



In the whole world there is only one Essex Junction

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July 8, 2011

Mr. Brian Searles
Secretary of Transportation
Vermont Agency of Transportation
National Life Building, Drawer 33
Montpelier, Vermont 05633-5001

RE: Crescent Connector and CIRC Funds

Dear Brian,

The Village of Essex Junction is committed to assisting the State in developing alternatives to alleviate vehicular congestion in the vicinity of the scaled back CIRC Highway. Of immediate relevance is the recently completed Scoping Study that proposed a new Connector Road in the heart of the Village that would reduce traffic at the Five Corners. It is currently estimated that three million dollars (\$3,000,000) will be needed for the physical construction of the road and attendant traffic lights and rail crossings. A copy of the Crescent Connector Project is attached for your reference.

This new road will do more than enable traffic to move more efficiently through the Village; it will also open up several large village center properties that are currently underutilized to economic development. The holistic plan for the Village Center also envisions a second component project that, when combined with the Connector Road, has the potential to reduce the wait time for vehicles at the Five Corners up to seventy-five (75) percent in the pm peak hour. In so doing it will reduce the emission of greenhouse gases, (assisting the County in its goal to comply with Federal Air Quality Attainment Standards) and make the intersection more pedestrian and bicycle friendly.

The Village feels that keeping the project management of the Connector Road in-house will be the most efficient way of moving the project forward in a timely manner. We hope to build on our productive working relationship, so aptly illustrated by the successful completion of the Pearl Street project last year which was a collaborative effort with VTrans and the CCMPO. With this in mind, we would ask that VTrans authorize the Village to act as the project's "Construction Manager" with the assistance of Village Engineer Richard Hamlin. To further clone the Pearl Street success, we ask that VTrans assign Ande Deforge to be our Agency contact as the Agency's Project Manager.

We plan to move forward as quickly as possible with the ROW acquisition from property owners affected by the Connector Road and we understand that these acquisitions must comply with the FHWA Uniform Act requirements. In order to do this we also request that the Agency assist the Village by assigning a person in the ROW Division to act as our advisor. Village Attorney David Barra has been assigned with preparing the legal documents.

It is the Village's intent to continue to work on the Crescent Connector Project as a local initiative while the "CIRC Alternative Projects" are being defined. It is our belief that by doing so the project could be started within one year.

We thank you very much for your consideration of our requests.

Sincerely,

David A. Crawford
Village Manager