

From: Minter, Sue [Sue.Minter@state.vt.us]
Sent: Monday, July 06, 2015 3:00 PM
To: Springer, Darren
CC: Pappis, Costa; Cole, Chris
Subject: FW: TIGER 7 Talking Points for Sue and Chris

Darren: Thanks for requesting the delegation make these calls to Secretary Foxx for TIGER Grant to complete our Western Corridor Rail project investment to both support freight and passenger rail, and to implement the Governor's top rail/ transportation priority of extending AMTRAK/ Passenger service from Rutland to Burlington. Details below.

"Western Vermont Freight-Passenger Rail Project" (USDOT Project Id# vtrans433)

Brief Project Description:

"The Western Vermont Freight-Passenger Rail Project will fund construction activities associated with improving rail freight operations along the Vermont Railway Northern Subdivision (VTR), and extending existing intercity passenger rail Amtrak service from Rutland to Burlington – Vermont's largest city and only urban area. Project components to bring the track up to FRA Class III standards (40 MPH freight, 59 MPH passenger speeds) include replacing approximately 11 miles of old jointed rail with continuously-welded rail, surface, ballast and ties, wye upgrades, grade-crossing upgrades, bridge rehabilitation, new power switches, new station platforms, passing sidings, and track realignment."

Key Talking Points:

- Our TIGER request is for \$12 million in TIGER funds. State will match with \$11 million in state funds, along with \$3.5 more in federal grade crossing grants.
- The project is of critical of importance to Vermont. Burlington is the only major city in New England without intercity passenger rail. Vermont has been supporting intercity rail for over twenty years by providing operating funding for two Amtrak Services - the Ethan Allen Express and the Vermonter.
- The project has enormous support from communities all along the line, particularly from the towns and economic development interests in all the cities, especially Burlington.
- The federal government has invested over \$60 million to make this project happen. This grant is the last piece to get the train to Burlington.
- No other funding sources are available to implement this project. Rail is the only mode of transportation that has no dedicated federal funding. Vermont is making a substantial contribution towards this project - covering over half the cost with its own funds.
- The State has been working closely with the Federal Railroad Administration to develop this project. We have undertaken numerous studies and plans to make this project a reality.

Note: If you have further questions please contact project manager Costa Pappis at details below:

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Thank you!

Sue

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