

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the communities of Colchester, Essex, Essex Junction and Winooski have the Route 15 transportation corridor in common and are of the opinion that significant improvements are needed to facilitate vehicular, bus, pedestrian and bicycle traffic so as to connect efficiently to the regional transportation network, and,

WHEREAS, the Route 15 Corridor serves as a critical east-west transportation connector, linking some of Vermont's most populated areas with its largest employers, institutions and attractions including IBM, Fletcher Allen Health Care, the University of Vermont, St. Michael's College, the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation, the Champlain Valley Exposition and the Vermont National Guard (Camp Johnson), and,

WHEREAS, according to the Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization, population is projected to increase by 44% by 2025 and traffic congestion within the corridor is anticipated to increase 275% by the year 2025; and,

WHEREAS, action is needed to accommodate future growth, ensure that all modes of travel move through this corridor efficiently, and to improve the quality of life for travelers and residents in the Route 15 area; and

WHEREAS, in June of 2001, an Alternatives Analysis was performed by a consultant overseen by the CCMPO which resulted in the Route 15 Corridor Improvement Plan and recommends a multimodal approach including:

- Highway improvements, such as improving the timing of the traffic signals to improve traffic flow and safety and Intelligent Transportation Systems on Route 15 between downtown Winooski and Essex Junction.
- Bus improvements such as the purchase of buses for additional routes before commuter rail is implemented and feeder bus routes when it is implemented.
- Commuter rail improvements, such as rail track and bridge structures, stations, tunnels, at-grade protected crossings and right-of-way acquisition.
- A bike/pedestrian path.
- Transit Oriented Development.

WHEREAS, the completion of the Circumferential Highway is also seen as a necessary piece of infrastructure to tie into this multimodal approach and has long been included in various state, regional and local plans; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the legislative bodies of Colchester, Essex, Essex Junction, and Winooski support the efforts of the CCMPO and CCTA to obtain funding for these improvements in order of the following priorities:

- 1) Completion of the Circumferential Highway
- 2) Implementation of improvements to include:
 - The installation of Intelligent Transportation Systems infrastructure to enable traffic signal coordination and the use of "smart" technology such as adaptive signal control systems, which continuously adapt to traffic patterns to optimize traffic flow throughout the entire Route 15 corridor including the feeder routes that impact Route 15.
 - Emergency pre-emption and transit priority at all signalized intersections.
 - Pedestrian improvements and activated signal crossings.
 - Public Transit\Bus improvements including increased frequency service, express service, feeder routes and transit shelters.
 - Minor capacity improvements such as turn lanes at major feeder routes providing they do not cause a disruption to existing neighborhoods.
- 3) Aesthetic improvements to the corridor.
- 4) Additional education and analysis of the desirability of Transit Oriented Development for our elected and appointed officials.
- 5) Passenger rail improvements once the above short term, interim gap measures are in place.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the above communities support the efforts of the Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization to continue its planning efforts and secure funding for these improvements providing they are done in the above order of priority and that the Chittenden County Transportation Authority should oversee the operations and project management of the Intelligent Transportation System Improvements with the assistance of a local steering committee consisting of technical staff from the affected municipalities and the CCMPO.

Approved this 8th day of September, 2003 by the Town of Essex Selectboard.


 Thomas E. James, Chair


 Jeffrey B. Carr, Vice Chair


 Thomas W. Torti, Clerk

 Linda K. Myers


 Alan L. Nye