



State of Vermont
Division of Policy, Planning and
Intermodal Development
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Agency of Transportation

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May 4, 2020

Chapin Spencer
Director of Public Work
Department of Public Works
PO Box 849
Burlington, VT 05402-0849

RE: Planned Advancement of the Champlain Parkway Project

Dear Chapin,

On behalf of the Agency of Transportation I am reaching out to confirm our ongoing commitment to the City of Burlington for the advancement of the Champlain Parkway project which is scheduled to start construction in March of 2021. As with all complex, long-term projects, there are consultant, staff, and leadership changes which occur over the course of the project. The Parkway project is no exception.

The Agency has been pleased to work collaboratively with the Mayor and City staff, and for the continued support of the City Council. As you brief Councilors new to this project, the Agency would be happy to provide any information necessary.

As we all appreciate, the cancellation of a project of this magnitude and duration would lead to a mandatory FHWA repayment of all federally covered costs since the time the City took over the project in 1998 as a locally managed project, an amount of nearly \$14 million. Cancellation of the project includes abandoning the project's existing Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and the selected alternative embodied in that EIS, and restarting the EIS process with a new project Purpose and Need. It is VTrans' position that the cost of repayment of the federal funds would be borne by the City of Burlington should the project be cancelled, unless the project were cancelled at the request of the Agency. Aiding key stakeholders in understanding the breadth of the project is an important part of avoiding such a risk.

In early June, the project schedule provided by the City's consultant team will be such that public outreach will begin for the Limited Scope Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (LS DSEIS); this will be followed by a more formal hearing required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This process will determine whether or not the Environmental Justice (EJ) community along the Pine Street Section of the project between

Maple Street and King Street will be disproportionately affected by the current project design. Mitigation and/or design changes might be required if the EJ community is found to be disproportionately affected through the LS DSEIS process.

The Agency is very pleased with the progress which has been made on the Parkway project in the past few years under your leadership with the support of your team and our project consultants. We recognize that the City is on the verge of having the key requirements in place to begin the bid advertising process this fall, a key milestone for the project.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michele Boomhower". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michele Boomhower
Division Director

Cc: Wayne Symonds, Highway Division Director
Sue Scribner, Municipal Assistance Bureau Director
Wayne Davis, Project Manager