

PETER SHUMLIN
Governor



State of Vermont
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

April 22, 2013

Sen. Virginia Lyons, Co-Chair
Rep. Kathleen Keenan, Co-Chair
Vermont Commission on International Trade & State Sovereignty
General Assembly
State of Vermont
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Co-Chairs Lyons and Keenan,

As per your recent request, I write to update the Commission on the Autoroute 35 expansion (A-35) project and on the rail border and corridor projects.

The lengthiest phase of the A-35 project, Segment 2, is nearing completion and is scheduled to open in the spring of 2014. The fourth and final segment is scheduled to begin in 2014 and be complete in 2017. The Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT) will launch a study in June 2013 of traffic implications with respect to the A-35 expansion. The study will estimate traffic from other border crossings nearby as well as new traffic generated by the Highgate Springs border crossing. The study will also estimate growth trends in the Montreal area to assess the extent to which the expansion will allow visitors from Quebec to more easily access Vermont's resort and tourism destinations, Burlington-area shopping, and the Burlington International Airport. Further, the study will estimate increased through-traffic from Quebec to southern New England.

With regard to the rail projects, the architectural plans for the pre-clearance facility in Montreal are complete and have been submitted to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Upgrade of rail between St. Albans and the border is expected to begin this year. The timeline for track improvements in Quebec will be updated in a meeting next month between AOT and the new Quebec Minister of Transportation.

I will continue to update the Commission on these projects as they move forward. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns in the interim.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "EM", written over a horizontal line.

Elizabeth Miller
Chief of Staff