

2018 Vermont All State Parade
Proposal for the Essex Police & Essex Village Trustees
February 26, 2018

Background:

- The 2018 Vermont All State Music Festival is being hosted by Essex High School's Music Department on Wednesday, May 9th through Saturday, May 12th.
- As part of that festival, the annual Vermont All State Parade is held each year on the Wednesday of the festival, also in the host community, a parade open to any school marching group from elementary to high school
- This will be the 91st such parade and we are hoping to have 30 to 35 bands from across Vermont participate, involving more than 2200 students and several thousand supporters.

Concerns:

- Because the Village of Essex Jct. already sponsors our state's largest Memorial Day Parade, because that parade occurs just three weeks after the All State Parade, and because the Five Corners intersection is a major thoroughfare for travelers in Chittenden County, especially at 6:00 PM on a weekday, we are not able to have the Vermont All State Parade.
- Given the long tradition of this event, our nation's longest such festival parade, and its place as the largest student event in our state, we hope to be able to host the Vermont All State Parade in Essex Jct. on that Wednesday in May.

Proposal:

- That we use a different route than the Memorial Day Parade does, one that provides our bands with a street parade along with the additional use of the Essex High School Track.
- That this route be on less traveled roads in the Village of Essex Jct. so that the disruption of traffic is kept to a minimum.
- That this route be such as to only require a few Traffic Control Certified personnel so that it can be staffed by properly trained volunteers from local police and fire agencies, volunteers that the All State Parade chairs will arrange for and organize
- That this route also meet all of the requirements of the All State Parade in regards to safety, parking, crowd control, and location.

Route & Traffic Control personnel:

- The proposed route would be:
 - Starting at the Tree Farm and proceeding South on Old Colchester Road
 - Continuing on to Grove Street as Old Colchester Road passes Educational Drive
 - Turn left and head Southeast on North Street
 - Turn left and head Northeast on Central Street
 - Turn left and head Northwest on Educational Drive
 - Turn right onto the maintenance road between EHS and the skating rink and enter the EHS track facility
- This route would require the following Traffic Control personnel:
 - Old Colchester Road & Route 2A
 - Grove Street & Educational Drive
 - North Street & Grove Street (traffic would be able to come across the tracks and head South of Grove during the parade)
 - Central Street & Grove Street (to keep traffic from North Street and two blocks of Central Street)
 - Central Street & Educational Drive

Preparations:

- A door-to-door notification of the parade and its affect on the residents on streets on the route would be made
- Local media would be used to notify folks of the parade and encourage local folks to come and watch from any point along the route
- The Tree Farm lot would be marked to help organize the band line-up and the EHS track would be prepared to serve as the reviewing stand
- Visiting parents and supporters would be asked to park in the grass lots on the west side of Old Colchester Road and walk to the EHS track grandstand to view the bands as they enter

- Concessions and other support would be provided using the existing EHS facilities

Specifics:

- School buses would arrive at the Tree Farm from the Route 2A end of Old Colchester Road and drop-off their students before proceeding to the east parking lot at EHS
- Bands would march out in pre-determined divisional order, led by a local color guard (Fire, Police, Guard, ROTC)
- Bands would perform their pieces while marching along the route as crowds dictate
- Once each band enters the EHS track, they would march down the front straight-away by the grandstand and could either bear left and form on the infield to watch other bands march in or proceed out the far side of the track and walk behind EHS to their buses to begin their journey home
- Students who are meeting their parents after the parade can do so in the grandstand and return to their cars on Old Colchester Road
- Students who are participating in the rest of the festival can retrieve their luggage from the buses and enter EHS through the front doors into the gym for the housing aspect of the festival day
- Bands performing routines will be at the end of the parade and would do those on the track in front of the grandstand / reviewing stand
- With 35 bands, this route should take about 90 minutes for all to cover, thus traffic would be disrupted on these secondary routes from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM at the most

Support Needed:

- From Essex Police:
 - Their support for our efforts
 - The proper permit to hold this parade
 - The opportunity for our All State Parade chairs to see if there are EPD officers who would volunteer to help
- From the Village of Essex Junction Trustees:
 - The proper permit to hold this parade
 - Their support in sharing the announcements about this event and their encouraging others to attend
- From the Village of Essex Junction Fire Department:
 - Their support for our efforts
 - The opportunity for our All State Parade chairs to see if there are certified EJFD members who would volunteer to help
- From the Village of Essex Junction Public Works Department:
 - Their support for our efforts
- From Essex High School:
 - Their support for our efforts
 - Access to the required facilities