

MEMORANDUM

TO: File

FROM: Jason A. Stone

DATE: July 25, 2001

RE: VTrans
Pittsford Bypass Scoping Study
NH 019-3(49)SC
CLD Reference No. 01-0168

SUBJECT: Pittsford Bypass Steering Committee Meeting

LOCATION: Pittsford Municipal Building

ATTENDEES: Four members of the public attended in addition to the attendees listed below.

Peg Flory	Pittsford Selectboard	PBSC, BBSC
Lynn Saunders	Brandon Selectboard	PBSC, BBSC
Dan Peterson	VTrans LTF	PBSC, BBSC
James O’Gorman	Pittsford Town Manager	PBSC
Hank Pelkey	Pittsford Selectboard	PBSC
C. Baird Morgan	Pittsford	PBSC
Chris Bean	CLD Engineers, Project Manager	PBSC, BBSC
Jason Stone	Environmental Specialist	

Unable to Attend:
Greg Riley VTrans Project Manager PBSC, BBSC

PBSC: Pittsford Bypass Steering Committee
BBSC: Brandon Bypass Steering Committee

Meeting Notes

1. Introductions/Purpose of Meeting

Chris Bean asked the attendees to introduce themselves, as two members of the public were present at the beginning of the meeting. Dan Peterson informed the Committee that Greg Riley is now the VTrans Project Manager for the Bypass Studies, and that he will stay on in an advisory capacity. Chris then explained that the purpose of the meeting was to update the Steering Committee on, and discuss the following items:

- US Route 7 Upgrade and Pittsford and Brandon Bypass Scoping Study Schedules.
- Status of the Bypass Study Scoping Report.
- Issues raised at, and comments received after the May 21, 2001, Public Informational Meeting.

- Purpose of the August 30, 2001, Public Informational Meeting.

2. Project Schedules

a) **US Route 7 Upgrade Projects**

Chris explained that Conceptual Plans for all six project segments have been submitted to VTrans, and that the final Comment Review Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 31, 2001, at VTrans headquarters in Montpelier, VT, from 9:00 AM until noon.

The current Upgrade Project schedule is an example of how any of the project segments may be advanced to advertisement for construction, currently slated for summer, 2006. Chris related the input received at the July 23, 2001, Brandon Bypass Steering Committee Meeting; the time slated for the right-of-way process is excessive and may give the impression that either the projects, or obtaining funding for the projects, are less than urgent. The Pittsford Steering Committee concurred. Chris explained that CLD will investigate ways to reduce the period of time slated for the Right of Way process, and also noted that an updated Upgrade Schedule will be prepared for the next Upgrade Steering Committee Meeting, to be held on Monday, August 6, 2001, at the Brandon Fire Station, from 4:00 – 7:00 PM.

Peg Flory added that Project Segment 6 (Brandon Village) is likely to advance ahead of the others, as the Town of Brandon owns the highway right-of-way and would, therefore, be the condemning authority for that segment. This could result in a reduction in the time required to purchase property for the project.

Dan Peterson stressed that it is important for the Steering Committee to stay together, to see the projects through to construction.

b) **Pittsford and Brandon Bypass Scoping Study**

Chris explained that CLD is preparing the Draft Bypass Scoping Report, which will be provided to the Steering Committees for review and comment, prior to the August 30, 2001, Public Informational Meeting. Chris explained that to date, no resource impacts or other issues have been identified that would indicate the study should not move forward. Therefore, the recommendation of the Draft Scoping Report will be in favor of advancing the Bypass Projects into the EIS process. The Report will be finalized in September, 2001, and then forwarded to the Rutland Regional Planning Commission and the Transportation Advisory Committee in October, 2001, where priorities for funding and listing on the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) are determined. Chris explained that funding for the STIP is very tight; in fact, as Dan Peterson noted, the STIP is already approximately \$30 million behind the projects that are already designed and “on-shelf,” awaiting funds. Chris added that the Legislature could also mandate that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) be done. Dan stressed the importance of strong local support for projects competing for funds, and added that the Steering Committee should contact local and regional transportation officials to emphasize the importance of the Bypass Projects to Pittsford and Brandon, as well as other communities along the US Route 7 corridor.

3. **May 21, 2001, Public Informational Meeting**

The following issues were raised at the May 21, 2001, Public Informational Meeting, and will be addressed in the Draft Scoping Report:

• **Before and After Studies for Bypassed Towns**

The likely socio-economic effects of Bypasses on similar communities have been studied, and will be discussed in the Report. While not all effects are positive, the studies demonstrate that Bypasses are not as negative as generally anticipated by locals.

• **OMYA Rail Spur**

OMYA is studying the feasibility of a rail spur that would allow transport of raw material from its quarry, north of Brandon, to the Florence Facility. The spur would remove approximately 115 round truck-trips from Brandon Village. An obvious question is, therefore, "Would the spur give sufficient relief to eliminate the need for a bypass around Brandon?" Based on currently available information and considering the current rate of truck volume growth, the reduction in trucks on US Route 7 resulting from the spur would not reduce the overall volume of truck traffic on US Route 7 to a degree that would obviate the need for a bypass. Anticipated truck traffic growth alone would offset OMYA's 115 truck trips per day within 5-6 years.

• **The Effect of the Conceptual Corridors on Property Values**

Several in attendance expressed the concern that the value of property affected by conceptual corridors would be diminished. A realtor stated his opinion that the Scoping Study and the locations of the conceptual corridors must be disclosed to perspective property buyers and sellers in the area. Peg Flory stated that Greg Riley informed her of the VT Attorney General's Office recent opinion, that this scoping study is of such a preliminary nature that disclosure by or to sellers is not necessary. Peg added that a letter from the Attorney General's Office to this effect is forthcoming.

4. **Next Meeting**

A Joint Pittsford and Brandon Bypass Study **Public Informational Meeting** is scheduled for August 30, 2001, at the Otter Valley Union High School Auditorium. The meeting will begin at 6:00 PM, with an informal question and answer session. The formal presentation will begin at 7:00 PM, and a public input session will run from 7:45 to approximately 8:30 PM. The purpose of the meeting is to present the findings documented in the Draft Scoping Report. The Report will also make the preliminary recommendation to advance the Scoping Study into the EIS process.

JAS:cww

cc:

Lynn Saunders	Brandon	Scott Newman	VTrans	Chris Borstel	Louis Berger Grp.
Peg Flory	Pittsford	Duncan Wilkie	VTrans	Kathleen Ryan	Landscape Architect
Richard Baker	Brandon	Greg Riley	VTrans	Gary A. Klinefelter	VSE
Jim O'Gorman	Pittsford	Dennis Benjamin	VTrans	Virginia Russell	State Transportation Board
Mike Balch	Brandon	John Narowski	VTrans	Jon Satz	Store Owner, Brandon
Hank Pelkey	Pittsford	Chris Slesar	VTrans	Sen. Gerry Gossens	State Senator
C. Baird Morgan	Pittsford	Paul Conner	RRPC	Roy Newton	<i>Brandon-Pittsford Reporter</i>
Dolores Furnari	Brandon	Mark Blucher	RRPC	Ed Barna	<i>Rutland Herald</i>
Dan Peterson	VTrans	Mark Germanowski	RRPC	Frank Farnsworth	<i>Otter Valley Press</i>
Alan Neveau	VTrans	Susie Leonard	RRPC	Harry McKinley	Pittsford

Memorandum to File
CLD Reference No. 01-0169
July 23, 2001
Page 4