

BURLINGTON, VERMONT
PROJECT MEGC-M5000(1)

SOUTHERN CONNECTOR/CHAMPLAIN PARKWAY PROJECT
CHITTENDEN COUNTY, VERMONT

LIMITED SCOPE FINAL SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Submitted Pursuant to

42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c), 23 U.S.C. 128 (a),
and 49 U.S.C. 303

By the:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

and

VERMONT AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION

and

CITY OF BURLINGTON DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

MATTHEW R HAKE Digitally signed by MATTHEW R HAKE
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For Federal Highway Administration

Date of Approval

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For Vermont Agency of Transportation

Date of Approval

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**U.S. Department
of Transportation
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Vermont Division

August 19, 2021

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Dear Reader:

The FHWA, in cooperation with the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) and the City of Burlington, is pleased to release the Limited-Scope Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (LS FSEIS) for the Champlain Parkway Project between Interstate 189 and Main Street in Burlington, Vermont.

This LS FSEIS is limited in the scope of environmental analysis, and it only assesses the project impacts on low-income and minority populations. Based on the Executive Order (EO) 12898 Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, and FHWA's December 16, 2011 Guidance on Environmental Justice and NEPA, it is FHWA's policy to identify and address any disproportionately high and adverse effects of FHWA actions on the health or environment of minority and low-income populations to the greatest extent practicable and permitted by law. This LS FSEIS addresses a limited portion of the Project along the Pine Street section of the Selected Alternative, between Maple Street and Main Street.

During the Limited-Scope Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (LS DSEIS) review of the Selected Alternative, FHWA identified minority populations between Maple Street and Main Street, and adjacent to Pine Street between Kilburn Street and Flynn Avenue. The LS DSEIS was issued for public and agency review on July 10, 2020. The comment period for the LS DSEIS closed on August 24, 2020.

The City, FHWA, and VTrans provided various opportunities for public involvement and conducted a targeted public outreach meeting at the Contois Auditorium located in the Burlington City Hall on September 26, 2019. To ensure meaningful engagement of the minority community, the meeting announcement was translated into Bhutanese-Nepali, Swahili, Somali (Mai-Mai), Burmese, and French. Flyers were mailed directly to residents and City staff went door-to-door distributing flyers. The targeted public outreach meeting was hosted at City Hall, a well-known public landmark that is ADA accessible and within walking distance (i.e., two blocks or approximately 0.3 mile) of the Maple and King Street Neighborhood. The neighborhood gathering at the King Street Center on October 7, 2019 was useful for promoting additional dialogue with concerned citizens, stakeholders, and the Project team. FHWA, VTrans, and the City of Burlington followed FHWA, federal, state, and local guidance as well as Vermont's H.681 legislation amending the Vermont Open Meeting Law (1 V.S.A. §314) in conducting the public outreach for the Limited Scope Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (LS DSEIS).

To provide further targeted public outreach, prior to the July 29, 2020 public hearing on the LS DSEIS, direct mailings were sent to approximately 800 residents in the Maple and King Street Neighborhood and Census Tract 8, Block Group 1. Outreach materials, including information sheets and narrated videos, were made available on the Project's website in English, Burmese, French, Nepali, Somali, and Swahili in addition to the public hearing.

FHWA independently reviewed and analyzed all public comments including the verbal comments provided at the public hearing and written comments submitted via regular mail, email, or through the project website and collaborated with the appropriate Federal, State, and local government agencies prior to responding to the comments. All public comments and their summarized responses are included in the Appendix A of this document. FHWA found that no additions or changes to the June 2020 LS DSEIS were required in response to the comments, therefore this LS FSEIS consists solely of the LS DSEIS and Appendix A.

All environmental commitments made as a result of this supplemental NEPA review as well as the environmental commitments from the 2009 Final EIS shall be carried forward into the project's PS&E package, and the construction contracts. FHWA, in conjunction with VTrans and the City, will monitor and assure the full implementation of the environmental commitments.

To conclude the project's NEPA review, FHWA is planning to issue a Record of Decision (ROD) which will incorporate all environmental commitments. After NEPA approval, the City and their consultant team can resume preparing the final design plans and bid documents necessary to advertise the Project for construction.

Sincerely,

**MATTHEW R
HAKE**

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Matthew R. Hake, P.E.
Division Administrator