From: Minter, Sue [Sue.Minter@state.vt.us]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2015 6:09 PM
To: London, Sarah
Subject: more on transportation and poverty

Sarah: Just saw this notice in the legislative bulliten from the Vt. Planners group… Sounds like there is another item afoot

- **Transportation and Poverty**. As forwarded from Seth Jensen: I learned of an interesting conversation that occurred last week at the House Human Services Committee. While not a committee where we expect to find planning related discussions, the Governor's Council on Pathways from Poverty has identified transportation as a major barrier to people leaving poverty. Some members of the Committee have taken an interest in this topic. [Report: http://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Documents/2016/WorkGroups/House%20Human%20Services/Reports%20Reviewed/W~Chris%20Curtis~Report%20to%20the%20Governor%20from%20the%20Committee%20on%20Pathways%20from%20Poverty~2-5-2015.pdf] The report kind of gets at the "Housing Plus Transportation Issues," without really calling it that. One of the report's recommendations is to "Complete a high-level study of transportation issues affecting low income people that examines existing vehicle and ridership programs, public transportation, and regulations relating to fines, fees and repairs that are barriers." While the report doesn't get to planning questions such as where we locate housing relative to job opportunities, it is clearly an issue that should be considered in this kind of study. I also understand that a prior administration argued that VHCB funds would be more effective if housing was built where land is less expensive (i.e. not in downtowns and village centers). The report demonstrates why this may not be a wise decision. This may be a discussion worth following, and potentially an opportunity to highlight the benefits of good planning to a segment of the Legislature we don't often talk to.

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