

Essex Junction Crescent Connector Road Scoping Study

Fall 2010

PROJECT PURPOSE & NEED STATEMENT

The purpose of this project is to create an additional route connecting VT 2A with VT 117 and VT 15 in order to facilitate regional travel to destinations south, east and northeast of the Village as well as improve local circulation in the Village center. The additional route will improve operations at the congested Five Corners intersection by reducing vehicular travel through the intersection. The project will also open up three large Village center properties to economic development and support employment growth by providing access to under-developed parcels.

Input from the Steering Committee and Local Concerns meeting as well as analyses of existing traffic conditions in the project area identified the following needs:

- **Improve regional mobility and local connectivity in the Village.** Currently there are no alternate routes linking VT 2A (south of Five Corners) with VT 117 and VT 15 (east and northeast of the Five Corners respectively) that would facilitate regional and local travel by allowing vehicles to bypass the congested Five Corners intersection.
- **Reduce traffic congestion and increase safety at the Five Corners intersection.** Excessive traffic congestion creates the following conditions:
 - Vehicle delays at the Five Corners intersection exceed the threshold for Level of Service (LOS) F on multiple approaches during peak hour travel (AM and PM). The overall intersection LOS is also F during PM peak hour;
 - Traffic volumes exceed approach capacities during peak hours of travel (AM and PM);
 - Long vehicle queues disrupt access to adjoining business; and
 - The segment of the VT2A roadway that includes Five Corners is designated as a High Crash Location by VTrans.
- **Increase development potential and promote economic growth in the Village center.** Certain prominent—Brownfield—parcels located in the commercial heart of the Village, particularly those adjacent to the rail lines, have a large amount of underutilized or vacant space that lacks suitable access. This situation hampers their attractiveness to new businesses, as well as their ability to obtain state and local permits for development.