

From: Allen, Susan [Susan.Allen@vermont.gov]
Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2015 2:02 PM
To: Springer, Darren; Coriell, Scott; London, Sarah
Subject: CONFIDENTIAL: Weekly update from AOT:

Note: Sue Minter is going rafting out West for 7 days starting Saturday.

VSEA wants to meet with Sue, probably about the discrimination lawsuit. Sue talked to Marybeth and has agreed to meet. On my recommendation, she's going to call Annie and have an off-the record conversation.

Gov will be invited to attend the grand opening of the Lamoille County Rail Trail head on Aug. 27. We should check with Sue before accepting because there's ONLY a trail head, but no trail. Sue wants to make sure this is a good event and not silly.

AOT has invited lawmakers and press to an Aug. 19 event in Hartford to display a 'slide the bridge' project – they will be sliding a new bridge in to replace an old bridge. Very cool.

She'll put something on the White River Junction bridge closure in the weekly report. They are doing repairs, and traffic might back up.

*Middlebury has a big rail track problem. The track moves through downtown, it's underground and topped with a crumbling bridge that divides the town green in two. The track is a disaster, icy, there's been one derailment. So the town started a replacement project (the town manages it, the state assists). The first proposal was a 3-year plan that the businesses went ballistic over. Instead, in a big surprise, some in town are now calling for a brand new **bypass** track outside town. Sue correctly notes that will quadruple the cost (the Omya spur proposed several years ago was only 3.2 miles with no obstacles, and it cost tens of millions –maybe more; this new proposal would be double the length, pass through wetlands and prime ag, cross six major roads, etc.). Sue is preparing a letter from AOT to spell out the options; the bypass plan will look terrible. At my suggestion, Sue will meet with Angelo before publicly presenting the letter to give her side – and she notes that the selectboard agrees with AOT. FYI, AOT is trying to re-work the current plan to reduce the timeline to 1 year instead of 3. AND this plan would be eligible for 80 percent federal funds; the bypass would receive no federal funds.*

Very exciting business potential. There's this young guy named Matt George (Middlebury Grad, just FYI) who has opened a company that is similar to Uber but uses existing technology and obeys labor laws, and Matt is VERY interested in doing a pilot project in Vermont. Sue has met with him, and her initial reax is he's on the level, but she'll do a little more homework before coming to Gov with a proposal.