VERMONT

State of Vermont
Highway Division
Project Delivery Bureau
Structures Design Section
219 North Main St.
Barre, VT 05641
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Agency of Transportation

December 3, 2019

Bruce Schmidt, Chair
Ludlow Selectboard
c/o Scott Murphy
Ludlow Municipal Manager
P. O. Box 359
Ludlow, VT 05149

Project Name: **Ludlow Village NH DECK(49)**
Structure Identification: **VT 103 Br. 26**

Dear Mr. Schmidt,

On December 2, 2019, JB McCarthy and Gary Sweeny of VTrans attended a regular meeting of the Town Select Board to present our recommendations for the scope of rehabilitation of Bridge 26, locally known as the Vail Bridge. This is the bridge on Main St. immediately west of the Main St./Andover St. intersection. Summarizing, we recommend that we rehabilitate this bridge by replacing the superstructures (beams), deck, and railings on the bridge, one half at a time, while maintaining one lane of traffic in each direction during construction. Pedestrian traffic would be maintained by a temporary bridge on the south side of Bridge 26, just south of the existing Town water main. Bicycle traffic would be maintained by allowing them to travel through the work zone in the travel lane with vehicular traffic. Bicycles could also take advantage of other opportunities to bypass the work site. As a rehabilitation project is proposed, the Town's share of the project would be 5%.

During the meeting, discussion included how to maintain truck traffic in and out of Shaw's, and details of how trucks would manage turning movements into and out of Andover St. at various phases of the work. More thought and collaboration are required on this. In response to our expectation that the proposed phased project would take the entire summer construction season, the Select Board requested that we provide a conceptual level cost estimate for an accelerated project with a road closure. We had stated that an accelerated project could be completed in 4-6 weeks, provided that the bridge is closed for that amount of time. We are also putting some thought into that in the hopes that we can reduce that time. We will get back to the Town with further possible solutions to the truck turn issue and a conceptual cost estimate and schedule for a bridge closure option, hopefully before your next Select Board meeting.

Incidentally, in 2012, in Act 153, Section 26, 19 VSA Chapter 309a, paragraph b, section 6 was amended to say that municipalities that choose to rehabilitate existing bridges shall pay a 5% share of the project. Further, if the municipality closes the bridge and does not construct a temporary bridge, its share drops to 2.5%. If we can find a way to allow public pedestrian access to the existing pedestrian bridge on Andover St. and avoid the temporary one we mentioned last night, you can reduce your share substantially. Our Right-of-Way staff can help you with negotiations when the time comes.

As promised last night, here are the items we would like to hear back from the Town on:

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- Your position/agreement on the scope of the project; replacement of the superstructures and deck. It sounds like the Town would like to further consider the options for maintaining traffic, so that detail can be put off for now.
- Thoughts on truck movements. We discussed this and need to revisit to allow for truck movements if traffic is maintained through the work zone.
- Please confirm that the Right of Way looks correct on our slide.
- Your concurrence that bikes could have the option of traveling through the work zone with traffic or detouring themselves around.
- Your position on pedestrians based on the discussion above.
- Your concurrence with the proposed bridge rail (similar to the bridge on Main St. east of this project).
- General project schedule – 2022 construction season at the moment.
- Suggestions on the light poles and the original piece of bridge rail.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. You can reach my cell phone at 802 917-8554, or at gary.sweeny@vermont.gov. We look forward to working with you on this project.

Sincerely,

Gary Sweeny, PE
Structures Engineer