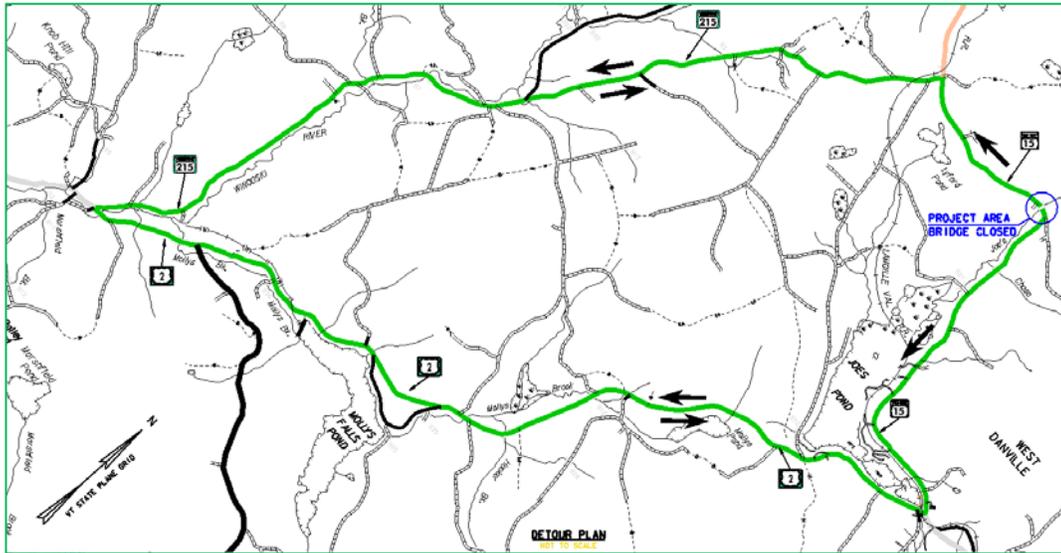


WALDEN BRF 030-3(5) Detour Questions and Answers



- 1. When and how long is the bridge closure period?**
 - The current schedule shows the bridge closure period beginning on June 22nd and remaining in effect for the following 28 consecutive days.
- 2. The 4th of July falls within the closure period. How will traffic be managed on that day?**
 - The Town of Cabot has indicated they will hold a 4th of July parade in the Village and close Route 215 to traffic during a specific time period. The project message boards will be changed in advance to indicate when the road will be closed to through traffic and suggest that travelers seek alternate routes. Truck traffic on that day should be minimal.
- 3. Route 215 is a Class II highway, not a State road. Can it be used as a detour for a State bridge project?**
 - Yes. Route 215 can be used as a detour route for a State project. Vermont State Statutes allow VTrans to detour traffic on a town highway. However, VTrans is responsible for repairing any damage to the town highway caused by the detoured traffic.
- 4. How will VTrans identify and repair damage caused by the additional traffic on Route 215**
 - Prior to the closing of the bridge in Walden, the contractor for the bridge project, J.A. McDonald, the VTrans Resident Engineer, along with the Road

Foreman from the Towns of Marshfield, Cabot and Walden, together, will inspect and document the current condition of Route 215. They will evaluate the paved road, the line striping, and any other conditions that seem questionable.

- If the parties involved in the inspection of Route 215 determine that work is required before the closure, J.A. McDonald will complete that work. Examples of this would be new line striping, fixing pot holes, etc.
- Once the bridge in Walden is re-opened to traffic, the detour will no longer be in service. The same team of representatives will drive the detour once again and determine if any damage occurred. If so, the contractor will make the necessary agreed upon repairs.

5. If Cabot agrees to Route 215 being the detour route, will there be an official agreement?

- There does not need to be an official agreement signed.

6. Concern has been raised about the narrow bridge (B7) in lower Cabot in conjunction with the additional traffic on Route 215. How can VTrans improve the safety with the additional traffic on Route 215 in that Vicinity?

- There is currently a High Risk Rural Road (HRRR) project for Route 215 which includes new signing at this bridge location. VTrans will have J.A. McDonald install the new signs and delineators at the bridge location as proposed in this HRRR project prior to the closure. New signs and delineators will be installed only in the vicinity of the Lower Cabot Bridge before the Walden bridge closure period.

7. What is required by Vermont State Statutes for a local road to be designated as a detour?

- The State Statutes indicate that before the planned closure of a state highway that the Agency contact the affected legislative bodies of the affected communities and ask if there is a need for a regional public meeting. The purpose of the meeting would be to discuss how VTrans can reduce adverse impacts and develop mitigation strategies.
- There was a regional public meeting held in January 2011 regarding this project and the detour route was introduced at this time. Surrounding communities and businesses were invited to attend. At this meeting, VTrans did indicate they would pursue the staged construction after listening to the concerns of the public. However, it was determined later, that due to the safety of the travelling public through this section of the road and the complexity of the new construction; VTrans could not proceed with that alternative.

- VTrans informed the Town of Walden in February of 2013 traffic would have to be detoured. (A temporary bridge at this location was not an option due to constraints on both sides of the structure.)
 - After making that decision, VTrans did not hold an additional public meeting regarding the traffic detour.
 - In August of 2014, VTrans submitted final plans to the Town of Walden and the detour route was included in the plans.
 - On April 6, 2015, the Town of Cabot is holding an informational public meeting to allow VTrans to present the project information. Members of the surrounding communities are invited to attend and ask questions. Emergency personnel from these communities will also be present to discuss their measures of response during the closure period.
- 8. VTrans designated a detour without holding a public hearing. Is a hearing necessary?**
- A hearing is not necessary.
- 9. Will VTrans help the communities with additional speed and weight enforcement on the local roads?**
- VTrans will be offering compensation to the Towns of Cabot, Walden and Marshfield for increased enforcement on affected local roads. This is accomplished by calculating an amount commensurate with the length of Town Highway-Route 215 that is affected. VTrans will then develop an agreement and compensate each Town so they can contract with the County Sheriff or State Police to increase speed enforcement.
- 10. Who will provide law enforcement; State Police, Sheriff, or DMV?**
- Law enforcement will be determined by each community.
- 11. Is there an opportunity to change the detour route for this project?**
- The planned detour needs to move forward as planned to meet the aggressive project schedule. There is a great deal of planning and logistics involved with accelerated bridge construction and detour route planning. VTrans has a signed contract with J.A. McDonald and they are ramping up for meeting the schedule to build the new bridge in Walden.
- 12. Can the temporary bridge on US 2 handle the detoured traffic?**
- Currently, the bridge in Cabot on US 2 is safe to handle State legal loads. If VTrans determines the bridge needs some minor maintenance prior to the closure period, VTrans District 7 will make those necessary adjustments.

13. The traffic on VT 15 through Walden is 2400 cars a day with approximately 310 (12.9%) being truck traffic. Will all this traffic go on the detour?

- VTrans recently performed a Statewide Model Analysis for this project. The model analyzes what happens to the daily travel when Bridge 83 in Walden is closed to traffic
- A “select link analysis (SLA)” analysis was performed for this study to understand the communities that make use of the bridge on a typical day in Vermont.
- The SLA indicated that the bridge is primarily used by regional and local traffic.
- The result indicated that even without a “signed” detour that users would seek alternate routes including detouring onto Route 215.
- The Model application indicated there would be no “adverse effect” to the travelling public.
- It also stated that information regarding the closure needs to be communicated throughout the region including Montpelier, St. Johnsbury, and Morristown as these travelers will choose a different route to travel.
- Conclusion is that users of VT 15 will seek alternate routes via State Highways and local roads

14. What type of traffic impacts will happen at the bridge project prior to/ and after the closure period? How long with the entire project take?

- The contractor will begin to mobilize equipment and perform minimal work at the bridge location starting in June 2015. Although the bridge closure period will last only 28-days, additional work will be necessary to complete project after the closure. There will be occasional interruptions in traffic in which alternating one-lane closures will occur. Trained flaggers will be present to assist in maintaining the traffic flow during these periods. The contractor anticipates any additional work to be completed by the end of August, but per the contract has until October 16, 2015 to complete the project.