



Town of Huntington

Huntington Selectboard
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TO: Property Owners near Bridge 8 (on Main Road, just south of Moody Road)
FROM: Jim Christiansen, Huntington Selectboard Chair
DATE: September 02, 2014
RE: **Notice of Public Information Meeting**
Monday, September 15, 2014
6:30pm – 8:00pm
Annex, Community Church of Huntington (next to the Town Office in Huntington Center)

The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) has been working with the Town for a number of years on plans to repair or replace Bridge 8 on the Main Road, just south of Moody Road. Significant challenges with this bridge—in terms of its overall condition as well as traffic concerns created by the narrowness and alignment of the bridge itself—have been raised by residents, Town officials, and State bridge inspectors. Because of the deficiencies that have been identified, Bridge 8 has been one of our top priorities for repair/replacement.

The first public hearing on plans for this bridge was held on July 20, 2009. A second public meeting was held on January 13, 2010 and a scoping study was completed by the State in June 2010. More recently, the Selectboard and VTrans held a public meeting on April 7, 2014 to review the specific alternatives VTrans developed for addressing the bridge deficiencies. The 7 alternatives presented ranged from doing nothing to putting in a longer and wider bridge with a new alignment at an estimated cost of nearly 3.5 million dollars.

Following the April public meeting, the Selectboard voted to proceed with the recommendation favored by VTrans, known as Alternative 3-A. This alternative calls for a new structure to be built on slightly modified horizontal and vertical alignments with a 127 foot span and traffic to be maintained on an 8-week (estimated) off-site detour using Moody Road and Carse Road. (Heavy truck traffic would be detoured on Hinesburg Hollow Road—RT 116—RT 17.) By not installing a temporary bridge, the Town qualifies for a reduced local share, paying 5% of the total bridge cost compared to the 10% required if we install a temporary bridge.

VTrans has now developed the Conceptual Plans for the Bridge 8 project. The original cost estimate (\$3,065,000) has been reduced to \$2,957,000.

We encourage you to attend the September 15 Public Informational Meeting (6:30pm – 8:00pm at the Community Church of Huntington's Annex, next to the Town Office) to learn more about the overall project and the specific conceptual design plans, and to share any concerns or input you have regarding the project. The Scoping Report, Alternatives Presentation, and Conceptual Plans are available on the VTrans website at: <http://vtransengineering.vermont.gov/projects> (Click on Bridge Projects – and scroll down to Huntington. There you will find links to documents for both Bridge 8 and for Bridge 30 on Camel's Hump Road, which is another bridge project in the works.)

Sincerely,

Jim Christiansen – Selectboard Chair