



*In the whole world there is only one Essex Junction*

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Linda Myers, Chair  
Town of Essex Selectboard  
81 Main Street  
Essex Junction, VT 05452

Dear Linda,

I agree with your suggestion in your June 8, 2011 letter that recent announcements regarding the Circumferential Highway require a coordinated response from the affected communities. Additionally, as you know, in their June 28, 2011 meeting with representatives and managers from the affected communities, Governor Shumlin and Secretary of Transportation Searles presented a more detailed framework for how such a response should proceed. To briefly summarize their strategy for "Reinventing the Circ":

- The Governor has asked the Federal Highway Administration to amend the traditional Circ project to allow reallocation of funds for a package of alternative projects from the affected communities – Colchester, Essex, Essex Junction, and Williston - for mitigating traffic congestion in the Routes 15, 2A, and 117 corridors.
- The Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO) will coordinate and facilitate the alternative project process, and will also collect input from relevant parties such as environmental groups, state agencies, and businesses.
- An October/November deadline for concluding the process is required for inclusion in the 2012 Legislative session.

Therefore, considering the timeline of the Governor's proposal, the trustees would like to suggest a working meeting between the heads of the two boards, managers, and appropriate staff to quickly review the transportation improvement projects that our two municipalities anticipate including in this new "Circ alternative" effort. That will allow us to identify and resolve areas of potential conflict and to discuss the possibility of developing a coordinated strategy for representing the interests of the entire Essex community – town and village – as we move forward with the Governor's proposal. The two chairs can also consider an agenda and schedule for a formal meeting of the two boards later this summer.

If that plan is agreeable to you, please suggest a few possible meeting dates. Village Manager Dave Crawford is away for the week of July 11, otherwise we will be available throughout the month.

Sincerely,

George Tyler, President  
Essex Junction Board of Trustees