

H.438

An act relating to the state's transportation program

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

(a) The state's proposed fiscal year 2010 transportation program appended to the agency of transportation's proposed fiscal year 2010 budget, as amended by this act, is adopted to the extent federal, state, and local funds are available.

(b) As used in this act, unless otherwise indicated:

(1) the term "agency" means the agency of transportation;

(2) the term "secretary" means the secretary of transportation;

(3) the table heading "As Proposed" means the transportation program referenced in subsection (a) of this section; the table heading "As Amended" means the amendments as made by this act; the table heading "Change" means the difference obtained by subtracting the "As Proposed" figure from the "As Amended" figure; and the term "change" or "changes" in the text refers to the project- and program-specific amendments, the aggregate sum of which equals the net "Change" in the applicable table heading;

(4) the term "bonding" refers to the net proceeds of transportation bonds which were included in the agency's proposed fiscal year 2010 transportation program;

(5) the term "ARRA funds" refers to federal funds allocated to the state by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009;

(6) the term "TIB funds" refers to monies deposited in the transportation infrastructure bond fund in accordance with 19 V.S.A. § 11f.

* * * TIB Funds * * *

Sec. 2. TIB FUNDS

All spending of TIB funds authorized by this act with respect to an agency program and all appropriations of TIB funds shall be limited to eligible projects as defined in 19 V.S.A. § 11f(b) and shall further be limited in amounts to the monies deposited in the transportation infrastructure bond fund during the fiscal year in which the spending is authorized and the appropriation is made.

* * * ARRA Funds * * *

Sec. 3. FEDERAL ECONOMIC RECOVERY FUNDS

(a) Division A – Title XII of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 allocates federal funds to the state for transportation-related projects. The secretary of transportation is authorized to obligate and expend ARRA funds:

(1) to projects as indicated in the document titled “VT Agency of Transportation – Proposed ARRA Project Plan” dated May 6, 2009.

(2) Up to \$5,000,000 to additional town highway paving projects that meet federal eligibility and readiness criteria. Individual projects shall not exceed \$750,000 in federal funds, unless approved by the secretary of transportation. Any exceptions shall be reported to the joint transportation oversight committee.

(3) Up to \$5,000,000 to additional town highway structures projects that meet federal eligibility and readiness criteria. Individual projects shall not exceed \$750,000 in federal funds, unless approved by the secretary of transportation. Any exceptions shall be reported to the joint transportation oversight committee.

(b) Any proposed obligation and expenditure of ARRA funds other than as authorized under subsection (a) of this section shall be subject to the approval of the joint transportation oversight committee.

(c) The agency shall report on the obligation and expenditure of ARRA funds to the joint transportation oversight committee at the committee’s regular and specially scheduled 2009 meetings.

(d) All reports from the agency to the joint transportation oversight committee (JTOC) required under this section when the legislature is not in session shall take place at meetings of the committee called by the chair.

* * * Paving * * *

Sec. 4. PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT – PAVING

(1) Spending authority in the paving statewide preventive maintenance program is amended to read:

<u>FY10</u>	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
PE	0	0	0
ROW	0	0	0
Construction	500,000	0	-500,000
Total	500,000	0	-500,000

Source of funds

State	500,000	0	-500,000
Total	500,000	0	-500,000

(2) Under Sec. 3(a)(3) of this act, a new project is added to authorize the expenditure of up to \$5,000,000 in ARRA funds on additional town highway paving projects that meet federal eligibility and readiness criteria for the use of ARRA funds.

(3) Including the changes in subsections (1) and (2) of this section, total spending authority in the paving program is amended to read:

<u>FY10</u>	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
PE	2,405,000	2,405,000	0
Row	0	0	0
Construction	66,229,802	116,019,718	49,789,916
Total	68,634,802	118,424,718	49,789,916

Source of funds

State	13,018,034	3,912,806	-9,105,228
TIB funds	0	2,592,739	2,592,739
Federal	55,616,768	27,247,723	-28,369,045
ARRA funds	0	84,671,450	84,671,450
Total	68,634,802	118,424,718	49,789,916

* * * Roadway * * *

Sec. 5. PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT – ROADWAY

(1) Spending authority for the Cabot-Danville US 2 FEGC F 028-3(26)C/1 roadway project is amended to read:

<u>FY10</u>	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
PE	0	0	0
ROW	0	0	0
Construction	4,000,000	2,500,000	-1,500,000
Other	0	0	0
Total	4,000,000	2,500,000	-1,500,000

Source of funds

State	200,000	0	-200,000
TIB funds	0	125,000	125,000
Federal	3,800,000	2,375,000	-1,425,000
Total	4,000,000	2,500,000	-1,500,000

(2) Spending authority for the Morristown VT 100 STP F 029-1(2) roadway project is amended to read:

<u>FY10</u>	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
PE	200,000	200,000	0
ROW	500,000	2,000,000	1,500,000
Construction	0	0	0
Other	200,000	200,000	0
Total	900,000	2,400,000	1,500,000

Source of funds

State	182,440	0	-182,440
TIB funds	0	482,440	482,440
Federal	717,560	1,917,560	1,200,000
Total	900,000	2,400,000	1,500,000

(3) Spending authority for the Winooski NH 089-3(65) roadway project is amended to read:

<u>FY10</u>	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
PE	100,000	100,000	0
ROW	0	0	0
Construction	1,000,000	1,000,000	0
Other	0	0	0
Total	1,100,000	1,100,000	0

Source of funds

State	110,000	0	-110,000
TIB funds	0	10,000	10,000
Federal	990,000	1,090,000	100,000

Total	1,100,000	1,100,000	0
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(4) Spending authority for the Derby IM 091-3(45) roadway border crossing project is amended to read:

<u>FY10</u>	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
Other	287,500	0	-287,500
Total	287,500	0	-287,500

Source of funds

State	287,500	0	-287,500
Federal	0	0	0
Total	287,500	0	-287,500

(5) Including the changes made in subsections (1) through (4) of this section, total spending authority in the roadway program is amended to read:

<u>FY10</u>	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
PE	5,446,892	5,446,892	0
Row	7,115,000	8,615,000	1,500,000
Construction	43,752,270	45,561,882	1,809,612
Other	1,087,500	800,000	-287,500
Total	57,401,662	60,423,774	3,022,112

Source of funds

State	2,749,362	641,762	-2,107,600
Bonding	4,390,980	0	-4,390,980
TIB funds	0	6,477,842	6,477,842
Federal	48,710,890	50,353,740	1,642,850
ARRA funds	0	1,400,000	1,400,000
Local	1,550,430	1,550,430	0
Total	57,401,662	60,423,774	3,022,112

* * * Bridge Programs * * *

Sec. 6. PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT – STATE BRIDGE

Spending authority in the state bridge program is amended to read:

<u>FY10</u>	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
PE	3,550,576	3,550,576	0
Row	1,181,202	1,181,202	0
Construction	19,002,022	21,610,522	2,608,500
Other	0	0	0
Total	23,733,800	26,342,300	2,608,500
<u>Source of funds</u>			
State	500,000	3,529,579	3,029,579
Bonding	4,686,420	0	-4,686,420
TIB funds	0	1,385,241	1,385,241
Federal	18,547,380	17,460,980	-1,086,400
ARRA funds	0	3,966,500	3,966,500
Total	23,733,800	26,342,300	2,608,500

Sec. 7. PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT – INTERSTATE BRIDGE

(1) Spending authority in the Brattleboro I-91 IM 091-1(50) project is amended to read:

<u>FY10</u>	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
PE	50,000	50,000	0
Row	1,000	1,000	0
Construction	0	1,500,000	1,500,000
Other	0	0	0
Total	51,000	1,551,000	1,500,000
<u>Source of funds</u>			
State	5,100	5,100	0
Federal	45,900	45,900	0
ARRA funds	0	1,500,000	1,500,000
Total	51,000	1,551,000	1,500,000

(2) Including the change made in subsection (1) of this section, total spending authority in the interstate bridge program is amended to read:

<u>FY10</u>	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
PE	607,500	607,500	0
Row	26,000	26,000	0
Construction	5,315,000	6,815,000	1,500,000
Other	0	0	
Total	5,948,500	7,448,500	1,500,000
<u>Source of funds</u>			
State	100,000	594,850	494,850
Bonding	494,850	0	-494,850
TIB funds	0	0	0
Federal	5,353,650	5,353,650	0
ARRA funds	0	1,500,000	1,500,000
Total	5,948,500	7,448,500	1,500,000

Sec. 8. TOWN HIGHWAY BRIDGE

(1) Under Sec. 3(a)(3) of this act, a new project is added to authorize the expenditure of up to \$5,000,000 in ARRA funds on additional town highway bridge and culvert projects that meet federal eligibility and readiness criteria for the use of ARRA funds.

(2) Including the change made in subsection (1) of this section, total spending authority in the town bridge program is amended to read:

<u>FY10</u>	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
PE	1,663,952	1,663,952	0
Row	588,278	588,278	0
Construction	18,418,870	23,817,186	5,398,316
Total	20,671,100	26,069,416	5,398,316
<u>Source of funds</u>			
State	1,540,899	500,000	-1,040,899
Bonding	1,500,000	0	-1,500,000
TIB funds	0	1,875,976	1,875,976
Federal	16,273,728	12,858,036	-3,415,692
ARRA funds	0	9,442,034	9,442,034

Local	1,356,473	1,393,370	36,897
Total	20,671,100	26,069,416	5,398,316

Sec. 9. BRIDGE MAINTENANCE

Spending authority in the bridge maintenance program is amended to read:

<u>FY10</u>	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
PE	410,000	410,000	0
Row	21,500	21,500	0
Construction	17,192,200	33,619,840	16,427,640
Total	17,623,700	34,051,340	16,427,640
<u>Source of funds</u>			
State	6,844,140	4,011,751	-2,832,389
TIB funds	0	234,020	234,020
Federal	10,779,560	23,561,522	12,781,962
ARRA funds	0	6,244,047	6,244,047
Total	17,623,700	34,051,340	16,427,640

* * * Safety and Traffic Operations * * *

Sec. 10. SAFETY AND TRAFFIC OPERATIONS

Spending authority in the safety and traffic operations program is amended to read:

<u>FY10</u>	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
Other	4,900,000	4,900,000	0
PE	1,170,316	1,170,316	0
ROW	563,750	563,750	0
Construction	9,833,278	17,201,278	7,368,000
Total	16,467,344	23,835,344	7,368,000
<u>Source of funds</u>			
State	407,343	407,343	0
Federal	16,010,001	23,378,001	7,368,000
Local	50,000	50,000	0
ARRA funds	0	0	0

Total 16,467,344 23,835,344 7,368,000

* * * Bike and Pedestrian Facilities * * *

Sec. 11. BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES

(1) A new project is added for the rehabilitation of rail trails STP NWRT() with the following spending authority:

<u>FY10</u>	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
Construction	0	694,194	694,194
Total	0	694,194	694,194
<u>Source of funds</u>			
ARRA	0	694,194	694,194
Total	0	694,194	694,194

(2) A new project is added for curb ramp modifications STP RAMP() with the following spending authority:

<u>FY10</u>	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
Construction	0	552,500	552,500
Total	0	552,500	552,500
<u>Source of funds</u>			
ARRA	0	552,500	552,500
Total	0	552,500	552,500

* * * Transportation Buildings * * *

Sec. 12. TRANSPORTATION BUILDINGS

(1) Spending authority for the transportation buildings Berlin project is amended to read:

<u>FY10</u>	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
PE	100,000	0	-100,000
ROW	200,000	0	-200,000
Construction	650,000	0	-650,000
Total	950,000	0	-950,000
<u>Source of funds</u>			
State	190,000	0	-190,000
Federal	760,000	0	-760,000

Total 950,000 0 -950,000

(2) The agency shall study alternatives for the siting of the materials testing lab and report to the house and senate committees on transportation by January 15, 2010.

* * * DMV * * *

Sec. 13. DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Spending authority for the department of motor vehicles is amended to read:

<u>FY10</u>	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
Personal Services	17,063,642	16,913,642	-150,000
Operating Expenses	8,176,673	8,116,673	-60,000
Grants	50,000	50,000	0
Total	25,290,315	25,080,315	-210,000
<u>Source of funds</u>			
State	23,807,821	23,597,821	-210,000
Federal	1,482,494	1,482,494	0
Total	25,290,315	25,080,315	-210,000

* * * Rail * * *

Sec. 14. RAIL

(a) Spending authority for passenger rail service (Amtrak contract) is amended to read:

<u>FY10</u>	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
Other	3,300,000	3,700,000	400,000
Total	3,300,000	3,700,000	400,000
<u>Source of funds</u>			
State	3,300,000	3,700,000	400,000
Total	3,300,000	3,700,000	400,000

(b) Spending authority for rail property lease and encroachment management is amended to read:

<u>FY10</u>	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
Other	300,000	212,761	-87,239
Total	300,000	212,761	-87,239

Source of funds

State	300,000	212,761	-87,239
Federal	0	0	0
Total	300,000	212,761	-87,239

(c) In the event the July 2009 consensus forecast for fiscal year 2010 transportation fund revenue is increased by at least \$800,000, \$800,000 of transportation funds and \$3,200,000 of western rail corridor federal earmark funds shall be used to purchase \$4,000,000 of continuously welded rail for installation along the western corridor.

* * * Maintenance * * *

Sec. 15. MAINTENANCE

Total authorized spending in the maintenance program is amended as follows:

<u>FY10</u>	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
Personal Services	34,028,928	34,028,928	0
Operating Expenses	32,991,361	32,011,361	-980,000
Grants	278,020	278,020	0
Total	67,298,309	66,318,309	-980,000

Source of funds

State	64,315,237	63,335,237	-980,000
Federal	2,883,072	2,883,072	0
Other	100,000	100,000	0
Total	67,298,309	66,318,309	-980,000

* * * Finance and Management * * *

Sec. 16. FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Spending authority for the finance and management division is amended to read:

<u>FY10</u>	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
Personal services	10,071,137	10,071,137	0
Operating expenses	2,538,262	2,438,262	-100,000
Total	12,609,399	12,509,399	-100,000

Source of funds

State	12,109,399	12,009,399	-100,000
Federal	500,000	500,000	0
Total	12,609,399	12,509,399	-100,000

* * * Town Highway Class 2 * * *

Sec. 17. TOWN HIGHWAY CLASS 2 ROADWAY PROGRAM

Spending authority for the town highway class 2 roadway program is amended to read:

<u>FY10</u>	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
Grants	6,448,750	5,748,750	-700,000
Total	6,448,750	5,748,750	-700,000
<u>Source of funds</u>			
TFunds	6,448,750	5,748,750	-700,000
ARRA	0		0
Total	6,448,750	5,748,750	-700,000

* * * Enhancements * * *

Sec. 18. ENHANCEMENTS

Spending authority for the enhancement program is amended to read:

<u>FY10</u>	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
Other	0	800,000	800,000
PE	533,005	533,005	0
ROW	512,650	512,650	0
Construction	2,162,402	2,162,402	0
Total	3,208,057	4,008,057	800,000
<u>Source of funds</u>			
State	73,000	73,000	0
Federal	2,566,446	2,566,446	0
ARRA	0	800,000	800,000
Local	568,611	568,611	0
Total	3,208,057	4,008,057	800,000

* * * Public Transit * * *

Sec. 19. PUBLIC TRANSIT

Spending authority for the public transit capital assistance program is amended to read:

<u>FY10</u>	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
Other	4,565,331	8,492,254	3,926,923
Total	4,565,331	8,492,254	3,926,923
<u>Source of funds</u>			
TFunds	1,129,273	629,273	-500,000
Fed	3,436,058	3,936,058	500,000
ARRA	0	3,926,923	3,926,923
Total	4,565,331	8,492,254	3,926,923

* * * Aviation * * *

Sec. 20. AVIATION

Spending authority for the Berlin Phase I parallel taxiway-terminal apron project is amended to read:

<u>FY10</u>	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
PE	0	0	0
Construction	250,000	4,000,000	3,750,000
Total	250,000	4,000,000	3,750,000
<u>Source of funds</u>			
TFunds	25,000	0	-25,000
Fed	225,000	0	-225,000
ARRA	0	4,000,000	4,000,000
Total	250,000	4,000,000	3,750,000

* * * Applying for ARRA funds * * *

Sec. 21. APPLYING FOR AMERICAN RECOVERY AND
REINVESTMENT ACT FUNDS

The agency shall apply for a grant of rail infrastructure discretionary ARRA funds to cover, in whole or in part, the cost of upgrading the state's western rail corridor for intercity passenger rail service to and from Burlington, Rutland,

Bennington, Vermont and Albany, New York. In applying for a grant, the agency shall consider all possible sources of nonfederal match dollars which could be included in and would thereby strengthen the application. The grant application shall state that priority will be given to the purchase and installation of continuously welded rail for the western corridor.

* * * Motor Fuel Transportation Infrastructure Assessments * * *

Sec. 22. 23 V.S.A. § 3003(a) is amended to read:

(a) A tax of ~~25 cents per gallon and \$0.25~~, a fee of ~~one cent per gallon is imposed on each gallon of fuel \$0.01~~ established pursuant to the provisions of 10 V.S.A. § 1942, and a \$0.03 motor fuel transportation infrastructure assessment, which for purposes of the International Fuel Tax Agreement only shall be deemed to be a surcharge, are imposed on each gallon of fuel:

- (1) sold or delivered by a distributor; or
- (2) used by a user.

Sec. 23. 23 V.S.A. § 3003(d) is amended to read:

(d)(1) For users, the following uses shall be exempt from ~~taxation the tax and motor fuel transportation infrastructure assessment imposed~~ under this chapter and be entitled to a credit for any tax paid for such uses under section 3020 of this title:

* * *

Sec. 24. 23 V.S.A. § 3106(a) is amended to read:

(a) Except for sales of motor fuels between distributors licensed in this state, which sales shall be exempt from the tax and from the motor fuel transportation infrastructure assessment, in all cases not exempt from the tax under the laws of the United States at the time of filing the report required by section 3108 of this title, each distributor shall pay to the commissioner a tax of \$0.19 ~~per~~ upon each gallon of motor fuel sold by the distributor, and a motor fuel transportation infrastructure assessment in the amount of two percent of the retail price exclusive of all federal and state taxes upon each gallon of motor fuel sold by the distributor. The retail price shall be based upon the average retail prices for regular gasoline determined and published by the department of public service. The retail price applicable for the January-March quarter shall be the average of the retail prices published by the department of public service the prior October, November, and December; and the retail price applicable in each succeeding calendar quarter shall be equal to the average of the retail prices published by the department of public service in the preceding quarter. The distributor shall also pay to the commissioner a tax

and a motor fuel transportation infrastructure assessment in the same amount amounts upon each gallon of motor fuel used within the state by him or her.

Sec. 25. RETAIL PRICE FOR JUNE 2009

The retail price for purposes of the motor fuels transportation infrastructure assessment applicable for June 2009 shall be the average price for regular unleaded gasoline determined by the department of public service as of May 2009 of \$2.03 per gallon.

Sec. 26. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE

The Department of Public Service shall conduct a monthly survey of businesses selling retail regular gasoline designed to determine a average statewide retail price and publish the survey result no latter than the 20th day of each month starting in June 2009.

* * * Transportation Infrastructure Bonds * * *

Sec. 27. 19 V.S.A. § 11f is added to read:

§ 11f. TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE BOND FUND

(a) There is created a special account within the transportation fund known as the transportation infrastructure bond fund to consist of funds raised from the motor fuel transportation infrastructure assessments levied pursuant to 23 V.S.A. §§ 3003(a) and 3106(a). Interest from the fund shall be credited annually to the fund, and the amount in the account shall carry forward from year to year.

(b)(1) Monies in the fund may be used:

(A) to pay principal, interest, and related costs on transportation infrastructure bonds issued pursuant to section 972 of Title 32; and

(B) to pay for:

(i) the rehabilitation, reconstruction, or replacement of state bridges, culverts, roads, railroads, airports, and necessary buildings which, after such work, have an estimated minimum remaining useful life of 10 years;

(ii) the rehabilitation, reconstruction, or replacement of municipal bridges, culverts, and highways which, after such work, have an estimated minimum remaining useful life of 10 years; and

(iii) up to \$100,000.00 per year for operating costs associated with administering the capital expenditures.

(2) However, in any fiscal year, no payments shall be made under this subsection unless the amount needed to pay for the following items for that fiscal year, to the extent required by the terms of any trust agreement

applicable to the transportation infrastructure bonds, is either in the fund and available to pay for those items, or the items have been paid: debt service due on the bonds for that fiscal year; any associated reserve or sinking funds; and any associated costs of the bonds as defined in subsection 972(b) of Title 32.

(c) The assessments for motor fuel transportation infrastructure assessments paid pursuant to 23 V.S.A. §§ 3003(a) and 3106(a) shall not be reduced below the rates in effect at the time of issuance of any transportation infrastructure bond until the principal, interest, and all costs which must be paid in order to retire the bond have been paid.

* * * Transportation Infrastructure Bonds * * *

Sec. 28. 32 V.S.A. chapter 13, subchapter 4 is added to read:

Subchapter 4. Transportation Infrastructure Bonds

§ 972. TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE BONDS

(a) The treasurer may issue bonds pursuant to this subchapter from time to time in amounts authorized by the general assembly in its annual transportation bill. Bonds issued under this section shall be referred to as “transportation infrastructure bonds.”

(b) Principal and interest on the bonds and associated costs shall be paid from the transportation infrastructure bond fund established in 19 V.S.A. § 11f. Associated costs of bonds include sinking fund payments; reserves; redemption premiums; additional security, insurance, or other form of credit enhancement required or provided for in any trust agreement entered to secure bonds; and related costs of issuance.

(c) Funds raised from bonds issued under this section may be used to pay for:

(1) the rehabilitation, reconstruction, or replacement of state bridges and culverts; and

(2) the rehabilitation, reconstruction, or replacement of municipal bridges and culverts; and

(3) the rehabilitation, reconstruction, or replacement of state roads, railroads, airports, and necessary buildings which, after such work, have an estimated minimum remaining useful life of 30 years or more;

(d) Pursuant to section 953 of this title, interest and the investment return on the bonds shall be exempt from taxation in this state.

(e) Bonds issued under this section shall be legal investments for all persons without limit as to the amount held, regardless of whether they are acting for their own account or in a fiduciary capacity. The bonds shall

likewise be legal investments for all public officials authorized to invest in public funds.

§ 973. ISSUANCE OF BONDS

(a) Transportation infrastructure bonds may be issued at one time or in a series from time to time in any form permitted by law, in such manner and on such terms and conditions as the state treasurer may determine to be in the best interests of the state, except that the state treasurer shall determine the following with the approval of the governor:

- (1) date of issuance;
- (2) place of payment;
- (3) rate of interest (which may be fixed or variable) or the manner of determining such rate of interest;
- (4) original stated value;
- (5) investment returns or manner of determining the investment returns;
- (6) maturity value, time of maturity, and provisions with respect to redemption prior to maturity;
- (7) whether to issue the bonds at par, premium, or discount;
- (8) sinking fund and reserve requirements;
- (9) amount and manner of issuance; and
- (10) other particulars as to the form of such bonds within the limitations of this subchapter.

(b) The state treasurer shall determine the annual payment schedule for the bonds, including debt service and sinking fund payments, if any, as he or she may deem to be in the best interests of the state. However, any bond issued under this subchapter shall mature not later than 30 years after the date of issuance. Installments on the bonds need not be payable in substantially equal or diminishing amounts. The last bond payment shall be made not later than 30 years after the date of issuance.

(c) The state treasurer may determine at the time of issuance to apply all or a portion of any net premium to the costs of issuance, other related financing costs, or the payment of the principal or interest to come due. If net premium is applied to costs of issuance, the amount of the premium shall not be included in the net proceeds of the issue. Net premium not applied to costs of issuance shall be included in the net proceeds of the issue and may be used for any of the authorized purposes of the bond proceeds.

(d) The principal, interest, investment returns, and maturity value of transportation infrastructure bonds shall be payable in lawful money of the United States or of the country in which the bonds are sold.

(e) Transportation infrastructure bonds shall be registered pursuant to section 981 of this title.

§ 974. SECURITY DOCUMENTS

(a) The state treasurer is authorized to secure bonds authorized under this subchapter by a trust agreement which pledges or assigns monies in the transportation infrastructure bond fund; by additional security, insurance, or other forms of credit enhancement which may be secured with the bonds on a parity or subordinate basis or by both.

(b) Any trust agreement or credit enhancement agreement entered into pursuant to this section shall be valid and binding from the time of the agreement without any physical delivery or further act and without any filing or recording under the Uniform Commercial Code or otherwise, and the lien of such pledge shall be valid and binding as against all parties having claims of any kind in tort, contract, or otherwise, irrespective of whether such parties have notice thereof.

(c) Any trust agreement or credit enhancement agreement may establish provisions defining defaults and establishing remedies and other matters relating to the rights and security of the holders of the bonds or other secured parties as determined by the state treasurer, including provisions relating to the establishment of reserves; the issuance of additional or refunding bonds, whether or not secured on a parity basis; the application of receipts, monies, or funds pledged pursuant to the agreement; and other matters deemed necessary or desirable by the state treasurer for the security of the bonds, and may also regulate the custody, investment, and application of monies.

(d) For payment of principal, interest, investment returns, and maturity value of transportation infrastructure bonds, the full faith and credit of the state is hereby pledged. However:

(1) if pledging of full faith and credit of the state is not necessary to market a transportation infrastructure bond in the best interest of the state, the treasurer shall enter into an agreement which establishes that the full faith and credit of the state is not pledged for payment of principal, interest, investment returns, and maturity value of the bond. In determining whether to pledge the full faith and credit of the state, the state treasurer shall consider the anticipated effect of such a pledge on the credit standing of the state, the marketability of the transportation infrastructure bond, and other factors he or she deems appropriate; and

(2) the treasurer shall only use other revenues to pay for debt service and associated costs as defined in section 972 of this title on transportation infrastructure bonds to which the full faith and credit of the state has been pledged in the event that monies in the transportation infrastructure bond fund are insufficient to pay for it.

§ 975. PROCEEDS

(a) Proceeds from the sale of bonds may be expended for the authorized purposes of the bonds; including the expenses of preparing, issuing, and marketing the bonds; any notes issued under section 976 of this title; and amounts for any reserves. However, no purchasers of the bonds shall be bound to see to the proper application of the proceeds thereof.

(b) The treasurer may pay for the interest on, principal of, investment return on, maturity value of, and associated costs as defined in subsection 972(b) of this title of bonds issued under this subchapter from the transportation infrastructure bond fund as they fall due without further order or authority.

(c) The general assembly shall appropriate the amount necessary to pay the maturing principal and interest of, investment return and maturity value of, and sinking fund installments on transportation infrastructure bonds then outstanding in the annual appropriations bill and the principal and interest on, investment return and maturity value of, and sinking fund installments on the transportation infrastructure bonds as may come due before appropriations for payment have been made shall be paid from the transportation infrastructure bond fund, or with respect to bonds to which the full faith and credit of the state has been pledged and in accordance with subdivision 974(d)(2) of this title, from the general fund or other applicable fund.

§ 976. ANTICIPATION OF PROCEEDS

(a) Pending the issue of transportation infrastructure bonds, the state treasurer with the approval of the governor may use any available cash in the transportation infrastructure bond fund for the purposes for which the bonds were authorized, and shall restore the borrowed funds from the proceeds of the bonds.

(b) The state treasurer, with the approval of the governor, may borrow upon notes of the state sums of money in anticipation of the proceeds of the bonds. Notes issued under this subsection shall be issued on such terms and at such times as the treasurer and governor may determine, and shall mature not more than three years from the date of issuance, provided that notes issued for a shorter period may be refunded from time to time by the issue of other such notes maturing within the required period of three years.

(c) The authority granted under this section is in addition to and not in limitation of any other authority.

§ 977. REFUNDING BONDS

The state treasurer with the approval of the governor is hereby authorized to issue transportation infrastructure bonds in order to refund all or any portion of outstanding transportation bonds at any time after the issuance of the bonds to be refunded pursuant to subsections 961(b), (c), and (d) of this title.

§ 978. PLEDGE

The general assembly hereby pledges and covenants with holders of the bonds issued under this subchapter that the state will fulfill the terms of any agreement made with the holders of transportation infrastructure bonds and will not in any way impair the rights or remedies of the holders of the bonds until the bonds, interest, and all costs associated with the bonds are fully paid.

§ 979. AUTHORITIES

In addition to the provisions of this subchapter, the following provisions of this title shall apply to transportation infrastructure bonds:

- (1) sections 953, 956, 958, and 960;
- (2) subsection 954(c), except that transfers shall be made only among projects to be funded with transportation infrastructure bonds; and
- (3) section 957, except that consolidation may be only among transportation infrastructure bonds, and the bonds shall be the lawful obligation of the transportation infrastructure bond fund and not of the remaining revenues of the state unless the treasurer has agreed to pledge the full faith and credit of the state pursuant to subdivision 974(e)(2) of this title.

§ 980. AUTHORITY TO ISSUE TRANSPORTATION
INFRASTRUCTURE BONDS

The state treasurer is authorized to issue transportation infrastructure bonds pursuant to section 972 of this title for the purpose of funding future appropriations only as approved by the general assembly.

Sec. 29. PLAN FOR USE OF BOND PROCEEDS IN FUTURE YEARS

On or before January 15, 2010, the agency of transportation shall submit to the joint transportation oversight committee a plan for use of bond proceeds for transportation purposes during state fiscal years 2011, 2012, and 2013, taking into consideration the likely availability of funds from other sources and the needs identified by the transportation project planning process. In no instance shall the total request for bonding authority exceed \$100,000,000.

Sec. 30. FISCAL YEAR 2010 BONDING AUTHORITY

Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 980, the state treasurer is authorized to issue transportation infrastructure bonds for fiscal year 2010 in a total amount of no more than \$10,000,000, provided that the agency requests and the joint transportation oversight committee approves of such issue.

Sec. 31. 32 V.S.A. § 1001(b) is amended to read:

(b)(1) Committee duties. The committee shall review annually the size and affordability of the net state tax-supported indebtedness; and submit to the governor and to the general assembly an estimate of the maximum amount of new long-term net state tax-supported debt that prudently may be authorized for the next fiscal year. The estimate of the committee shall be advisory and in no way bind the governor or the general assembly.

(2) The committee shall conduct ongoing reviews of the amount and condition of bonds, notes, and other obligations of instrumentalities of the state for which the state has a contingent or limited liability or for which the state legislature is permitted to replenish reserve funds, and, when deemed appropriate, recommend limits on the occurrence of such additional obligations to the governor and to the general assembly.

(3) The committee shall conduct ongoing reviews of the amount and condition of the transportation infrastructure bond fund established in 19 V.S.A. § 11f and of bonds and notes issued against the fund for which the state has a contingent or limited liability.

Sec. 32. 32 V.S.A. § 1001a is amended to read:

§ 1001a. REPORTS

The capital debt affordability advisory committee shall prepare and submit, consistent with 2 V.S.A. § 20(a), a report on:

(1) general obligation debt, pursuant to subsection 1001(c) of this title; and

(2) how many, if any, transportation infrastructure bonds have been issued and under what conditions.

* * * Town Local Match Requirements * * *

Sec. 33. 19 V.S.A. § 309b is amended to read:

§ 309b. LOCAL MATCH; CERTAIN TOWN HIGHWAY PROGRAMS

* * *

(c) Notwithstanding subsections 309a(a), (b), and (c) of this title, a municipality may use a grant awarded under the town highway structures

program or the class 2 town highway roadway program to provide the nonfederal matching funds required to draw down a federal earmark or to match grants provided to towns under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. In all such cases, the grant shall be matched by local funds as provided in this section. The intended use of a town highway grant as matching funds for a federal earmark or for grants provided to towns under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 shall not entitle a municipal grant applicant to any priority for a grant award in any fiscal year. When grants awarded under the town highway structures program or the class 2 town highway roadway program are used to satisfy nonfederal matching requirements for federal earmarks or for grants provided to towns under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the term "project costs" in subsections (a) and (b) of this section shall refer only to the nonfederal match for the federal earmark or for a grant provided to towns under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act 2009.

* * * ARRA Funding of Town Projects * * *

Sec. 34. ARRA FUNDING OF TOWN PROJECTS

Any town transportation project which as a matter of state law requires a local match shall retain the local match requirement regardless of the state's use of ARRA funds to fund the project.

* * * Motor Vehicle Fees * * *

Sec. 35. 23 V.S.A. § 114(a)(14) is amended to read:

(a) The commissioner shall be paid the following fees for miscellaneous transactions:

* * *

(14) Certified copy three-year operating record ~~10.00~~ 11.00

Sec. 36. 23 V.S.A. § 115(a) is amended to read:

(a) Any Vermont resident may make application to the commissioner and be issued an identification card which is attested by the commissioner as to true name, correct age, and any other identifying data as the commissioner may require which shall include, in the case of minor applicants, the written consent of the applicant's parent, guardian or other person standing in loco parentis. Every application for an identification card shall be signed by the applicant and shall contain such evidence of age and identity as the commissioner may require. The commissioner shall require payment of a fee of ~~\$15.00~~ \$17.00 at the time application for an identification card is made.

Sec. 37. 23 V.S.A. § 304(b) is amended to read:

(b) The authority to issue special motor vehicle number plates or receive applications or petitions for special number plates for safety organizations and service organizations shall reside with the commissioner. Determination of compliance with the criteria contained in this subsection shall be within the discretion of the commissioner. Series of number plates for safety and service organizations which are authorized by the commissioner shall be issued in order of approval, subject to the operating considerations in the department as determined by the commissioner. The commissioner shall issue special number plates marked with initials, letters, or combination of numerals and letters, in the following manner:

(1) Except as otherwise provided, at the request of the registrant of any motor vehicle, upon application and upon payment of an annual fee of ~~\$35.00~~ \$38.00 in addition to the annual fee for registration. He or she may not issue two sets of special number plates bearing the same initials or letters unless the plates also contain a distinguishing number. Special number plates are subject to reassignment if not renewed within 60 days of expiration of the registration.

(2) For the purposes of this subdivision, “safety organizations” shall include groups which have at least 100 instate members in good standing and provide police and fire protection, rescue squads, national guard, together with those organizations required to respond to public emergencies. It shall include amateur radio operators licensed by the U.S. Federal Communications Commission. For purposes of this subdivision, “service organization” includes any group which (i) has as a primary purpose, service to the community through specific programs for the improvement of public health, education, or environmental awareness and conservation, and are not limited to social activities; (ii) has nonprofit status under Section 501(c)(3) or (10) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, as amended; (iii) is registered as a nonprofit corporation with the office of the secretary of state; and (iv) except for a military veterans group, has at least 100 instate members in good standing. “Service organization” also includes congressionally chartered and noncongressionally chartered United States military service veterans groups.

(A) At the request of the leader of a safety organization or service organization, upon application and payment of a fee of ~~\$10.00~~ \$15.00 for each set of plates in addition to the annual fee for registration, special plates indicating membership in one of the “safety organizations” or “service organizations” may be issued to registrants of vehicles registered at the pleasure car rate and of trucks registered for less than 26,001 pounds and excluding vehicles registered under the International Registration Plan, who are members of these organizations. The applicant must provide a written

statement from the appropriate official of the organization, authorizing the issuance of the plates.

(B) At the time that an organization requests the plates, it shall deposit ~~\$1,000.00~~ \$2,000.00 with the commissioner. Notwithstanding section 502 of Title 32, the commissioner may charge the actual costs of production of the plates against the fees collected and the balance shall be deposited in the transportation fund. For ~~each set~~ the first 100 sets of plates issued, ~~\$10.00~~ \$15.00 of this deposit shall be deemed to be the safety organization or service organization special plate fee for each authorized applicant. Of this deposit, \$500.00 shall be retained by the department to recover costs of developing the organization plate. When the initial deposit of ~~\$1,000.00~~ \$1,500.00 is depleted, applicants shall be required to pay the ~~\$10.00~~ \$15.00 fee as provided for in subdivision (1) of this subsection. Notwithstanding section 502 of Title 32, the commissioner may charge the actual costs of production of the plates against the fees collected and shall remit the balance to the transportation fund. No organization shall charge its members any additional fee or premium charge for the authorization, right or privilege to display these special number plates. This provision shall not prevent any organization from recovering up to ~~\$1,000.00~~ \$1,500.00 from applicants for the special plates.

(C) After consulting with representatives of the safety or service organization, the commissioner shall determine the design of the special plates, on the basis that the primary purpose of motor vehicle number plates is vehicle identification. An organization applying for a special plate under this subsection shall present the commissioner with a name and emblem that is not obscene, offensive or confusing to the general public and does not promote, advertise or endorse a product, brand, or service provided for sale, or promote any specific religious belief or political party. The organization's name and emblem must not infringe or violate trademarks, trade names, service marks, copyrights, or other proprietary or property rights and the organization must have the right to use the name and emblem. The organization shall designate an officer or member to act as the principal contact and to submit a distinctive emblem for use on a special number plate, if authorized. An organization may have only one design, regardless of the number of individual organizational units within the state that may provide the same or substantially similar services. Nothing herein shall be construed as authorizing any individual squad, department, or unit to request a unique or specially designed plate different than the plate designed by the commissioner.

* * *

Sec. 38. 23 V.S.A. § 304b is amended to read:

§ 304b. CONSERVATION MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION PLATES

(a) The commissioner shall, upon application, issue conservation registration plates for use only on vehicles registered at the pleasure car rate and on trucks registered for less than 26,001 pounds, on vehicles registered to state agencies under section 376 of this title and excluding vehicles registered under the International Registration Plan. Plates so acquired shall be mounted on the front and rear of the vehicle. The commissioner of motor vehicles and the commissioner of fish and wildlife shall determine the graphic design of the special plates in a manner which serves to enhance the public awareness of the state's interest in restoring and protecting its wildlife and major watershed areas. The commissioner of motor vehicles and the commissioner of fish and wildlife may alter the graphic design of these special plates provided that plates in use at the time of a design alteration shall remain valid subject to the operator's payment of the annual registration fee. Applicants shall apply on forms prescribed by the commissioner and shall pay an initial fee of ~~\$20.00~~ \$23.00 in addition to the annual fee for registration. In following years, in addition to the annual registration fee, the holder of a conservation plate shall pay a renewal fee of ~~\$20.00~~ \$23.00. The commissioner shall adopt rules under 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 to implement the provisions of this subsection. The commissioner of motor vehicles and the commissioner of fish and wildlife shall annually submit to the members of the house committees on transportation and fish, wildlife and water resources, and the members of the senate committees on transportation and natural resources and energy a report detailing, over a three-year period, the revenue generated, the number of new conservation plates sold and the number of renewals, and recommendations for program enhancements.

(b) Initial fees collected under subsection (a) of this section shall be allocated as follows:

- (1) ~~\$10.00~~ \$11.00 to the transportation fund.
- (2) ~~\$5.00~~ \$6.00 to the department of fish and wildlife for deposit into the nongame wildlife account created in 10 V.S.A. § 4048.
- (3) ~~\$5.00~~ \$6.00 to the department of fish and wildlife for deposit into the watershed management account created in 10 V.S.A. § 4050.

(c) Renewal fees collected under subsection (a) of this section shall be allocated as follows:

- (1) ~~\$9.00~~ \$10.00 to the department of fish and wildlife for deposit into the nongame wildlife account created in 10 V.S.A. § 4048.

(2) ~~\$9.00~~ \$10.00 to the department of fish and wildlife for deposit into the watershed management account created in 10 V.S.A. § 4050.

(3) ~~\$2.00~~ \$3.00 to the transportation fund.

Sec. 39. 23 V.S.A. § 307 is amended to read:

§ 307. CARRYING OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE

A person shall not operate a motor vehicle nor draw a trailer or semi-trailer unless the registration certificate thereof is carried in some easily accessible place in such motor vehicle. In case of the loss, mutilation or destruction of such certificate the owner of the vehicle described therein shall forthwith notify the commissioner and remit a fee of ~~\$12.00~~ \$13.00 whereupon the commissioner shall furnish such owner with a duplicate certificate. A corrected registration certificate shall be furnished by the commissioner upon request and receipt of a fee of ~~\$12.00~~ \$13.00.

Sec. 40. 23 V.S.A. § 323 is amended to read:

§ 323. TRANSFER FEES

A person who transfers the ownership of a registered motor vehicle to another, upon the filing of a new application, and upon the payment of a fee of ~~\$20.00~~ \$22.00 may have registered in his or her name another motor vehicle for the remainder of the registration period without payment of any additional registration fee, provided the proper registration fee of the motor vehicle sought to be registered is the same as the registration fee of the transferred motor vehicle. However, if the proper registration fee of the motor vehicle sought to be registered by such person is greater than the registration fee of the transferred motor vehicle, the applicant shall pay, in addition to such fee of ~~\$20.00~~ \$22.00, the difference between the registration fee of the motor vehicle previously registered and the proper fee for the registration of the motor vehicle sought to be registered.

Sec. 41. 23 V.S.A. § 361 is amended to read:

§ 361. PLEASURE CARS

The annual fee for registration of any motor vehicle of the pleasure car type, and all vehicles powered by electricity, shall be ~~\$59.00~~ \$64.00, and the biennial fee shall be ~~\$108.00~~ \$120.00.

Sec. 42. 23 V.S.A. § 364 is amended to read:

§ 364. MOTORCYCLES

The annual fee for registration of a motorcycle, with or without side car, shall be ~~\$36.00~~ \$40.00.

Sec. 43. 23 V.S.A. § 367(a)(1) is amended to read:

(a)(1) The annual fee for registration of tractors, truck-tractors, or motor trucks except truck cranes, truck shovels, road oilers, bituminous distributors, and farm trucks used as hereinafter specified shall be based on the total weight of the truck-tractor or motor truck including body and cab plus the heaviest load to be carried. In computing the fees for registration of tractors, truck-tractors or motor trucks with trailers or semi-trailers attached, except trailers or semi-trailers with a gross weight of less than 6,000 pounds, the fee shall be based upon the weight of the tractor, truck-tractor or motor truck, the weight of the trailer or semi-trailer, and the weight of the heaviest load to be carried by the combined vehicles. In addition to the fee set out in the following schedule, the fee for vehicles weighing between 10,000 and 25,999 pounds inclusive shall be an additional ~~\$29.00~~ \$31.47, the fee for vehicles weighing between 26,000 and 39,999 pounds inclusive shall be an additional ~~\$58.00~~ \$62.93, the fee for vehicles weighing between 40,000 and 59,999 pounds inclusive shall be an additional ~~\$203.04~~ \$220.30 and the fee for vehicles 60,000 pounds and over shall be an additional ~~\$319.07~~ \$346.19. The fee shall be computed at the following rates per thousand pounds of weight determined as above specified and rounded up to the nearest whole dollar, the minimum fee for registering a tractor, truck-tractor, or motor truck to 6,000 pounds shall be the same as for the pleasure car type:

~~\$12.42~~ \$13.48 when the weight exceeds 6,000 pounds but does not exceed 8,000 pounds.

~~\$14.21~~ \$15.42 when the weight exceeds 8,000 pounds but does not exceed 12,000 pounds.

~~\$15.67~~ \$17.00 when the weight exceeds 12,000 pounds but does not exceed 16,000 pounds.

~~\$16.76~~ \$18.18 when the weight exceeds 16,000 pounds but does not exceed 20,000 pounds.

~~\$17.53~~ \$19.02 when the weight exceeds 20,000 pounds but does not exceed 30,000 pounds.

~~\$17.92~~ \$19.44 when the weight exceeds 30,000 pounds but does not exceed 40,000 pounds.

~~\$18.34~~ \$19.90 when the weight exceeds 40,000 pounds but does not exceed 50,000 pounds.

~~\$18.51~~ \$20.08 when the weight exceeds 50,000 pounds but does not exceed 60,000 pounds.

~~\$19.14~~ \$20.77 when the weight exceeds 60,000 pounds but does not exceed 70,000 pounds.

~~\$19.78~~ \$21.46 when the weight exceeds 70,000 pounds but does not exceed 80,000 pounds.

~~\$20.42~~ \$22.16 when the weight exceeds 80,000 pounds but does not exceed 90,000 pounds.

Sec. 44. 23 V.S.A. § 371(a)(1) is amended to read:

(a)(1) The one-year and two-year fees for registration of a trailer or semi-trailer, except contractor's trailer or farm trailer, shall be as follows:

(A) ~~\$20.00 and \$40.00~~ \$23.00 and \$45.00, respectively, when such trailer or semi-trailer has a gross weight of trailer and load of less than 1,500 pounds;

(B) ~~\$40.00 and \$80.00~~ \$46.00 and \$90.00, respectively, when such trailer or semi-trailer has a gross weight of trailer and load of 1,500 pounds or more, and is drawn by a vehicle of the pleasure car type;

(C) ~~\$40.00 and \$80.00~~ \$46.00 and \$90.00, respectively, when such trailer or semi-trailer is drawn by a motor truck or tractor, when such trailer or semi-trailer has a gross weight of 1,500 pounds or more, but not in excess of 3,000 pounds;

(D) ~~\$40.00 and \$80.00~~ \$46.00 and \$90.00, respectively, when such trailer or semi-trailer is used in combination with a truck-tractor or motor truck registered at the fee provided for combined vehicles under section 367 of this title. Excepting for the fees, the provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to trailer coaches as defined in section 4 of this title nor to modular homes being transported by trailer or semi-trailer.

Sec. 45. 23 V.S.A. § 463 is amended to read:

§ 463. SALE OF VEHICLE TO GO OUT OF STATE

A registered motor vehicle dealer is authorized to issue an in-transit registration permit for the purpose of movement over the highways of certain motor vehicles otherwise required to be registered when these vehicles are sold in this state to be transported to and registered in another state or province. The commissioner of motor vehicles shall, upon request, provide registered motor vehicle dealers with such numbers of applications and special in-transit number plates for vehicles sold in this state to be transported to and registered in another state or province as shall be necessary. The commissioner is authorized to charge a fee of ~~\$3.00~~ \$5.00 for the processing of the plate application and the issuance of the plate. The dealer, upon the sale of a motor vehicle to be transported to and registered in another state or province shall

cause the application to be filled out and transmitted to the commissioner and shall attach to the vehicle the in-transit number plate corresponding to the application. No registered motor vehicle dealer shall sell, exchange, give, or transfer any application or in-transit plate to any person other than the person to whom the dealer sells or exchanges a motor vehicle to be registered in another state or province. The application shall be in a form prescribed and furnished by the commissioner. The special in-transit number plate to be attached to the vehicle will be issued in the form and design as prescribed by the commissioner and shall be valid for a period of 30 days from the date of issue.

Sec. 46. 23 V.S.A. § 608(a) amended to read:

(a) The four-year fee required to be paid the commissioner for licensing an operator of motor vehicles shall be ~~\$40.00~~ \$45.00. The two-year fee required to be paid the commissioner for licensing an operator shall be ~~\$25.00~~ \$28.00 and the two-year fee for licensing a junior operator shall be ~~\$27.00~~ \$28.00.

Sec. 47. 23 V.S.A. §§ 617(b) and (d) are amended to read:

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, any licensed person may apply to the commissioner of motor vehicles for a learner's permit for the operation of a motorcycle in the form prescribed by the commissioner. The commissioner shall require payment of a fee of \$17.00 at the time application is made. After the applicant has successfully passed all parts of the motorcycle endorsement examination, other than a skill test, the commissioner may issue to the applicant a learner's permit which entitles the applicant, subject to section 615(a) of this title, to operate a motorcycle upon the public highways for a period of 120 days from the date of issuance. A motorcycle learner's permit may be renewed only twice upon payment of a \$17.00 fee. If during the original permit period and two renewals, the permittee has not successfully passed the skill test or the motorcycle rider training course, he or she may not obtain another motorcycle learner's permit for a period of 12 months from the expiration of the permit unless he or she has successfully completed the motorcycle rider training course. This section shall not affect section 602 of this title. The fee for the examination shall be \$7.00.

(d) An applicant shall pay ~~\$15.00~~ \$17.00 to the commissioner for each learner's permit that is not a motorcycle learner's permit or a duplicate or renewal thereof.

Sec. 48. 23 V.S.A. § 634(a) is amended to read:

(a) The fee for an examination for a learner's permit shall be ~~\$25.00~~ \$28.00. The fee for an examination to obtain an operator's license when the

applicant is required to pass an examination pursuant to section 632 of this title shall be ~~\$15.00~~ \$17.00.

Sec. 49. 23 V.S.A § 675(a) is amended to read:

(a) Before a suspension or revocation issued by the commissioner of a person's operator's license or privilege of operating a motor vehicle may be terminated or before a person's operator's license or privilege of operating a motor vehicle may be reinstated, there shall be paid to the commissioner a fee of ~~\$65.00~~ \$71.00 in addition to any other fee required by statute. This section shall not apply to suspensions issued under the provisions of chapter 11 of this title nor suspensions issued for physical disabilities or failing to pass reexamination. The commissioner shall not reinstate the license of a driver whose license was suspended pursuant to section 1205 of this title until the commissioner receives certification from the court that the costs due the state have been paid.

Sec. 50. 23 V.S.A. § 1230 is amended to read:

For each inspection certificate issued by the department of motor vehicles, the commissioner shall be paid ~~\$3.00~~ \$4.00 provided that state and municipal inspection stations that inspect only state or municipally owned and registered vehicles shall not be required to pay a fee.

Sec. 51. 23 V.S.A. § 1392(17) is amended to read:

(17) Notwithstanding the gross vehicle weight provisions of subdivision (4) of this section, a truck trailer combination or truck tractor, semi-trailer combination with six or more load bearing axles and specially equipped for hauling unprocessed milk, unprocessed forest or unprocessed quarry products shall be allowed to bear a maximum of 99,000 pounds by special annual permit, which shall expire coincidentally with the vehicle's registration, except for vehicles not registered in Vermont in which case the permit shall become void on January 1 following the date of issue, for operating on designated routes on the state and town highways, subject to the following:

(A) The combination of vehicles must have as a minimum, a distance of 51 feet between extreme axles.

(B) The axle weight provisions of section 1391 of this title and subdivision 1392(6) of this section shall also apply to vehicles permitted under this subdivision.

(C) When determining the fine for a gross overweight violation of this subdivision, the fine for any portion of the first 10,000 pounds over the permitted weight shall be the same as provided in section 1391a of this title, and for overweight violations 10,001 pounds or more over the permitted weight, the fine schedule provided in section 1391a shall be doubled.

(D) The weight permitted by this subdivision shall be allowed for foreign trucks which are registered or permitted for 99,000 pounds in a state or province which recognizes Vermont vehicles for weights consistent with this subdivision.

(E) The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to operation on the interstate and defense highway system.

(F) The fee for the annual permit as provided in this subdivision shall be ~~\$350.00~~ \$500.00.

(G) For the purposes of this subdivision, the following definitions shall apply:

(i) unprocessed milk products as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 4(55);

(ii) unprocessed forest products as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 1392(13);

(iii) unprocessed quarry products shall be quarried rock in block or blocks as it would be removed from the quarry.

Sec. 52. 23 V.S.A. § 1402(a) and (b) are amended to read:

(a) Overweight, overwidth, indivisible overlength, and overheight permits. Overweight, overwidth, indivisible overlength and overheight permits shall be signed by the commissioner or by his or her agent and a copy shall be kept in the office of the commissioner or in a location approved by the commissioner. Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, a copy shall also be available in the towing vehicle and must be available for inspection on demand of a law enforcement officer. Before operating a traction engine, tractor, trailer, motor truck or other motor vehicle, the person to whom a permit to operate in excess of the weight, width, indivisible overlength and height limits established by this title is granted shall pay a fee of ~~\$20.00~~ \$35.00 for each single trip permit or ~~\$70.00~~ \$100.00 for a blanket permit, except that the fee for a fleet blanket permit shall be ~~\$70.00~~ \$100.00 for the first unit and ~~\$1.00~~ \$5.00 for each unit thereafter. At the option of a carrier, an annual permit for the entire fleet, to operate over any approved route, may be obtained for ~~\$70.00~~ \$100.00 for the first tractor and ~~\$1.00~~ \$5.00 for each additional tractor, up to a maximum fee of \$1,000.00. The fee for a fleet permit shall be based on the entire number of tractors owned by the applicant. An applicant for a fleet permit may apply for any number of specific routes, each of which shall be reviewed with regard to the characteristics of the route and the type of equipment operated by the applicant. When the weight or size of the vehicle-load are considered sufficiently excessive for the routing requested, the agency of transportation shall, on request of the commissioner, conduct an engineering inspection of the vehicle-load and route, for which a fee of

\$300.00 will be added to the cost of the permit if the load is a manufactured home. For all other loads of any size or with gross weight limits less than 150,000 pounds, the fee shall be \$800.00 for any engineering inspection that requires up to eight hours to conduct. If the inspection requires more than eight hours to conduct, the fee shall be \$800.00 plus \$60.00 per hour for each additional hour required. If the vehicle and load weigh 150,000 pounds or more but not more than 200,000 pounds, the engineering inspection fee shall be \$2,000.00. If the vehicle and load weigh more than 200,000 pounds but not more than 250,000 pounds, the engineering inspection fee shall be \$5,000.00. If the vehicle and load weigh more than 250,000 pounds, the engineering inspection fee shall be \$10,000.00. The study must be completed prior to the permit being issued. Prior to the issuance of a permit, an applicant whose vehicle weighs 150,000 pounds or more, or is 15 or more feet in width or height, shall file with the commissioner a special certificate of insurance showing minimum coverage of \$250,000.00 for death or injury to one person, \$500,000.00 for death or injury to two or more persons and \$250,000.00 for property damage, all arising out of any one accident.

(b) Overlength permits. Except as provided in ~~subsection 1432(f)~~ subsections 1432(c) and (e) of this title, it shall be necessary to obtain an overlength permit as follows:

~~(1) For vehicles with a trailer or semitrailer which are longer than 68 feet but not longer than 72 feet off the truck network established in subsection 1432(e) of this title and the distance between the steering axle and the rearmost tractor axle is 23 feet or less. In such cases, the vehicle may be operated with a single or multiple trip overlength permit issued by the department of motor vehicles at no cost or, for a fee, by an entity authorized under subsection 1400(d) of this title for routes approved by the agency of transportation.~~

~~(2) For vehicles with a trailer or semitrailer longer than 68 feet but not longer than 72 feet off the truck network established in subsection 1432(e) of this title and the distance between the steering axle and the rearmost tractor axle is more than 23 feet. In such cases, the vehicle may be operated with a single trip overlength permit issued by the department of motor vehicles at no cost for routes approved by the agency of transportation.~~

~~(3)~~ For vehicles with a trailer or semitrailer longer than ~~72~~ 75 feet anywhere in the state on highways approved by the agency of transportation. In such cases, the vehicle may be operated with a single trip overlength permit issued by the department of motor vehicles for a fee of ~~\$10.00~~ \$25.00. If the vehicle is 100 feet or more in length, the permit applicant shall file with the commissioner of motor vehicles, a special certificate of insurance showing minimum coverage of \$250,000.00 for death or injury to one person,

\$500,000.00 for death or injury to two or more persons and \$250,000.00 for property damage, all arising out of any one accident.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the agency of transportation may erect signs at those locations where it would be unsafe to operate vehicles in excess of 68 feet in length.

Sec. 53. 23 V.S.A. § 2002(a) is amended to read:

(a) The commissioner shall be paid the following fees:

(1) For any certificate of title, including a salvage certificate of title, ~~\$28.00~~ \$31.00;

(2) For each security interest noted upon a certificate of title, including a salvage certificate of title, ~~\$7.00~~ \$9.00;

(3) For a certificate of title after a transfer, ~~\$28.00~~ \$31.00;

(4) For each assignment of a security interest noted upon a certificate of title, ~~\$7.00~~ \$9.00;

(5) For a duplicate certificate of title, including a salvage certificate of title, ~~\$28.00~~ \$31.00;

(6) For an ordinary certificate of title issued upon surrender of a distinctive certificate, ~~\$28.00~~ \$31.00;

(7) For filing a notice of security interest, ~~\$7.00~~ \$9.00;

(8) For a certificate of search of the records of the motor vehicle department, for each motor vehicle searched against, \$20.00;

(9) For filing an assignment of a security interest, ~~\$7.00~~ \$9.00;

(10) For a certificate of title after a security interest has been released, ~~\$28.00~~ \$31.00;

(11) For a certificate of title for a motor vehicle granted a veteran by the veterans' administration and exempt from registration fees pursuant to section 378 of this title, no fee;

(12) For a corrected certificate of title, ~~\$28.00~~ \$31.00.

Sec. 54. 23 V.S.A. § 3802(a) is amended to read:

(a) The commissioner shall be paid the following fees:

(1) for filing an application for a first certificate of title, ~~\$15.00~~ \$19.00;

(2) for each security interest noted upon a certificate of title, ~~\$7.00~~ \$9.00;

(3) for a certificate of title after a transfer, ~~\$15.00~~ \$19.00;

(4) for each assignment of a security interest noted upon a certificate of title, ~~\$7.00~~ \$9.00;

(5) for a duplicate certificate of title, ~~\$15.00~~ \$19.00;

(6) for an ordinary certificate of title issued upon surrender of a distinctive certificate, ~~\$15.00~~ \$19.00;

(7) for filing a notice of security interest, ~~\$7.00~~ \$9.00;

(8) for a certificate of search of the records of the motor vehicle department for each vessel, snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle searched against, \$20.00;

(9) for filing an assignment of a security interest, ~~\$7.00~~ \$9.00;

(10) for a certificate of clear title after the security interest or interests have been released, ~~\$15.00~~ \$19.00;

(11) for a corrected certificate of title, ~~\$15.00~~ \$19.00.

Sec. 55. 32 V.S.A. § 8903(a), (b), and (d) are amended to read:

(a)(1) There is hereby imposed upon the purchase in Vermont of a motor vehicle by a resident a tax at the time of such purchase, payable as hereinafter provided. The amount of the tax shall be six percent of the taxable cost of a:

pleasure car as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 4;

motorcycle as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 4;

motor home as defined in subdivision 8902(11) of this title; or

vehicle weighing up to 10,099 pounds, registered pursuant to

23 V.S.A. § 367, other than a farm truck.

(2) For any other motor vehicle it shall be six percent of the taxable cost of the motor vehicle or ~~\$1,680.00~~ \$1,850.00 for each motor vehicle, whichever is smaller, except that pleasure cars which are purchased, leased or otherwise acquired for use in short-term rentals shall be subject to taxation under subsection (d) of this section.

(b)(1) There is hereby imposed upon the use within this state a tax of six percent of the taxable cost of a:

pleasure car as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 4;

motorcycle as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 4;

motor home as defined in subdivision 8902(11) of this title; or

vehicle weighing up to 10,099 pounds, registered pursuant to

23 V.S.A. § 367, other than a farm truck.

(2) For any other motor vehicle it shall be six percent of the taxable cost of a motor vehicle, or ~~\$1,680.00~~ \$1,850.00 for each motor vehicle, whichever is smaller, by a person at the time of first registering or transferring a registration to such motor vehicle payable as hereinafter provided, except no use tax shall be payable hereunder if the tax imposed by subsection (a) of this section has been paid, or the vehicle is a pleasure car which was purchased, leased or otherwise acquired for use in short-term rentals, in which case the vehicle shall be subject to taxation under subsection (d) of this section.

(d) There is hereby imposed a use tax on the rental charge of each transaction, in which the renter takes possession of the vehicle in this state, during the life of a pleasure car purchased for use in short-term rentals, which tax is to be collected by the rental company from the renter and remitted to the commissioner. The amount of the tax shall be ~~seven~~ nine percent of the rental charge. Rental charge means the total rental charge for the use of the pleasure car, but does not include a separately stated charge for insurance, or recovery of refueling cost, or other separately stated charges which are not for the use of the pleasure car. In the event of resale of the vehicle in this state for use other than short-term rental, such transaction shall be subject to the tax imposed by subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 56. 23 V.S.A. § 476 is added to read:

§ 476. MOTOR VEHICLE WARRANTY FEE

A motor vehicle warranty fee of \$5.00 is imposed on the registration of each new motor vehicle in this state not including trailers, tractors, motorized highway building equipment, road-making appliances, snowmobiles, motorcycles, mopeds, or trucks with a gross vehicle weight over 12,000 pounds.

* * * Snowmobile and Motorboat Registration Fees * * *

Sec. 57. 23 V.S.A. § 3204 is amended to read:

§ 3204. REGISTRATION FEES AND DEALER PLATES

(a) Fees. Registration fees for snowmobiles other than as provided for in subsection (b) of this section are ~~\$15.00~~ \$25.00 for residents and ~~\$22.00~~ \$32.00 for nonresidents. Duplicate registration certificates may be obtained upon payment of ~~\$2.00~~ \$5.00.

(b)(1) Dealer; manufacturer and repair plates; fees. Unless exempted pursuant to subsection 3205(d) of this title, any person engaged in the manufacture or sale of snowmobiles shall obtain registration certificates and identifying number plates subject to such rules as may be adopted by the

commissioner which shall be valid for the following purposes only: testing; adjusting; demonstrating; temporary use of customers for a period not to exceed 14 days; private business or pleasure use of such person or members of his or her immediate family; and use at fairs, shows or races when no charge is made for such use.

(2) Fees. Fees for dealer registration certificates shall be \$40.00 for the first certificate issued to any person and \$5.00 for any additional certificate issued to the same person within the current registration period. Fees for temporary number plates shall be \$1.00 for each plate issued.

(c) Temporary registration pending issuance of permanent registration. The commissioner, by rules adopted pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25, shall provide for the issuance of temporary registrations of snowmobiles pending issuance of the permanent registration. VAST shall be an agent of the commissioner for the issuance of such temporary registrations. The fees for the temporary registrations shall be ~~\$15.00~~ \$25.00 for residents and ~~\$22.00~~ \$32.00 for nonresidents and shall also constitute payment of the registration fee required by subsection (a) of this section. Temporary registrations shall be kept with the snowmobile while being operated and shall authorize operation without the registration decal being affixed for a period not to exceed 60 days from the date of issue.

* * *

Sec. 58. [DELETED]

Sec. 59. 23 V.S.A. § 3305(b) is amended to read:

(b) Annually, the owner of each motorboat required to be registered by this state shall file an application for a number with the commissioner of motor vehicles on forms approved by him or her. The application shall be signed by the owner of the motorboat and shall be accompanied by a fee of ~~\$17.00~~ \$22.00 and a surcharge of \$5.00 for a motorboat in class A; by a fee of ~~\$28.00~~ \$33.00 and a surcharge of \$10.00 for a motorboat in class 1; by a fee of ~~\$55.00~~ \$60.00 and a surcharge of \$10.00 for a motorboat in class 2; by a fee of ~~\$121.00~~ \$126.00 and a surcharge of \$10.00 for a motorboat in class 3. Upon receipt of the application in approved form, the commissioner shall enter the application upon the records of the department of motor vehicles and issue to the applicant a registration certificate stating the number awarded to the motorboat and the name and address of the owner. The owner shall paint on or attach to each side of the bow of the motorboat the identification number in such manner as may be prescribed by rules of the commissioner in order that it may be clearly visible. The registration shall be void one year from the first day of the month following the month of issue. A vessel of less than 10 horsepower used as a tender to a registered vessel shall be deemed registered,

at no additional cost, and shall have painted or attached to both sides of the bow, the same registration number as the registered vessel with the number "1" after the number. The number shall be maintained in legible condition. The registration certificate shall be pocket size and shall be available at all times for inspection on the motorboat for which issued, whenever the motorboat is in operation. A duplicate registration may be obtained upon payment of a fee of \$2.00 to the commissioner. Notwithstanding section 3319 of this chapter, \$5.00 of each registration fee shall be allocated to the transportation fund. The remainder of the fee shall be allocated in accordance with section 3319 of this title.

Sec. 60. 23 V.S.A. § 3214 is amended to read:

§ 3214. ALLOCATION OF FEES AND PENALTIES; LIABILITY
INSURANCE; AUTHORITY TO CONTRACT FOR LAW
ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

(a) The amount of \$5.00 from the sale of every resident and nonresident snowmobile registration shall be allocated to the agency of transportation. The balance of fees and penalties collected under this subchapter, except interest, are is hereby allocated to the agency of natural resources for use by VAST for development and maintenance of the statewide snowmobile trail program (SSTP), for trails' liability insurance, and an amount equal to \$5.00 from the sale of every resident and nonresident snowmobile registration shall be allocated to contract for law enforcement services with any constable, sheriff's department, municipal police department, the department of public safety, and the department of fish and wildlife for purposes of trail compliance pursuant to this chapter; the allocation for snowmobile law enforcement shall be included as a part of the annual expenditure plan required by section 3215 of this chapter. The departments of public safety and fish and wildlife are authorized to contract with VAST to provide these law enforcement services. The agency of natural resources may retain for its use up to \$11,500.00 during each fiscal year to be used for the oversight of the state snowmobile trail program.

* * *

Sec. 61. 10 V.S.A. § 501 is amended to read:

§ 501. FEES

Subject to the provisions of ~~section~~ subsection 486(c) of this title, an applicant for an official business directional sign or an information plaza plaque shall pay to the travel information council an initial license fee and an annual renewal fee as established by this section.

(1) Initial license fees shall be as follows:

(A) for full-sized or half-sized business directional signs, ~~\$75.00~~
\$175.00 per sign;

(B) for information plaza plaques, \$25.00 per plaque; however, if more than one plaque is requested by a business at the same time, a ten percent discount shall be given on the second and subsequent plaques.

(2) Annual renewal fees ~~the amount, rounded to the next higher even whole dollar, determined by dividing the estimated cost of maintenance and administration of the official business directional sign and information plaza programs during the following fiscal year by the total number of licensed signs and plaques eligible for renewal during the following fiscal year; except that the renewal fees shall not exceed the following amounts~~ shall be as follows:

(A) for full and half-sized official business directional signs, ~~\$60.00~~
\$125.00 per sign;

* * *

* * * Passenger Rail Equipment * * *

Sec. 62. PASSENGER RAIL EQUIPMENT

In consultation with the joint fiscal office, the agency shall examine the alternatives and relative costs and benefits and service implications available to the state with respect to the purchase of passenger rail equipment to be used in place of the existing Amtrak equipment employed in the Vermonter and Ethan Allen services, including the purchase of refurbished equipment. The agency shall deliver a report of its analysis to the house and senate committees on transportation on or before January 15, 2010.

* * * State-Owned Railroad Property * * *

Sec. 63. Sec. 17(b)(2) of No. 175 of the Acts of the 2005 Adj. Sess. (2006), as amended by Sec. 31 of No. 164 of the Acts of the 2007 Adj. Sess. (2008), is further amended to read:

(2) town of Morrystown; valuation section V50/51; approximately 3.7 acres adjacent to engine house and currently leased for batch plant, to be conveyed to lessee S. T. Griswold & Company, Inc. or assignee; however, if this conveyance is not consummated, the Lamoille Economic Development Corporation shall have the option to purchase; and

Sec. 64. Sec. 17(e) of No. 175 of the Acts of the 2005 Adj. Sess. (2006), as amended by Sec. 31 of No. 164 of the Acts of the 2007 Adj. Sess. (2008), is further amended to read:

(e) The authority granted by this section shall expire on ~~June 30~~
December 31, 2009.

* * * Cancellation of Projects * * *

Sec. 65. CANCELLATION OF PROJECTS

Pursuant to 19 V.S.A. § 10g(f) (legislative approval for cancellation of projects), the general assembly approves cancellation of the following projects:

(1) Town highway bridges:

(A) Albany BRO 1449(23) (BR 30 on TH 25/Poor Farm Road, over Black River) (town has requested termination);

(B) Chester BRO 1442(31) (BR 63 on TH 9/First Avenue, over Williams River) (town has requested termination);

(C) Richford TH3 0305 (BR 28 on TH 18/Noyes Street, over Loveland Brook) (town has requested termination); and

(D) Woodstock BRO 1444(33) (BR 37 on TH 66, over Kedron Brook) (town has requested termination).

(2) Bicycle and pedestrian facilities: Irasburg STP WALK(16) (installation of sidewalks and curbs along VT 58) (town has requested termination).

* * * Transportation Fund; Sales of Surplus Property * * *

Sec. 66. 19 V.S.A. § 11(8) is amended to read:

(8) other miscellaneous sources including the sale of maps, plans and reports, fees collected by the travel information council ~~and~~, leases for property at state-owned airports and railroads, proceeds from the sale of state surplus property under the provisions of 29 V.S.A. §§ 1556 and 1557, and proceeds from the sale of recycled materials.

Sec. 67. 29 V.S.A. § 1557(b) is amended to read:

(b) Transfer charges and credits shall be made against the appropriation of the respective department or agency. Funds credited shall be classified as special funds, and managed in accordance with subchapter 5 of chapter 7 of Title 32; provided, however, that any funds credited to the agency of transportation shall be transferred to the transportation fund.

* * * Relinquishment of State Highway Segments
to Municipal Control * * *

Sec. 68. RELINQUISHMENT OF VERMONT ROUTE 15 IN THE
VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION

(a) Under the authority of 19 V.S.A. § 15(2), approval is granted for the secretary of transportation to enter into an agreement with the village of Essex Junction to relinquish to the village's jurisdiction a segment of the state highway known as Vermont Route 15 (Pearl Street) in the village of Essex Junction starting at the Essex Junction village boundary, near the intersection with Susie Wilson Road (TH #4), and extending in an easterly direction for 1.004 miles, connecting to existing class 1 town highway TH #1 at a point 0.261 miles west of West Hillcrest Road (TH #551). The relinquishment shall include the Vermont Route 15 approaches to West Street Extension (TH #5). Upon relinquishment, the former state highway shall become a class 1 town highway.

(b) Control of the highway, not including ownership of the lands or easements within the highway right-of-way, shall be relinquished to the village of Essex Junction. The village of Essex Junction shall not sell or abandon any portion of the relinquishment areas or allow any encroachments within the relinquishment areas without written permission of the agency of transportation.

* * * Town Highways * * *

Sec. 69. 19 V.S.A. § 305(g) is amended to read:

(g) The agency shall provide each town with a map of all of the highways in that town together with the mileage of each class 1, 2, ~~and 3~~, and 4 highway, as well as each trail, and such other information as the agency deems appropriate.

Sec. 70. 19 V.S.A. § 305(i) is amended to read:

(i)(1) Prior to a vote to discontinue town highways provided in subsection (h) of this section, the legislative body shall hold a public informational hearing on the question by posting warnings at least 30 days prior to the hearing in at least two public places within the municipality and in the town clerk's office. The notice shall include the most recently available map of all town highways prepared by the agency of transportation pursuant to subsection (g) of this section. At least 30 days prior to the hearing, the legislative body shall also deliver the warning and map together with proof of receipt or mail by certified mail, return receipt requested, to each of the following:

- (A) The chair of any municipal planning commission in the municipality;
- (B) The chair of a conservation commission, established under chapter 118 of Title 24, in the municipality;
- (C) The chair of the legislative body of each abutting municipality;
- (D) The executive director of the regional planning commission of the area in which the municipality is located; ~~and~~
- (E) The commissioner of forests, parks and recreation; and
- (F) The secretary of transportation.

(2) The hearing shall be held within the 10 days preceding the meeting at which the legislative body will vote whether to discontinue all town highways as provided in subsection (h) of this section.

* * * Trucks and Buses; Use of Tire Chains * * *

Sec. 71. 23 V.S.A. § 1006c is added to read:

§ 1006c. TRUCKS AND BUSES; CHAINS AND TIRE REQUIREMENTS

(a) The traffic committee may require the use of tire chains or winter tires on specified portions of state highways during periods of winter weather for motor coaches, truck-tractor-semitrailer combinations, and truck-tractor-trailer combinations.

(b) When tire chains or winter tires are required, advance notice shall be given to the traveling public through signage and, whenever possible, through public service announcements. In areas where tire chains or winter tires are required, there shall be an adequate area for vehicles to pull off the traveled way to affix any chains that might be required.

(c) Under chapter 25 of Title 3, the traffic committee may adopt such rules as are necessary to administer this section and may delegate this authority to the secretary.

Sec. 72. USE OF CHAINS; IMPLEMENTATION

The use of chains shall not be required until signage and designated areas are available for vehicles to affix tire chains before proceeding further. Advanced public notice of these requirements shall be given to interested parties in the most feasible manner possible.

* * * Public Transportation Planning * * *

Sec. 73. 24 V.S.A. § 5089 is amended to read:

§ 5089. PLANNING

~~(a) By January 31, 1996, all public transit systems shall have completed a short range public transit plan. In the meantime, the agency of transportation may continue to provide funding for capital, statewide operating and new services.~~

~~(b) The short range public transit plans must be coordinated with the efforts of the regional planning commission under the transportation plan.~~

(e) The agency of transportation's public transit plan for the state shall be ~~updated~~ amended no less frequently than every five years ~~so as to include, and incorporate the public transportation elements of regional plans that have not been disapproved under the provisions of chapter 117 of this title. The~~ development of the state public transit plan shall include consultation with public transit providers, the metropolitan planning organization, and the regional planning commissions and their transportation advisory committees to ensure the integration of transit planning with the transportation planning initiative as well as conformance with chapter 117 of this title, (municipal and regional planning and development). Regional plans, together with the agency of transportation's public transit plan shall function to coordinate the provision of public, private nonprofit, and private for-profit regional public transit services, in order to ensure effective local, regional and statewide delivery of services.

(b) Recognizing that the growing demand for new regional and commuter services must be considered within the context of the continuing need for local transit services that meet basic mobility needs, the agency of transportation shall consult annually with the regional planning commissions and public transit providers in advance of the award of available planning funds. The agency shall maintain a working list of both short- and long-term planning needs, goals, and objectives that balances the needs for regional service with the need for local service. Available planning funds shall be awarded in accordance with state and federal law and as deemed necessary and appropriate by the agency following consultation with the regional planning commissions and the public transit providers. The agency shall report annually to the general assembly on planning needs, expenditures, and cooperative planning efforts.

Sec. 74. 23 V.S.A. § 372 is amended to read:

§ 372. MOTOR BUS

The annual fee for registration of a motor bus shall be based on the actual weight of such bus, plus passenger carrying capacity at 150 pounds per person, and shall be \$1.40 per 100 pounds of such weight, except for motor buses registered under section 372a or 376 of this title. Fractions of a hundred-weight shall be disregarded. The minimum fee for the registration of any motor bus shall be \$43.00.

* * * Local Public Transportation Service * * *

Sec. 75. 23 V.S.A. § 372a is amended to read:

§ 372a. LOCAL TRANSIT PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICE
BUSES; FEE

(a) The annual registration fee for any motor bus used in local transit or public transportation service entirely within any city or town, or not over 10 miles beyond the boundaries thereof, shall be \$45.00, except for those vehicles owned by a municipality for such service that are subject to the provisions of section 376 of this title. In the event a bus registered for local transit or public transportation service is thereafter registered for general use during the same registration year, such fee shall be applied towards the fee for general registration.

(b) For the purposes of this section, a public transportation service bus is a bus used by a nonprofit public transit system as defined in 24 V.S.A. § 5088(3), and a local transit bus is a motor bus used entirely within or not more than 10 miles beyond the boundaries of a city or town.

* * * Public Transit * * *

Sec. 76. PUBLIC TRANSIT

From the funds allocated to the public transit general capital program, \$100,000 in federal funds shall be held by the agency of transportation in reserve to cover shortfalls in the funding of the elders and persons with disabilities program (E&D) that occur as a result of unanticipated demand for non-Medicaid transportation services. Transit agencies that have grant agreements with the agency for the provision of E&D services shall be eligible to receive disbursements from the reserve. The agency shall develop a written policy to govern the evaluation and prioritization of applications for disbursements from the reserve to ensure access to the reserve funds is limited to transit agencies that have administered appropriately constrained E&D programs. The agency shall notify all transit agencies with grant agreements

for the provision of E&D services of the policy no later than July 1, 2009, and all disbursements from the reserve shall be in accordance with the policy.

* * * Motor Buses; Diesel Tax * * *

Sec. 77. 23 V.S.A. § 3003(d)(1)(A) through (F) and (d)(2) are amended to read:

(A) uses, the taxation of which would be precluded by the laws and Constitution of the United States and this state;

(B) uses for agricultural purposes not conducted on the highways of the state;

(C) uses by any state, municipal, school district, fire district or other governmentally owned vehicles for official purposes;

(D) uses by any vehicle off the highways of the state; and

(E) ~~uses by motor buses registered in this state; and~~

~~(F)~~ uses by any vehicle registered as a farm truck under subsection 367(f) of this title.

(2) Provided, however, that no tax shall be due with respect to fuel for use in any state, municipal, school district, fire district, nonprofit public transit system as defined in 24 V.S.A. § 5088(3), or other governmentally owned vehicle owned, leased, or contracted for other than single-trip use by a government entity, as long as the distributor takes from the purchaser at the time of sale an exemption certificate in the form prescribed by the commissioner; and provided, further, that no tax shall be due with respect to fuel delivered for farm use to a farm bulk fuel storage tank.

* * * Public Transit Report * * *

Sec. 78. PUBLIC TRANSIT REPORT

(a) Public transit report. Consistent with the goals, findings, and recommendations of the two most recent legislative reports prepared by VTrans regarding a review of potential changes to Vermont's public transit service delivery model (Sec. 35 and Sec. 45 reports), VTrans shall, in continued cooperation with the legislature's joint fiscal office, conduct such further analysis as is necessary to generate specific recommendations for improving the efficient and effective delivery of public transit services in Vermont.

(b) Goal of report. The goal of the report is to recommend a governance and funding structure for public transportation that creates the most efficient use of taxpayer funds while simultaneously creating the most efficient system

of public transportation services consistent with the statutory policy goals in 24 V.S.A. § 5083. The report shall:

(1) Make use of the data and information currently available and assess the strengths and weaknesses of the public transit delivery system;

(2) Review the pros and cons of realistic alternative service delivery models;

(3) Present a recommendation for a systematic approach toward changing, evolving, or maintaining the existing service delivery model and propose a configuration under which the service delivery model maximizes state, federal, and local investments into the broad range of public transit services.

(c) The agency shall direct the report with the involvement of the agency of human services and of all public transit providers in the state who are direct grantees and subrecipients of state and federal funds.

(d) Consistent with federal United We Ride initiatives, the report shall consider all federal and state funding invested through or by state and federal agencies on public, human services, and related transportation programs and shall evaluate the potential for achieving greater efficiency through coordination of effort or consolidation of funding and effort.

(e) The report shall be delivered to the general assembly on or before February 15, 2010.

* * * VASA Trail Insurance * * *

Sec. 79. 23 V.S.A. § 3513 is amended to read:

§ 3513. LIABILITY INSURANCE; AUTHORITY TO CONTRACT FOR
LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

(a) The amount of 85 percent of the fees and penalties collected under this subchapter, except interest, is hereby allocated to the agency of natural resources for use by the Vermont ATV sportsman's association (VASA) for development and maintenance of a statewide ATV trail program ~~on private property~~, for trail liability insurance, and to contract for law enforcement services with any constable, sheriff's department, municipal police department, the department of public safety, and the department of fish and wildlife for purposes of trail compliance pursuant to this chapter. The departments of public safety and fish and wildlife are authorized to contract with VASA to provide these law enforcement services. The agency of natural resources may retain for its use up to \$7,000.00 during each fiscal year to be used for administration of the state grant that supports this program.

* * *

* * * All-Terrain Vehicles * * *

Sec. 80. 23 V.S.A. § 3502 is amended to read:

§ 3502. REGISTRATION

(a) An all-terrain vehicle may not be operated unless registered pursuant to this chapter or any other section of this title, by the state of Vermont and unless the all-terrain vehicle displays a valid Vermont ATV Sportsman's Association (VASA) Trail Access Decal (TAD) when operating on a VASA trail, except when operated:

* * *

Sec. 81. 23 V.S.A. § 3506 is amended to read:

§ 3506. OPERATION

* * *

(b) An all-terrain vehicle may not be operated:

* * *

(3) On any privately owned land or body of private water unless:

* * *

(B) the operator has, on his or her person, the written consent of the owner or lessee of the land to operate an all-terrain vehicle in the specific area and during specific hours and/or days in which the operator is operating, ~~or proof that he or she is a member of a club or association to which consent has been given orally or in writing;~~ or the all-terrain vehicle displays a valid TAD decal as required by subsection 3502(a) of this title that serves as proof that the all-terrain vehicle and its operator, by virtue of the TAD, are members of a VASA-affiliated club to which such consent has been given orally or in writing to operate an all-terrain vehicle in the area in which the operator is operating;

* * *

* * * Two-Wheeled All-Terrain Vehicles * * *

Sec. 82. 23 V.S.A. § 3501(5) is amended to read:

(5) "All-terrain vehicle" or "ATV" means any nonhighway recreational vehicle, except snowmobiles, having no less than ~~three~~ two low pressure tires (10 pounds per square inch, or less), not wider than 60 inches with two-wheel ATVs having permanent, full-time power to both wheels, and having a dry weight of less than 1,700 pounds, when used for cross-country travel on trails or on any one of the following or a combination thereof: land, water, snow, ice,

marsh, swampland, and natural terrain. An ATV on a public highway shall be considered a motor vehicle, as defined in section 4 of this title, only for the purposes of those offenses listed in subdivisions 2502(a)(1)(H), (N), (R), (U), (Y), (FF), (GG), (II), and (ZZ); (2)(A) and (B); (3)(A), (B), (C), and (D); (4)(A); and (B) and (5) of this title and as provided in section 1201 of this title. An ATV shall not include an electric personal assistive mobility device.

* * * Bright Futures Plate * * *

Sec. 83. 23 V.S.A. § 304c is amended to read:

§ 304c. MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION PLATES: BUILDING
BRIGHT SPACES FOR BRIGHT FUTURES FUND

(a) The commissioner shall, upon application, issue “building bright spaces for bright futures fund,” hereinafter referred to as “the bright futures fund,” registration plates for use only on vehicles registered at the pleasure car rate, ~~and~~ on trucks registered for less than 26,001 pounds, on vehicles registered to state agencies under section 376 of this title, and excluding vehicles registered under the International Registration Plan. Plates so acquired shall be mounted on the front and rear of the vehicle. The commissioner of motor vehicles shall utilize the graphic design recommended by the commissioner of social and rehabilitation services for the special plates to enhance the public awareness of the state’s interest in supporting children’s services. Applicants shall apply on forms prescribed by the commissioner of motor vehicles, and shall pay an initial fee of \$20.00 in addition to the annual fee for registration. In following years, in addition to the annual registration fee, the holder of a bright futures fund plate shall pay a renewal fee of \$20.00. The commissioner shall adopt rules under 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 to implement the provisions of this subsection.

* * *

* * * Design-Build Contracts * * *

Sec. 84. 19 V.S.A. chapter 26 is added to read:

CHAPTER 26. DESIGN-BUILD CONTRACTS

§ 2601. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) “Best value” means the highest overall value to the state, considering quality and cost.

(2) “Design-build contracting” means a method of project delivery whereby a single entity is contractually responsible to perform design, construction, and related services.

(3) “Major participant” means any entity that would have a major role in the design or construction of the project as specified by the agency in the request for proposals.

(4) “Project” means the highway, bridge, railroad, airport, trail, transportation, building, or other improvement being constructed or rehabilitated, including all professional services, labor, equipment, materials, tools, supplies, warranties, and incidentals needed for a complete and functioning product.

(5) “Proposal” means an offer by the proposer to design and construct the project in accordance with all request-for-proposals provisions for the price contained in the proposal.

(6) “Proposer” means an individual, firm, corporation, limited-liability company, partnership, joint venture, sole proprietorship, or other entity that submits a proposal. After contract execution, the successful proposer is the design-builder.

(7) “Quality” means those features that the agency determines are most important to the project. Quality criteria may include quality of design, constructability, long-term maintenance costs, aesthetics, local impacts, traveler and other user costs, service life, time to construct, and other factors that the agency considers to be in the best interest of the state.

§ 2602. AUTHORIZATION

(a) Notwithstanding section 10 of this title or any other provision of law, the agency may use design-build contracting to deliver projects. The agency may evaluate and select proposals on either a best-value or a low-bid basis. If the scope of work requires substantial engineering judgment, the quality of which may vary significantly as determined by the agency, then the basis of award shall be best-value.

(b) The agency shall identify those projects it believes are candidates for design-build contracting, including those involving extraordinary circumstances, such as emergency work, unscheduled projects, or loss of funding.

(c) The agency retains the authority to terminate the contracting process at any time, to reject any proposal, to waive technicalities, or to advertise for new proposals if the agency determines that it is in the best interest of the state.

§ 2603. PREQUALIFICATION

(a) The agency may require that entities be prequalified to submit proposals. If the agency requires prequalification, it shall give public notice requesting qualifications from interested entities electronically through the

agency's publicly accessible website or through advertisements in newspapers. The agency shall issue a request-for-qualifications package to all entities requesting one in accordance with the notice.

(b) Interested entities shall supply for themselves and for all major participants all information required by the agency. The agency may investigate and verify all information received. All financial information, trade secrets, or other information customarily regarded as confidential business information submitted to the agency shall be confidential.

(c) The agency shall evaluate and rate all entities submitting a conforming statement of qualifications and select the most qualified entities to receive a request for proposals. The agency may select any number of entities, except that if the agency fails to prequalify at least two entities, the agency shall readvertise the project.

§ 2604. REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The agency may issue a request for proposals, which shall set forth the scope of work, design parameters, construction requirements, time constraints, and all other requirements that have a substantial impact on the cost or quality of the project and the project development process, as determined by the agency. The request for proposals shall include the criteria for acceptable proposals. For projects to be awarded on a best-value basis, the scoring process and quality criteria must also be contained in the request for proposals. In the agency's discretion, the request for proposals may provide for a process, including the establishment of a team to review proposals, for the agency to review conceptual technical elements of each proposal before full proposal submittal for the purposes of identifying defects that would cause rejection of the proposal as nonresponsive. All such conceptual submittals and responses shall be confidential until award of the contract. The request for proposals may also provide for a stipend upon specified terms to unsuccessful proposers that submit proposals conforming to all request-for-proposals requirements.

§ 2605. LOW-BID AWARD

If the basis of the award of responsive proposals is low-bid, then each proposal, including the price or prices, shall be sealed by the proposer and submitted to the agency as one complete package. The agency shall award the design-build contract to the proposer that submits a responsive proposal with the lowest cost, if the proposal meets all request-for-proposals requirements.

§ 2606. BEST-VALUE AWARD

(a) If the basis of the award of responsive proposals is best-value, then each proposal shall be submitted by the proposer to the agency in two separate components: a sealed technical proposal and a sealed price proposal. These

two components shall be submitted simultaneously. The agency shall first open, evaluate, and score each responsive technical proposal, based on the quality criteria contained in the request for proposals. The request for proposals may provide that the range between the highest and lowest quality scores of responsive technical proposals must be limited to an amount certain. During this evaluation process, the price proposals shall remain sealed, and all technical proposals shall be confidential.

(b) After completion of the evaluation of the technical proposals, the agency shall open and review each price proposal. The agency shall develop a system for assessing the cost and quality criteria. The agency shall award the contract to the proposer of the project representing the best value to the agency.

Sec. 85. DESIGN-BUILD CONTRACTS; LIMITATIONS ON USE

During fiscal year 2010 the agency of transportation shall limit its exercise of the authority granted by Sec. 78 of this act to not more than four projects.

Sec. 86. PROJECT SIGNAGE

For projects initiated in 2010 using design-build contracts, the agency shall erect signage at the project site for the duration of the project's construction identifying the project and its total cost, provided that the cost of acquiring and installing the signs does not exceed \$2,000.00 per project. The signs shall be designed in accordance with the agency's recommendations regarding size and lettering contained in the agency's 2009 report on the issue.

* * * Joint Transportation Oversight Committee Chairs * * *

Sec. 87. 19 V.S.A. § 12b(a) is amended to read:

(a) There is created a joint transportation oversight committee composed of the chairs of the house and senate committees on appropriations, the house and senate committees on transportation, the house committee on ways and means, and the senate committee on finance. The committee shall be chaired alternately by the chairs of the house and senate committees on transportation, and the two year term shall run concurrently with the biennial session of the legislature. The chair of the senate committee on transportation shall chair the committee during the 2009–2010 legislative session.

* * * State Highway Law; Definitions * * *

Sec. 88. 19 V.S.A. § 1 is amended to read:

§ 1. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this title:

- (1) "Agency" means the agency of transportation.

- (2) "Board" means the transportation board.
- (3) "Branch" means a major component of a division of a department or major unit of a department with staff functions.
- (4) "Chair" means the chair of the transportation board, unless otherwise specified.
- (5) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the department of motor vehicles responsible to the secretary for the administration of the department.
- (6) "Department" means the department of motor vehicles.
- (7) "Develop" means the partition or division of any tract of land of any size by a person through sale, lease, transfer or any other means by which any interest in or to the land or a portion of the land is conveyed to another person which will require the construction of permanent new or enlarged points of access to a state or town highway other than a limited access facility pursuant to subsection (a) of section 1702a of this title; excluding however, tracts of land located entirely within a city or incorporated village.
- (8) "Director" means the head of a division.
- (9) "District" means a geographic subdivision of the state primarily established for maintenance purposes.
- (10) "District transportation administrator" means the person in charge of a district.
- (11) "Division" means a major unit of the agency engaged in line functions other than the department of motor vehicles.
- (12) "Highways" are only such as are laid out in the manner prescribed by statute; or roads which have been constructed for public travel over land which has been conveyed to and accepted by a municipal corporation or to the state by deed or a fee or easement interest; or roads which have been dedicated to the public use and accepted by the city or town in which such roads are located; or such as may be from time to time laid out by the agency or town. The term "highway" includes rights-of-way, bridges, drainage structures, signs, guardrails, areas to accommodate utilities authorized by law to locate within highway limits, areas used to mitigate the environmental impacts of highway construction, vegetation, scenic enhancements, and structures. The term "highway" does not include state forest highways, management roads, easements, or rights-of-way owned by or under the control of the agency of natural resources, the department of forests, parks and recreation, the department of fish and wildlife, or the department of environmental conservation.

(13) “Management road” means a road not designated as a “state forest highway” used for the long-term management of lands owned by or under the control of the department of forests, parks and recreation, the department of fish and wildlife, or the department of environmental conservation to meet the responsibilities and purposes set forth in chapter 83 of Title 10, part 4 of Title 10, and regulations promulgated under those statutes. The term “management road” includes associated easements and rights-of-way. A “management road” is not a “highway” or a “town highway” as defined in this title, is not a public road, and the public has no common law or statutory right of access or use of such a road. A “management road” may be open for temporary, seasonal uses by the public or may be closed temporarily or seasonally at the discretion of the agency of natural resources, the department of forests, parks and recreation, the department of fish and wildlife, or the department of environmental conservation. A “management road” may be closed permanently upon 30 days’ notice to the governing body of the municipality in which the road is located and any affected user groups. Designation of a road as a “management road” shall not diminish any deeded rights of way or easements of private landowners on lands owned or controlled by the agency of natural resources, the department of forests, parks and recreation, the department of fish and wildlife, or the department of environmental conservation.

~~(13)~~(14) “Person” includes a municipality or state agency.

~~(14)~~(15) “Scenic road” means any road designated pursuant to this title.

~~(15)~~(16) “Secretary” means the head of the agency who shall be a member of the governor’s cabinet responsible directly to the governor for the administration of the agency.

~~(16)~~(17) “Section” means a major component of a division or department or major unit of the agency.

~~(17)~~(18) “Selectboard” includes village trustees and city councils.

(19) “State forest highway” means a road used for the long-term management of lands owned by or under the control of the department of forests, parks and recreation to meet the responsibilities and purposes set forth in 10 V.S.A. § 2601, et seq. and regulations promulgated under that statute. The term “state forest highway” includes easements and rights-of-way. A “state forest highway” is not a “highway” or a “town highway” as defined in this title, is not a public road, and the public has no common law or statutory right of access or use of such road. A “state forest highway” may be open for temporary, seasonal uses by the public or may be closed temporarily or seasonally for any reason at the discretion of the agency of natural resources or the department of forests, parks and recreation. A “state forest highway” may be closed permanently upon 30 days’ notice to the governing body of the

municipality in which the road is located and to any affected user groups. Designation of a road as a "state forest highway" shall not diminish any deeded rights of way or easements of private landowners on lands owned or controlled by the agency of natural resources or the department of forests, parks and recreation.

~~(18)~~(20) "State highways" are those highways maintained exclusively by the agency of transportation.

~~(19)~~(21) "Throughway" means a highway specially designated giving traffic traveling on the throughway the right-of-way at all intersections.

~~(20)~~(22) "Town" includes incorporated villages and cities.

~~(21)~~(23) "Town highways" are ~~those~~ class 1, 2, 3 and 4 highways:

(A) that the towns have authority to exclusively or cooperatively maintain; or

(B) that are maintained by the towns except for scheduled surface maintenance performed by the agency pursuant to section 306a of this title.

~~(22)~~(24) "Traffic committee" consists of the secretary of transportation or his or her designee, the commissioner of motor vehicles or his or her designee, and the commissioner of public safety or his or her designee and is responsible for establishing speed zones, parking and no parking areas, regulations for use of limited access highways, and other traffic control procedures.

~~(23)~~(25) "Limited access highway" means a highway where the right of owners or occupants of abutting land or other persons to access, light, air, or view in connection with the highway is fully or partially controlled by public authority, in accordance with chapter 17 of this title. The term "highway" does not include state forest highways, management roads, easements, or rights-of-way owned by or under the control of the agency of natural resources, the department of forests, parks and recreation, the department of fish and wildlife, or the department of environmental conservation.

Sec. 89. 19 V.S.A. § 301 is amended to read:

§ 301. DEFINITIONS

* * *

(7) "Town highways" are ~~those~~ class 1, 2, 3 and 4 highways:

(A) that the towns have authority to exclusively or cooperatively maintain; or

(B) that are maintained by the towns except for scheduled surface maintenance performed by the agency pursuant to section 306a of this title.

* * * Budget Surplus; Towns of Glastenbury and Somerset * * *

Sec. 90. FISCAL YEAR 2009 FUND TRANSFERS

Notwithstanding the provisions of 24 V.S.A. § 1406, in fiscal year 2009, the following amounts shall be transferred to the transportation fund from the funds indicated:

(1) 21345 Unorganized town—Bennington (Glastenbury) \$241,652.

(2) 21355 Unorganized towns—Windham (Somerset) \$121,180.

Sec. 91. 32 V.S.A. § 4961 is amended to read:

§ 4961. ASSESSMENT OF TAX

(a) A state tax determined pursuant to this section is hereby annually assessed upon the grand list of the Gore in Chittenden County. ~~A state tax of \$0.50 is hereby annually assessed on and upon~~ the grand list of the town of Glastenbury in the county of Bennington and of the unorganized town of Somerset in the county of Windham.

(b) Annually, on or before August 1, the supervisor of Buel's Gore shall call a meeting of the residents of the Gore for the purpose of presenting the proposed budget and tax rate for the Gore for the ensuing year and inviting discussion thereon. Notice of the meeting shall be sent by first class mail to all residents of the Gore at least 14 days before the meeting. The meeting shall be held at a place within the Gore or within a town that adjoins the Gore. Included with the notice shall be an itemized proposed budget which shall, in the judgment of the supervisor, cover the education, road maintenance and general government costs within the Gore. Also included with the notice shall be proposed tax rates consistent with the budget. Annually, on or before September 10, the supervisor shall adopt a budget and tax rate and notify the residents and appraisers for the Gore.

(c) Annually, on or before August 1, the supervisors of Glastenbury and Somerset shall each present the proposed budget and tax rate for the town for the ensuing year. Upon a finding by the commissioner of taxes before September 10 that the budget and tax rate are reasonable and show no obvious irregularities, the commissioner shall approve the budget and tax rate, and the supervisor shall then adopt the budget and tax rate and notify the residents of the town. If the commissioner does not approve the budget and tax rate by September 10, the budget and tax rate shall remain the same as the budget and tax rate for the prior year, and the supervisor shall so notify the residents of the town.

Sec. 92. 24 V.S.A. § 1406 is amended to read:

§ 1406. TAXES EXPENDED; HOW

Upon allowance of the accounts of supervisors and appraisers for unorganized towns and gores, the commissioner of finance and management shall certify forthwith the amount as allowed to the state treasurer and the balance, if any, of the moneys received from any supervisor, after deducting the amount of the county tax and regional planning costs, if any. The amount of such supervisors' and appraisers' accounts, so certified, shall be used for the laying out, construction and maintenance of highways and bridges in the unorganized towns and gores for which the supervisor is appointed, to be expended by and under the direction of the secretary of transportation, in the same manner as state transportation appropriations. The portion of the money which remains unexpended for more than one year may be ~~used~~ carried forward in the supervisors' accounts for like purposes ~~and expended in a like manner in towns adjoining unorganized towns and gores.~~

* * * Sidewalks; Landowner Liability * * *

Sec. 93. Chapter 23 of Title 19 is redesignated to read:

CHAPTER 23. BICYCLE ROUTES AND SIDEWALKS

Sec. 94. 19 V.S.A. § 2301 is amended to read:

§ 2301. DEFINITIONS

* * *

(6) "Sidewalk" means the portion of a street or highway right-of-way designated for primary or exclusive pedestrian use.

Sec. 95. 19 V.S.A. § 2309 is amended to read:

§ 2309. LIABILITY OF LANDOWNER

No landowner shall be liable for any property damage or personal injury sustained by any person who is using, for any purpose permitted by state law or by a municipal ordinance, bicycle routes or sidewalks constructed on the landowner's property pursuant to this chapter, unless the landowner charges a fee for the use of the property. Landowner immunity from liability with regard to sidewalks under this section shall not extend to damage or injury to the extent that it arises from negligent, reckless, or willful acts of the landowner.

* * * Year of Manufacture Plates * * *

Sec. 96. 23 V.S.A. § 373 is amended to read:

§ 373. EXHIBITION VEHICLES; YEAR OF MANUFACTURE PLATES

(a) The annual fee for the registration of a motor vehicle which is maintained solely for use in exhibitions, club activities, parades, and other functions of public interest and which is not used for the transportation of passengers or property on any highway, except to attend such functions, shall be \$15.00, in lieu of fees otherwise provided by law.

(b) Pursuant to the provisions of section 304 of this title, one registration plate shall be issued to those vehicles registered under subsection (a) of this section.

(c) The Vermont registration plates of any motor vehicle issued prior to 1939 may be displayed instead of the plates issued under this section, if the current plates are maintained within the vehicle and produced upon request of any enforcement officer as defined in subdivision 4(11) of this title.

* * * Aviation Maintenance Equipment * * *

Sec. 97. REPORT; AVIATION MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT

The agency of transportation shall, by January 15, 2010, submit to the house and senate transportation committees a report regarding the agency's current inventory of aviation maintenance equipment. The report shall set forth equipment type, cost, funding source, and useful life. The report also shall contain a five-year plan for future equipment purchases.

* * * Transportation Buildings * * *

Sec. 98. TRANSPORTATION BUILDINGS

The following modifications are made to the transportation buildings program:

(1) Consistent with the recommendations of the January 15, 2009 legislative report (Sec. 8(2) of No. 164 of the Acts of the 2007 Adj. Sess. (2008)) titled "VTrans' Plans for Maintenance Facilities in Chittenden and Addison Counties," the agency of transportation shall proceed with Option A (Stay at "Fort") for the Colchester "Fort" Facility project and shall proceed with Option B (Truck Inspection/Motorcycle Training Facility only) for the North Ferrisburgh Facility project.

(2) As part of the Colchester "Fort" Facility renovation project, the agency shall sell the 25 +/- acre property located off VT Route 117 with the proceeds credited as provided in 19 V.S.A. § 26.

* * * Burlington Airport Pilot Project; Creative Financing * * *

Sec. 99. PILOT PROJECT FOR BURLINGTON INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT; CREATIVE FINANCING

A pilot project to examine the potential for a public-private initiatives program shall be pursued for the advancing of an interchange on Interstate 89 along Vermont Route 116 in South Burlington to explore improving future access to the Burlington International Airport and to relieve the overburdened interchanges at Interstate 89 exits 12 and 14. Implementation of the pilot study shall be carried out in cooperation, consultation, and with the support of the Vermont agency of transportation, the Chittenden County metropolitan planning organization (CCMPO), and other affected local jurisdictions and project partners. The CCMPO, with the cooperation of the agency of transportation, is directed to prepare a creative financing plan for the advancement of a project to construct an interchange at the above-mentioned location and deliver the plan to the legislature by November 1, 2009.

* * * State Speed Zones * * *

Sec. 100. 23 V.S.A. § 1003 is amended to read:

§ 1003. STATE SPEED ZONES

(a) When the traffic committee constituted under 19 V.S.A. § 1(22) determines, on the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation, that a maximum speed limit established by this chapter is greater or less than is reasonable or safe under conditions found to exist at any place or upon any part of a state highway, except the national system of interstate and defense highways, it may determine and declare a reasonable and safe limit which is effective when appropriate signs stating the limit are erected. This limit may be declared to be effective at all times or at times indicated upon the signs; and differing limits may be established for different times of day, different types of vehicles, varying weather conditions, or based on other factors, bearing on safe speeds which are effective when posted upon appropriate fixed or alterable signs.

(b) When establishing a maximum speed limit on a state highway contiguous to a school, the traffic committee shall consider, along with the engineering and traffic investigation, data collected for the purpose of promulgating a school travel plan under the Vermont Safe Routes to School program.

* * * Special DMV Examinations * * *

Sec. 101. 23 V.S.A. § 636(a) is amended to read:

(a) Whenever the commissioner has good cause to believe that any holder of an operator's license, or any applicant for renewal of an operator's license, is incompetent or otherwise not qualified to be licensed, he may require such person to submit to a special examination to determine his capabilities or mental or physical fitness, but no person shall be required to pay to the state a fee for such special examination. Such examination shall be given at such time and place as the commissioner may determine. If the commissioner determines that a special examination is warranted, then a driving examination shall be administered. If, under the commissioner's discretion, extenuating circumstances exist, the commissioner may also administer a written or oral examination.

* * * Truck Permits * * *

Sec. 102. 23 V.S.A. § 1432 is amended to read:

§ 1432. LENGTH OF VEHICLES; AUTHORIZED HIGHWAYS

(a) Operation of vehicles with or without a trailer or semitrailer. No motor vehicle without a trailer or semitrailer attached, which is longer than 46 feet overall, shall be operated upon any highway except under special permission from the commissioner of motor vehicles. A motor vehicle with a trailer or semitrailer shall be operated, with regard to the length of the vehicle, pursuant to this section. If there is a trailer or semitrailer, the distance between the kingpin of the semitrailer to the center of the rearmost axle group shall not exceed ~~43~~ 41 feet. An "axle group" is defined as two or more axles where the centers of all the axles are spaced at an equal distance apart.

~~(1) Vehicles with a trailer or semitrailer not exceeding 72 feet on the truck network. If the overall length of a vehicle with a trailer or semitrailer does not exceed 72 feet, it may be operated without a permit on the truck network established in subsection (c) of this section.~~

~~(2) Vehicles with a trailer or semitrailer not exceeding 68 75 feet off the truck network. If the overall length of a vehicle with a trailer or semitrailer does not exceed 68 75 feet, it may be operated without a permit off the truck network.~~

~~(3)(2) Vehicles with a trailer or semitrailer longer than 68 feet but not longer than 72 feet off the truck network; tractor 23 feet or less. If the overall length of a vehicle with a trailer or semitrailer is longer than 68 feet but not longer than 72 feet, and if the distance between the steering axle to the rearmost tractor axle is 23 feet or less, a permit may be issued pursuant to subdivision 1402(b)(1) of this title. A receiver or shipper of goods located in~~

Vermont may request from the agency of transportation, access to a state highway, ~~not on the truck network~~, for a commercial motor vehicle where the overall length exceeds ~~68 feet but is not longer than 72~~ 75 feet. ~~The~~ If the total vehicle length is in excess of 75 feet or the distance from the steering axle to the rearmost tractor axle is longer than 25 feet, a permit may be requested from the commissioner. In that event, the agency of transportation shall review the route or routes requested, making its determination for approval based on safety and engineering considerations, after considering input from local government and regional planning commissions or the metropolitan planning organization. The agency shall maintain consistency in its application of acceptable highway geometry when approving other routes. The agency may authorize safety precautions on these highways, if warranted, which shall include, but not be limited to, precautionary signage, intelligent transportation system signage, special speed limits and use of flashing lights.

~~(4) Vehicles with a trailer or semitrailer longer than 68 feet but not longer than 72 feet off the truck network; tractor greater than 23 feet. If the overall length of a vehicle with a trailer or semitrailer is longer than 68 feet but not longer than 72 feet, and if the distance between the steering axle to the rearmost tractor axle is greater than 23 feet in length, a permit may be issued pursuant to subdivision 1402(b)(2) of this title.~~

~~(5)(3)~~ (3) Vehicles with a trailer or semitrailer longer than ~~72~~ 75 feet. If the overall length of a vehicle with a trailer or semitrailer is longer than ~~72~~ 75 feet, a permit may be issued pursuant to subdivision ~~1402(b)(3)~~ 1402(b)(1) of this title.

(b) Rear-end protective devices on trailers. A trailer or semitrailer not in excess of 53 feet may be operated provided the semitrailer is equipped with a rear-end protective device of substantial construction consisting of a continuous lateral beam extending to within four inches of the lateral extremities of the semitrailer and located not more than 22 inches from the surface as measured with the vehicle empty and on a level surface.

(c) ~~The truck network. The truck network shall consist of the following: U.S. Route 2 between the New Hampshire state line and the junction of U.S. Route 5; U.S. Route 2 from the junction of exit 21 on I-91 to exit 8 on Interstate 89; U.S. Route 2 between the New York state line and VT Route 78; VT Route 2A; U.S. Route 4 from the New York state line to the junction of VT Route 100 south; VT Route 279 from the New York state line to the junction of U.S. Route 7; U.S. Route 5 from the junction of U.S. Route 2 to the junction of exit 20 of I-91; U.S. Route 5 between I-91 at exit 22 to the south entrance of the St. Johnsbury Lyndonville industrial park; U.S. Route 5 south from I-91 at exit 22 to the intersection of St. Johnsbury Railroad Street and Hastings Hill Street; U.S. Route 7; VT Route 9 from the New York state line to the junction~~

~~of exit 2 on I-91; VT Route 9 from the junction of exit 3 on I-91 to the New Hampshire state line; VT Route 18 from U.S. Route 2 to the New Hampshire state line; VT Route 22A between U.S. Route 4 and U.S. Route 7; VT Route 78; VT Route 103; VT Route 105 from the junction of U.S. Route 7 to the junction of VT Route 100, then southerly on VT Route 100 to the junction of VT Route 100 and VT Route 14, then easterly on VT Route 14 to the junction of VT Route 14 and U.S. Route 5, then northerly on U.S. Route 5 to the junction of U.S. Route 5 and VT Route 105, then easterly on VT Route 105 from the junction of U.S. Route 5 to the New Hampshire border; VT Route 104 from VT Route 105 to I-89 at exit 19; VT Route 253 from the New Hampshire border to the Canadian border; VT Route 289; and U.S. Route 302. The commissioner is authorized to place special restrictions applying to motor vehicles on any route of the truck network when, in his or her opinion, the restrictions would provide for the safe operation of all vehicles on the route.~~

~~(d)~~ Operation on U.S. Route 4. Vehicles Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, vehicles with a trailer or semitrailer which are longer than 68 feet but not longer than 72 feet may be operated with a single or multiple trip overlength permit issued at no cost by the department of motor vehicles or, for a fee, by an entity authorized in subsection 1400(d) of this title on U.S. Route 4 from the New Hampshire state line to the junction of VT Route 100 south, provided the distance from the kingpin of the semitrailer to the center of the rearmost axle group is not greater than ~~43~~ 41 feet.

~~(e)~~(d) Operation of pole semitrailers. The provisions of this section shall not be construed to prevent the operation of so-called pole dinkeys or pole semitrailers when being used to support the ends of poles, timbers, pipes, or structural members capable, generally, of sustaining themselves as beams between the supporting connections, the overall length of which may exceed ~~60~~ 75 feet under special permission from the commissioner of motor vehicles.

~~(f)~~(e) Operation on Interstate highways. Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, on the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways and those classes of qualifying Federal-aid Primary System highways as designated by the Secretary, United States Department of Transportation, and on highways leading to or from the Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense Highways for a distance of one mile, unless the agency of transportation finds the use of a specific highway to be unsafe, no overall length limits for tractor-semitrailer or tractor semitrailer-trailer combination shall apply. On these highways, no semitrailer in a tractor-semitrailer combination longer than 53 feet and no trailer or semitrailer in a tractor-semitrailer-trailer combination longer than 28 feet shall be operated. However, the limits established by this section shall not be construed in such a manner as to prohibit the use of semitrailers in a tractor-semitrailer

combination of such dimensions as were in actual and lawful use in this state on December 1, 1982.

~~(g)~~(f) List of approved highways. The commissioner shall prepare a list of each highway that has been approved for travel by vehicles referred to in subsection (a) of this section. The list shall be furnished, without charge, to each permitting service, electronic dispatching service, or other similar service authorized to do business in this state and, upon request, to any interested person.

* * * Transportation Enhancement Grants * * *

Sec. 103. ENHANCEMENT GRANTS; FISCAL YEAR 2010

(a) Notwithstanding 19 V.S.A. § 38, the transportation enhancement grant committee shall award grants up to fiscal year 2010 in the amount of federal funds made available to the state under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) which are exclusively reserved for enhancement projects as defined in 23 U.S.C. § 101(a)(35), estimated to be \$3,773,739. The transportation enhancement grant committee shall award grants authorized in this section in a separate grant round before June 30, 2009. The agency shall notify potential applicants of the separate grant round and fix a deadline for the filing of applications of May 15, 2009. All enhancement grant awards authorized in this section shall require a local match in accordance with the same rules that apply to annual enhancement grants.

(b) Any amounts authorized in subsection (a) of this section that are not awarded by the committee by June 30, 2009, up to \$3,773,739 shall be included in the fiscal year 2010 enhancement grant program.

(c) To the extent that any grants awarded using ARRA enhancement funds cannot be fully obligated by November 30, 2009, and to the extent necessary to satisfy any deadlines for obligation of ARRA enhancement funds, the secretary of transportation is authorized to obligate ARRA federal funds made available to the state which are exclusively reserved for enhancement projects as defined in 23 U.S.C. § 101(a)(35) to eligible projects in the approved fiscal year 2010 transportation program. The following projects are added to program development – bike and pedestrian facilities – candidates list:

Statewide - STP RAMP (1) – Reconstruction of curb ramps on state highway system to comply with ADA requirements.

Statewide - STP NWRT (1) – Rehabilitate aggregate surfaces on rail trails.

Sec. 104. ENHANCEMENT GRANTS FISCAL YEAR 2010

Notwithstanding 19 V.S.A. § 38, the fiscal year 2010 enhancement grant program shall include a second grant round with respect to non-ARRA funds. For purposes of determining the amount of the grant program, the percentage applicable in 19 V.S.A. § 38(c)(1) shall be 5.0 percent. The provisions of 19 V.S.A. § 38 shall otherwise apply to such grants.

* * * Rest Area Commercialization * * *

Sec. 105. REST AREA COMMERCIALIZATION

By July 1, 2009, the secretary of the agency of transportation shall:

(1) request from the Federal Highway Administration a waiver from the provisions of Title 23, section 111 of the United States Code prohibiting commercial establishments from operating at rest areas along the interstate highway system; and

(2) seek the assistance of the state's federal congressional delegation for the purpose of securing the waiver.

* * * Rest Area Revitalization * * *

Sec. 106. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

It is the intent of the general assembly to require agencies to provide justification for reducing services to the public by:

(1) analyzing current service delivery methods;

(2) reexamining the assumptions that underlie the choice of the current delivery method;

(3) right-sizing when necessary; and

(4) exploring alternate delivery methods that could provide similar services at a lower cost to taxpayers.

Sec. 107. PERMANENT CLOSING OF REST AREA FACILITIES

(a) The commissioner of buildings and general services (BGS) is instructed to permanently close rest area facilities at Highgate on Interstate 89, at Sharon South on Interstate 89, at Hartford North on Interstate 91, and at Randolph North on Interstate 89. These four facilities and all operating and maintenance costs associated with them, including the costs of operating WiFi, are hereby transferred to the Vermont agency of transportation (VTrans) effective July 1, 2009.

(b) VTrans is hereby instructed to explore ways these buildings might be used for state purposes other than operating a rest area or those purposes that would meet with FHWA approval or, absent a public need, may have the

structures removed. In the event VTrans decides to have the structures removed, it will notify the members of the Rest Area Advisory Committee established in 19 V.S.A. § 12c with 30 days' advance notice prior to removal.

(c) VTrans, at its discretion, may decide to close the sites to traffic or to have them remain open to either truck or pleasure car traffic or both. Responsibilities for maintaining the grounds will become the responsibility of VTrans. Erection of barriers to traffic or fencing as necessary to limit the public use of these facilities shall be the responsibility of VTrans.

Sec. 108. HOURS OF OPERATION

The commissioner of buildings and general services (BGS) is hereby authorized to adjust the hours of operation for all remaining rest areas. The commissioner shall make decisions on hours of operation based on budgetary considerations, numbers of visitors, and seasonal fluctuations.

Sec. 109. PILOT PROJECT FOR OPERATION OF INFORMATION CENTERS

(a) Pursuant to Sec. 19e(c) of No. 38 of the Acts of 1997, the commissioner of buildings and general services (BGS) is authorized to commence a three-year pilot project to operate facilities at Alburgh, Georgia North, and Georgia South.

(b) Pursuant to Sec. 39(3) of No. 18 of the Acts of 1999, the commissioner is authorized to explore the possibility of creating privately operated travel information centers at exits along the interstate and along the state highway system. The secretary of transportation is instructed to support this initiative by working with BGS and the FHWA to explore a signage strategy that clearly directs travelers to these service opportunities.

Sec. 110. FUTURE CONSTRUCTION

The commissioner of buildings and general services (BGS) is instructed to take steps to plan for and build the Bennington welcome center at an amount not to exceed the federal earmarks and state matching funds identified for this project. It is the expectation of the house and senate committees on transportation that the site will be operated by the Bennington area chamber of commerce under Sec. 19e(c) of No 38 of the Acts of 1997 and under an agreement approved by the Federal Highway Administration. Therefore, the commissioner of BGS and the chamber shall report back to the rest area advisory committee on or before January 15, 2010, as to the plan for operation and the proposed cost.

* * * Authority to Sell Salt Shed Property in Montpelier * * *

Sec. 111. AUTHORIZATION TO CONVEY "SALT SHED" PROPERTY IN
MONTPELIER

(a) Upon receiving satisfactory evidence of release of any interest of the Washington County Railroad Company, the secretary of transportation, as agent for the state of Vermont, is authorized to convey to Connor Brothers Stonecutters, LLC (Connor) for fair market value a parcel of land in the city of Montpelier between Stone Cutters Way and the Winooski River. Conveyance of this parcel of land, sometimes known as 575 Stone Cutters Way or the "salt shed property," shall include the state's interest in a December 16, 1999 lease, as amended, between the state of Vermont, agency of transportation, joined by Washington County Railroad Company, and the Pyralisk Arts Center, Inc. The secretary, in his or her discretion, may adjust the boundaries of the land to be conveyed to Connor to accommodate the building plans of Connor. Connor shall be responsible for obtaining any necessary survey and subdivision approvals. In determining fair market value for this transfer, the secretary shall consider the undertaking of Connor, either through itself or through others, to provide remediation of hazardous wastes and materials on the subject property pursuant to the so-called "Corrective Action Plan (Salt Shed)" dated April 13, 2005, prepared by The Johnson Company, Inc. for Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, as amended with Connor's consent from time to time.

(b) The authority granted by this section shall expire on June 30, 2011.

* * * Validating Sticker on Registration Plate * * *

Sec. 112. 23 V.S.A. § 305 is amended to read:

§ 305. – WHEN ISSUED

* * *

(c) The commissioner may issue number plates to be used for a period of two or more years. ~~Validating stickers~~ One validating sticker shall be issued by the department of motor vehicles upon payment of the registration fee for the second and each succeeding year the plate is used. No plate is valid for the second and succeeding years unless the ~~stickers are~~ sticker is affixed to the rear plate in the manner prescribed by the commissioner.

* * * Passenger Rail Service * * *

Sec. 113. 2006 STATE RAIL & POLICY PLAN

Consistent with the 2006 State Rail & Policy Plan, the agency shall estimate the total cost of (1) upgrading the western corridor rail line for passenger rail service to and from Burlington, Rutland, Bennington and Albany, New York, (2) operating a passenger rail service from Burlington to Rutland connecting to

White Hall, New York and (3) operating a passenger rail service from Burlington to Rutland to Bennington connecting to Albany, New York. The agency shall present its analysis to the House and Senate committees on transportation by January 15, 2010

* * * Central Garage * * *

Sec. 114. TRANSFER TO CENTRAL GARAGE FUND

Notwithstanding 19 V.S.A. § 13(c), the amount of \$1,120,000 is transferred from the transportation fund to the central garage fund created in 19 V.S.A. § 13.

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 115. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) The following sections of this act shall take effect from passage:

- (1) Secs. 3, 21 (ARRA funds).
- (2) Sec. 111 (sale of salt shed in Montpelier).
- (3) Secs. 103, 104 (enhancement grants).
- (4) Secs. 66, 67 (sale of surplus rail property).
- (5) Sec. 101 (commissioner of DMV administering special exam).

(b) Secs. 24-28, 30-32 (motor fuels transportation infrastructure assessments and bond fund) shall take effect on June 1, 2009.

(c) Secs. 22 and 23 (motor fuels infrastructure assessments) shall take effect on October 1, 2009.

(d) Sec. 77 (exemption of motor buses from diesel tax) shall take effect on July 1, 2010.

(e) All other sections of this act not specifically enumerated in subsections (a), (b), and (c) of this section shall take effect on July 1, 2009.