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Highway Division
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Agency of Transportation

June 10, 2020

Federal Highway Administration
Matthew Hake, Division Administrator
Federal Building – P.O. Box 568
Montpelier, VT 05601

Subject: **Bennington, NH F 019-1(4) Project Closure and Payback**

Dear Mr. Hake:

VTrans is working to close out the remaining segment of the Bennington Bypass project, NH F 019-1(4), which has been on our books for decades. This project was the southern segment of a project to bypass the Town of Bennington. The project advanced through the conceptual design phase with a preferred alignment selected and completed NEPA, with a Record of Decision (ROD) issued in October of 1991. The project began the Right of Way (ROW) phase and acquired half of the necessary property to build the project when the project was put on hold indefinitely. This remaining segment has lost support as it has extensive environmental impacts and much of the purpose and need for the entire bypass project have been met with the other segments, all of which have been constructed.

As the project was in the ROW phase, payback of the federal share is tied to ROW costs, which to date are in the amount of \$547,306.72. We have identified seven parcels, shown in the attached map, that the Town of Bennington is using for a transportation path. The acquisition costs of those seven parcels was \$383,849.23, as shown in the attached spreadsheet. We are requesting that the federal payback amount of \$547,306.72 be reduced by \$383,849.23 as there is a transportation use on the seven parcels identified and are federally eligible for participation. This would make the federal payback amount \$163,457.49 as shown in the attached spreadsheet.

Based on the constraints and decisions, VTrans requests your concurrence to **close the Bennington, NH F 019-1(4) project, with a federal payback amount of \$163,457.49**

VTrans appreciates the assistance that FHWA has provided in reaching this proposed course of action. If you need additional information pertaining to this topic, or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Robert M. White
Project Delivery Bureau Director

cc: Lawrence Dwyer, FHWA
Patrick Kirby, FHWA
Wayne Symonds, VTrans Chief Engineer
Leonard LeBlanc, VTrans Chief Financial Officer

