6/2023	Screened
Waltham	TH-1	ROW Reclaim	12/7/2023	Screened
Barre City-Barre Town (Re-eval)	MEGC M6000(11)	Roadway Improvement/Sidewalk/Drainage	12/15/2023	NHPA
Montpelier	STP BP20(5)	Sidewalk/Ped Path	12/20/2023	Screened
Williston	TAP TA21(6)	Sidewalk/Ped Path	12/20/2023	Screened
Irasburg	ER E24-1(901)	Bridge Replacement emergency	12/21/2023	NHPA
Poultney	BF 0145(13)	Bridge Rehabilitation	12/21/2023	NAE
Danby	BF 0130(4)	Bridge Superstructure Replacement	12/27/2023	NHPA

Project Name	Project Number	Brief Description	Section 106 Clearance Date	Determination of Effect
Bridgewater	NH CULV(121)	Culvert Replacement	1/10/2024	NHPA
South Burlington	TAP TA21(4)	Shared Use Path	1/10/2024	NAE
Richford	TH-2	Hedgrow Removal	1/18/2024	NHPA
Enosburg Falls	STP B16(7)	Sidewalk/Ped Path	1/23/2024	NHPA
Swanton	STP LVRT(21)	Trailhead Extension	1/23/2024	NAE
Westminster (Re-eval)	BF 0126(13)	Deck Rehabilitation	1/26/2024	NHPA
Ludlow	NH PC25(4)	Route 103 Resurfacing	1/31/2024	Exempt
Ludlow	STP PC25(3)	Route 100 Resurfacing	1/31/2024	Exempt
Chester	BM24202	Deck Maintenance	2/1/2024	Screened
Charleston	STP CULV(113)	Culvert Replacement	3/15/2024	NHPA
Hartford-Sharon	STP CULV(130)	Culvert Replacement	4/4/2024	NHPA
Fairfield	BO 1448(46)	Bridge Replacement	4/15/2024	AE
Chester	BF 025-1(45)	Bridge Replacement	4/17/2024	NHPA
Arlington	STP 319-1(29)	HSIP Site - Safety Improvement	4/30/2024	NHPA
Jericho	STP BP21(13)	Sidewalk/Ped Path	5/10/2024	NAE
Shaftsbury	VT Route 7	Temporary Access	5/17/2024	NHPA
Burlington	STP BP21(11)	Sidewalk/Ped path	5/22/2024	NAE
Plymouth	ER P23-1(317)	Bridge Replacement	5/31/2024	NHPA
Plymouth	ER P23-1(327)	Bridge Repair	5/31/2024	NHPA
Groton	STP CULV(119)	Culvert Replacement	5/31/2024	NHPA
Middlesex	TH-2	District Project	6/11/2024	NHPA
Milton	STP 5800(3)	Traffic Signals	6/19/2024	NHPA
Salisbury-Cornwall	BO 1445(39)	Bridge Replacement	6/21/2024	NHPA
Ripton	ER P23-1(322)	Bridge Replacement	8/2/2024	NHPA
Jay	BM 25901	Bridge Repair	8/19/2024	Screened
Middlesex-Worcester	STP CULV(152)	Culvert Replacement	8/19/2024	Screened
Rutland Town	BM24301	Bridge Joint Replacement	8/19/2024	Screened

Project Name	Project Number	Brief Description	Section 106 Clearance Date	Determination of Effect
Newport City	BM25902	Bridge Work	8/22/2024	Screened
Middlesex	I-89	Culvert Liner	8/23/2024	Exempt
Plainfield	ER E24-2(610)	Slope Stabilization	9/4/2024	NHPA
South Burlington	I-89	District Project	9/5/2024	Exempt
Barre City	STP 2961(3)	Active Warning System for Rail Crossing	9/6/2024	NAE
Norton	BF 0321(21)	Bridge Replacement	9/6/2024	NHPA
Newbury	I-91	Surplus Property Review	9/9/2024	Exempt
Plymouth	ER P23-1(332)	Bridge Replacement	9/10/2024	NHPA

Appendix D – Report Bibliography

The Archaeology and Above-Ground Historic Resources reports listed below were included with final project review submittals added to the Section 106 Sharepoint site for the reporting period of October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024.

Project Location and ID Number	Report Title
Buel's Gore BF 0200(11)	Historic Resource ID Report June 2021 (WSP)
Burlington STP BP21(11)	Historic Resources Assessment 2023 10 13 (VHB)
Colchester NH 028-1(31)	Phase I Archaeological Survey End of Field Letter Report (UVM CAP) Phase II Archaeological Site Evaluation End of Field Letter Report (UVM CAP)
Eden BF 029-2(15)	Historic Resource ID Report (WSP)
Jericho STP BP21(13)	Jericho Riverside Village Sidewalk HRI (Hartgen)
Milton STP 5800(3)	Phase I Archaeology End of Field Letter Report (UVM CAP)
Poultney BF 0145(13)	Historic Resources Assessment June 2022 (VHB) Phase 1 Archaeology End of Field Letter Report (UVM CAP)
Sharon CMG Park(51)	ARA and HP Resource ID (Hartgen)
South Burlington TAP TA21(4)	Spear Street Bike and Pedestrian HRI (Hartgen) Phase 1 B Archaeology End of Field Letter Report (Hartgen)
Swanton STP LVRT(21)	Phase I Archaeology End of Field Letter Report (UVM CAP)
Williston TAP TA21(6)	Historic Resource Identification (Hartgen) Phase 1 B Archaeology End of Field Letter Report (Hartgen)

Appendix E – 2024 Review and Compliance Statistics for National Park Service Reporting

Review and Compliance Section 106 Programmatic Agreements and VDHP Accounting FY24

	Properties meeting National Register Criteria for which a written eligibility opinion is provided	Properties NOT meeting National Register Criteria for which a written eligibility opinion is provided	Findings of “No Properties” and/or “No Effect” provided	Findings of “NO Adverse” or “Adverse”	Memoranda of Agreement Signed	Programmatic Agreements Signed
HUD/VCDP: CDBG HUD/VDHB: HOME						
Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)						
USDA/NRCS						
NPS/Green Mountain National Forest						
EPA/ANR: Drinking Water SRF:						
EPA/ANR: Clean Water (wastewater) SRF						
NPS/ANR [FPR] Recreational Trails						
FEMA						
FHWA/VTrans	65	148	47	10	1	0
US Customs & Border Protection						
Department of Energy/Weatherization						

	Architectural Survey: Number of Resource Recorded	Determinations of Eligibilities Completed as part of Architectural Survey	Acreage of Architectural Survey Area	Archaeological Survey/Investigations: Number of Resources Recorded	Determinations of Eligibilities Completed as part of Archaeological Survey	Acreage of Archaeological Survey Area
HUD/VCDP: CDBG HUD/VDHB: HOME						
USACE						
USDA/NRCS						
NPS/Green Mountain National Forest						
NPS/ANR [FPR] Recreational Trails						
FEMA						
FHWA/VTrans	213	213	106	0	0	48
US Customs and Border Protection						
Archaeology Consultants						
ANR DEC						