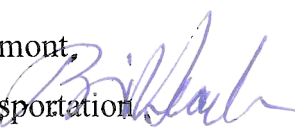


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Agency of Transportation

TO Members of the Joint Fiscal Committee, Senator Richard Mazza,
Representative Patrick Brennan

VIA: Peter Shumlin, Governor of Vermont, 

FROM Brian Searles, Secretary of Transportation

DATE 10/22/2013

SUBJECT Project authorization pursuant to 19 V.S.A. §10g(i)
Western Corridor Rail Rehabilitation US DOT TIGER 2013

The State has received a grant totaling \$9 0 million from the US Department of Transportation (US DOT) for a project rehabilitating a section of the Western Rail Corridor. This grant has been approved by the JFC at their September 2013 meeting. However, there is no equivalent project in the State's transportation program as approved by the most recent transportation bill (Act 12 of 2013). Therefore, no work may be done on this project until it is added to the approved transportation program – which, per 19 V.S.A. §10g(i), can occur if the project is 1) certified as essential to the economic infrastructure and 2) approved for construction by the JFC and the chairs of the transportation committees.

The following authority is established by 19 V.S.A. §10g(i).

(i) For the purpose of enabling the state, without delay, to take advantage of economic development proposals that increase jobs for Vermonters, a transportation project certified by the governor as essential to the economic infrastructure of the state economy, or a local economy, may be approved for construction by a committee comprised of the joint fiscal committee meeting with the chairs of the transportation committees or their designees without explicit project authorization through an enacted transportation program, in the event that such authorization is otherwise required by law.

The State's application for The Western Corridor Rail Rehabilitation US DOT TIGER 2013 (WCRR) project includes the following points.

- The Western Rail Corridor contributes significantly to the economic competitiveness of the State.
- The WCRR improvements will directly increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the State's transportation system by means of truck and auto trip diversions, interconnectivity via multi-modal connections with the regional and national rail network, and marine freight system.
- The WCRR will have a job creation impact by the estimated creation of 122 construction and related jobs in the short-term, and is essential to the long-term development of 22 jobs.
- The WCRR will proceed to construction quickly and preliminary engineering needs to commence as soon as possible.

I certify the Western Corridor Rail Rehabilitation US DOT TIGER 2013 as essential to the economic infrastructure of the state economy pursuant to 19 V.S.A. § 10g(i) and request authorization for the project to proceed at the November 21, 2013 meeting of the Joint Fiscal Committee.



Governor Peter Shumlin