

State of Vermont
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Agency of Transportation

TO: Members, House and Senate Committees on Transportation
FROM: Joe Flynn, Secretary of Transportation
DATE: November 19, 2019
SUBJECT: Notification of discretionary transportation grant award for Brattleboro-Hinsdale Bridge pursuant to 19 VSA Section 7(k)

The following requirement is established by 19 VSA Section 7(k) which states:

(k) Upon being apprised of the enactment of a federal law which makes provision for a federal earmark or the award of a discretionary federal grant for a transportation project within the State of Vermont, the Agency shall promptly notify the members of the House and Senate Committees on Transportation and the Joint Fiscal Office. Such notification shall include all available summary information regarding the terms and conditions of the federal earmark or grant. As used in this section, federal earmark means a congressional designation of federal aid funds for a specific transportation project or program. When the General Assembly is not in session, upon obtaining the approval of the Joint Transportation Oversight Committee, the Agency is authorized to add new projects to the transportation program in order to secure the benefits of federal earmarks or discretionary grants.

The State of Vermont has received notice of a US DOT Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant award in collaboration with New Hampshire for the replacement of the jointly owned Brattleboro-Hinsdale, NH Bridge. Vermont's share of the \$12,00,000 total award amount is \$2,040,000. A summary of the award is attached. The project is already included in the FY2020 Transportation Program.

Please feel free to contact me or the Agency's Chief Financial Officer Lenny LeBlanc (828-2704) if you have questions.

Thank you.

cc: Neil Schickner, Joint Fiscal Office

Vermont-New Hampshire Route 119 Bridge Project

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APPLICANT/SPONSOR: New Hampshire Department of Transportation

BUILD GRANT AWARD: \$12,000,000

TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$50,000,000

PROJECT LOCATION: Hinsdale, New Hampshire
and Brattleboro, Vermont

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The project will construct a new bridge to bypass two aging truss bridges spanning the Connecticut River along Route 119. The old bridges will be rehabilitated for bicycle and pedestrian use. The project will also eliminate an at-grade railroad crossing of VT/NH Route 119 and the New England Central Railroad.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS AND BENEFITS:

The project improves safety by replacing two bridges and eliminating an at-grade rail crossing. The two current bridges are structurally deficient and functionally obsolete due to the substandard road width and vertical clearance. To continue to use the current structures, a weight limit would need to be posted, decreasing the efficiency in the movement of freight and/or people. The new bridge would also be a more reliable access point to employment centers and job opportunities for an Opportunity Zone.

