

# ***PUBLIC 502 HEARING***

(19 V.S.A., §502)

## ***BENNINGTON***

***Project No. STP 1000(23)***

Proposed Roadway and Intersection Improvements on VT Route 67A at the intersection of College Drive, Matteson Road, and Silk Road.

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Date: **May 4, 2021**

Time: **Formal Hearing 6:30 PM**

Location: **Virtual Meeting - Zoom Webinar**

Registration Link: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_BKtnKeqjRSqll\\_ZQNlf5lg](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BKtnKeqjRSqll_ZQNlf5lg)

Webinar ID: 944 7795 7464

Passcode: 9230400



# ***WHAT IS A PUBLIC HEARING?***

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## ***WHAT IS PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT?***

A continuous process of two-way communication between the citizens and public agencies, during which a conceptual plan is discussed, and the field of choice narrowed until a final solution/plan is developed.

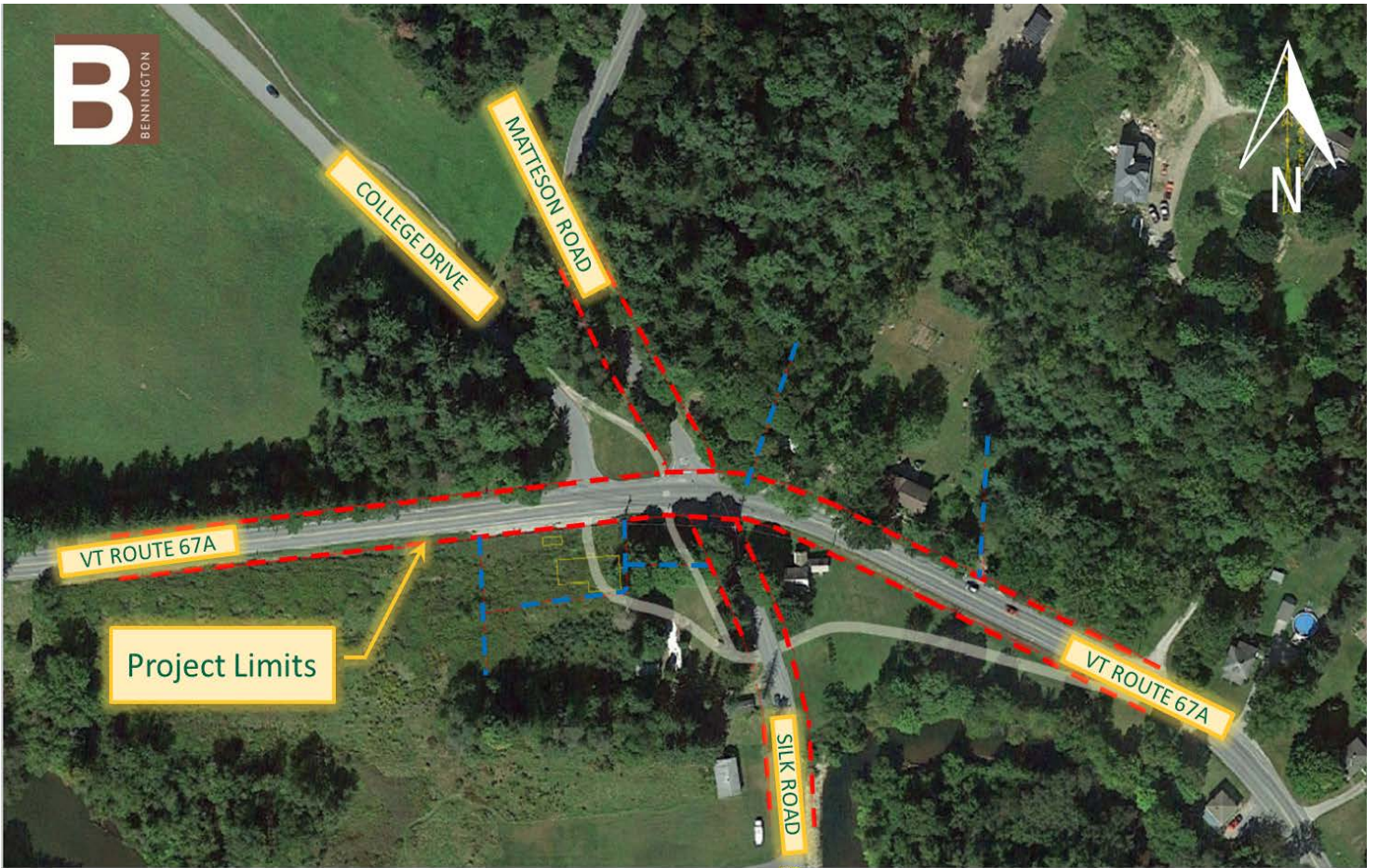
## ***WHY A PUBLIC HEARING?***

A Public Hearing provides an opportunity for the Agency of Transportation and the community to exchange information about proposed highway/bridge projects. The Hearing lets us listen to the concerns of local residents and obtain information on the proposed project. Input from local sources is very important for determining various elements to be included in a project.

## ***VERMONT TRANSPORTATION BOARD***

The Transportation Board is a quasi-judicial body composed of seven citizens appointed by the Governor. Their purpose in attending Public Hearings on proposed transportation projects is to provide independent input to the process.

# BENNINGTON STP 1000(23)



*PROJECT LOCATION*

# ***PROJECT GENERAL INFORMATION***

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## ***PROJECT LOCATION***

The project is located at the intersection of VT Route 67A, Silk Road, Matteson Road and College Drive in the town of Bennington.

## ***PROJECT PURPOSE & NEED***

The purpose and need of this project is to improve the overall safety of the VT Route 67A intersection at College Drive, Matteson Road, and Silk Road; to reduce speeds along the VT Route 67A; to improve sight distances along the intersection side roads to allow for safe maneuvers within the intersection; to enhance pedestrian and bicycle accommodations within the project area, and to improve safety at the pedestrian crossing of VT Route 67A.

## ***SCOPE OF WORK***

The proposed project will consist of the construction of a roundabout at the existing intersection of VT Route 67A, Silk Road, Matteson Road, and College Drive. It will also include the reconstruction of VT Route 67A, Silk Road, Matteson Road, and College Drive along the approaches to the proposed roundabout. The existing shared use path will be reconstructed to better align with the proposed roundabout design. In addition to these intersection improvements, the work will include new drainage and stormwater mitigation, landscaping, and utility relocation.

## ***RIGHT-OF-WAY REQUIREMENTS***

Land acquisitions will be required for this project; however, the extent of acquisitions will vary throughout the project. The actual extent of land acquisition is not fully known at this time because the limits of construction indicated on the plans are only conceptual.

## ***PROJECT SCHEDULE***

Construction of the improvements is anticipated to begin in 2023. However, the actual schedule may change based on the time needed to acquire the land or easements necessary to construct the project and other factors.

## ***COST***

The preliminary construction cost estimate is \$2,650,000. This estimate does not include preliminary engineering, right-of-way acquisition or construction engineering.

# ***RIGHT-OF-WAY PROCEDURES***

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Most right-of-way procedures are mandated by Public Law 100-17, 101, the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Land Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended. The provisions of the Act that apply are those governing the acquisition of property or rights therein for the project.

There are four phases of right-of-way acquisition, three of which will be briefly summarized below. The fourth phase applies to those who may be displaced from their home, farm or business. In compliance with Federal procedures, we have brochures available which explain this phase in some detail.

## ***FIRST PHASE***

Initially, property owners will be contacted by an agent who will be inquiring about the physical characteristics of the property, such as the locations of property lines, water lines, septic systems, and so forth. This agent will explain the preliminary information about the design of the project and its effects on their property.

## ***SECOND PHASE***

Following this interview, an extensive title search of the property is conducted which assists in the formulation of Right-of-Way plans. These plans, together with other testimony, are presented to the Superior Court for its consideration of the Necessity for this project.

## ***THIRD PHASE***

Upon acceptance by the court of the highway location, each affected property is valued based on the current fair market value. During this valuation phase, the appraiser will inspect the property then prepare an Appraisal or Value Finding Report, which is considered for content and accuracy by a Reviewing Appraiser, who works independently of the Right-of-Way staff. At this point, the value of the property to be acquired is determined. The completed appraisal is then transmitted to the Negotiator who will contact each owner, thoroughly explain the project and its effects on the owner's property and tender the State's monetary offer of fair market value for the property to be acquired, in writing. In addition, the owner will receive an explanation of their legal rights, including the right to a Compensation Hearing conducted by the State Transportation Board, and the right to appeal the award of the Board to the Superior Court. A brochure is available which explains this phase in greater detail.

The foregoing was a brief outline of the Right-of-Way function. If you have specific questions, we will try to answer them, or will refer them to our Right-of-Way Section for reply. You can also call the Right-of-Way Section at (802) 828-2571, or write to:

Vermont Agency of Transportation  
Right-of-Way Section  
219 North Main Street  
Barre, VT 05641

Should you have any specific questions or comments concerning this handout, please feel free to contact Michael LaCroix at (802) 371-9528 or by letter sent to this following address:

Michael LaCroix, Project Manager  
Vermont Agency of Transportation  
Highway, Safety & Design Section  
219 North Main Street  
Barre, VT 05641

Vermont Agency of Transportation

**PUBLIC 502 HEARING**

**Bennington STP 1000(23)**

Date: May 4, 2021

**WRITTEN COMMENTS**

We would appreciate your input and suggestions.

Please return this sheet, with comments, to a staff member at the hearing or by mail to the address on the back of this sheet. In order to be included as an official part of the hearing transcript, the final postmark date for written statements and other information will be May 4, 2021.

**COMMENTS:**

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Please check one:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
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- Property Owner adjacent to project
- Organization Representative  
(Organization and Title)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_



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Stamp  
Here

Michael LaCroix, Project Manager  
Vermont Agency of Transportation  
Highway, Safety & Design Section  
219 North Main Street  
Barre, VT 05641

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