

Testimony of Secretary Chris Cole of the Vermont Agency of Transportation
House Committee on Ways and Means 02/04/16

*** * * STATE HIGHWAY ACCESS PERMITS; FEES * * ***

Sec. xx. 19 V.S.A. § 1112 is added to read:

§ 1112. DEFINITIONS; FEES

(a) For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) “Major commercial development” means a commercial development for which the Agency requires the applicant to submit a traffic impact study in support of its 19 V.S.A. § 1111 application.

(2) “Minor commercial development” means a commercial development for which the Agency does not require the applicant to submit a traffic impact study in support of its 19 V.S.A. § 1111 application.

(3) “Residential or agricultural purposes” means accesses serving a single-family home, a duplex residence, or logging or field accesses for agricultural uses only.

(b) The Secretary shall collect the following fees for each application for the following types of 19 V.S.A. § 1111 permits or permit amendments:

(1) Residential or agricultural purposes: \$0.00

(2) Utility installations, including but not limited to each direct connection to the state highway stormwater system: \$100.00.

(3) Minor commercial development: \$250.00

(4) Major commercial development: \$2,500.00

(5) Annual blanket permits for routine inspection and maintenance of existing utility installations within state highways: \$500.00

VTrans 2016 Section 1111 Permit Fee Proposal

12/18/15

These dollar amounts are based on conservative estimates for performing the review work as well as Permitting Services annual labor costs. We have 5 Permit Coordinators working almost exclusively on 19 VSA Section 1111 permits and an Administrative Assistant and Chief that puts about 50% of their time towards permits. The annual cost for Permitting Services staff, to include loading factor (benefits), is approximately \$600,000. There is also between \$15,000 and \$30,000 worth of employee reimbursable expenses annually. None of these values include MOB staff or any other agency staff that would be called upon to review information pertaining to a permit. Permitting Services has averaged 680 permits annually since 2009. Estimated annual fee collections are based on 680 permits annually as well as the proposed fees above in the chart below.

Fee Structure

Proposed 1111 Permit Fee Structure	
Type	Fee
Residential (see note)	\$0
Utility / Misc. (including a \$100 surcharge per direct storm water connection)	\$100
Minor Commercial	\$250
Major Commercial (includes traffic impact study)	\$2,500
Annual Blanket Permit	\$500

Estimated Annual Fees		
Type	# of Permits Annually	Collected Fees
Residential	50	\$0
Utility/Misc.	370	\$37,000
Minor Commercial	175	\$43,750
Major Commercial	50	\$125,000
Annual Blanket Permit	35	\$17,500
TOTAL	680	\$223,250

NOTE) Residential permits (for purpose of fees) are considered accesses serving a single-family house lot (no subdivisions), and logging and field accesses for agricultural use only; and any of their associated utility service connections.