

Good afternoon,

I am writing to follow up on questions asked by Senators Degree and Kitchel during Highway Safety & Design Program Manager Jesse Devlin's testimony on January 29th and ask for your assistance in forwarding this information to committee members.

Senator Degree requested an update on the project schedule and status of **St. Albans HPP 8000(17)**. The design consultant is currently working on 60% construction plans (preliminary plans) incorporating design changes due to the elimination of a roundabout near Weldon St. as well as continuing railroad complications. It is expected that these revised plans will be completed either later this month or in March. Following this submittal, preliminary right of way plans are expected in for review by VTrans later in March or in April. A meeting will then be held to assess impacts under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as the project did require an Environmental Assessment (EA) and it needs to be confirmed that any project changes will not affect the Finding of No Significant Impact from the EA effort. The City received SAFETEA-LU earmarks to fund the project but there isn't enough funding to complete construction of the entire project so a financial/coordination meeting with the Town is planned for the spring of this year to understand how the City intends to break the project into phases for construction; at least three are anticipated. Right of way acquisitions for the first phase of construction will then need to be made and final plans developed. Right now construction is scheduled for SFY17 which may or may not be achievable given the status and challenges of the project.

Senator Kitchel requested an update on the project schedule and status of **Essex Junction STP 5300(13)**. Currently there is significant effort being expended on railroad pre-emption issues, a traffic management plan and property owner meetings. Next step is to develop draft right-of-way plans and acquisition documents which are expected in a few months' time. The Village is hoping to have right of way cleared by the end of 2015 and for the project to be bid out for construction in spring of 2016.

Thank you very much. Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Regards,

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