

State of Vermont
Program Development
One National Life Drive
Montpelier, VT 05633-5001
Richard.Tetreault@state.vt.us

[phone] 802-828-2663
[fax] 802-828-5172
[ttd] 802-253-0191

Agency of Transportation

<http://vtrans.vermont.gov/>

January 12, 2015

Select Board
c/o Laurie Broe, Town Clerk
Town of Georgia
47 Town Common Road North
St Albans, VT 05478

RE: Georgia IM CULV25) on Interstate I-89 - Culverts 83-1N & 83-1S Replacement Project

Dear Board,

On December 17, 2014 Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) held 19 V.S.A. § 502 public hearing for the Georgia IM CULV(25) Culvert Replacement Project at the Georgia Public Library, 1697 Ethan Allen Highway, Georgia, Vermont. The meeting transcription was provided by O'Brien Reporting Services Inc., Rutland, Vermont. As confirmed by the transcript, no comments were received during the meeting.

Those in attendance at the public hearing were: VTrans staff, VTrans' Engineering Consultant (VHB), Michael McCarthy (Georgia Town Manager), Tari Trainer (Court Reporter), Bethany Remmers (NRPC), and two members of the public Chris Gonyeau, and Heather Gonyeau. VTrans did not receive any written comments within the 10-day written comment period following the meeting. As such, VTrans did not hold a meeting to discuss comments.

During the informal session prior to the hearing, VTrans explained the project to the Gonyeaus. No significant project related discoveries were made. However, Chris Gonyeau, a property owner at the downstream end of the culvert, brought up the following:

- He was concerned about the increased cross-sectional area of the proposed culvert because he believes the increased flow may affect his bridge located along his driveway.
- He was concerned about the fence proposed around the additional easement acquired by VTrans will block his current access to north of his property.

With regard to the first concern, upper property owners have the right to pass surface waters in their natural condition to lower land. VTrans is not responsible for the downstream effects of the natural flows that will pass through the proposed structure. It is up to the property owner to design and construct his structures to withstand all anticipated natural flows.

About the second concern on access, the VTrans Operations section has been contacted to come up with an arrangement (such as a gate along the fence line) to help the property owner.



VTrans has determined that the above concerns do not warrant a change to the proposed project. Based on our review of the transcripts, VTrans believes that the proposed project should advance based on the information presented at this hearing. The property owner will be notified the determination of VTrans of his concerns.

We would also like to make you aware that important project documentation, including a copy of this letter and the presentation made at this hearing is available on the internet at the following link:

<https://outside.vermont.gov/agency/vtrans/external/Projects/Structures/11A218>

We would like to thank everyone who commented on this project and/or attended this hearing. Public participation is a very important aspect in the development of our transportation improvement projects and we appreciate the comments and suggestions we receive. Should you or anyone else have any questions or comments regarding this project, please contact Project Manager, Mahendra Thilliyar at mahendra.thilliyar@state.vt.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard M. Tetreault".

Richard M. Tetreault, P.E.
Chief Engineer VTrans Highways Division

cc: David Blackmore – DTA, District #8 (via email)
Northwest Regional Planning Commission
Amy Bell - VAOT Planning Coordinator (via email)
Wayne Symonds – Structures Program Manager (via email)
Mahendra Thilliyar – Project Manager (via email)
Andrea Proulx – ROW Agent (via email)

