

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Transportation to which was referred House Bill No.
3 488 entitled “An act relating to the State’s Transportation Program and
4 miscellaneous changes to laws related to transportation” respectfully reports
5 that it has considered the same and recommends that the Senate propose to the
6 House that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and
7 inserting in lieu thereof the following:

8 * * * Transportation Program; Definitions * * *

9 Sec. 1. TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM ADOPTED; DEFINITIONS

10 (a) The Agency of Transportation’s proposed fiscal year 2016
11 Transportation Program appended to the Agency of Transportation’s proposed
12 fiscal year 2016 budget, as amended by this act, is adopted to the extent
13 federal, State, and local funds are available.

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

15 (1) “Agency” means the Agency of Transportation.

16 (2) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Transportation.

17 (3) The table heading “As Proposed” means the Transportation Program
18 referenced in subsection (a) of this section; the table heading “As Amended”
19 means the amendments as made by this act; the table heading “Change” means
20 the difference obtained by subtracting the “As Proposed” figure from the “As
21 Amended” figure; and the term “change” or “changes” in the text refers to the

1 project- and program-specific amendments, the aggregate sum of which equals
2 the net “Change” in the applicable table heading.

3 (4) “TIB funds” or “TIB” refers to monies deposited in the
4 Transportation Infrastructure Bond Fund in accordance with 19 V.S.A. § 11f.

5 * * * Personnel-related Savings * * *

6 Sec. 2. FISCAL YEAR 2016 PERSONNEL-RELATED SAVINGS

7 In addition to all other reductions in spending authority under this act,
8 overall fiscal year 2016 Transportation Program spending is reduced by
9 \$1,500,000.00 in transportation funds, to be achieved through a combination of
10 personnel, labor, or consultant cost savings identified by the Secretary.

11 * * * Program Development – Funding * * *

12 Sec. 3. PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT – FUNDING

13 (a) Spending authority in Program Development in fiscal year 2016 is
14 modified in accordance with this section. Among projects selected in the
15 Secretary’s discretion in accordance with subsection (b) of this section, the
16 Secretary shall:

17 (1) increase project spending authority in the total amount of
18 \$3,514,996.00 in transportation funds;

19 (2) reduce project spending authority in the total amount of
20 \$6,600,000.00 in TIB funds; and

1 (3) reduce project spending authority in the total amount of
2 \$12,340,016.00 in federal funds.

3 (b) In exercising his or her discretion to select projects on which spending
4 will be reduced, the Secretary shall not delay a project that otherwise would
5 proceed in fiscal year 2016, unless the full amount of the reduction required
6 under subsection (a) of this section cannot be achieved from project savings or
7 unforeseen delays that prevent a project from proceeding in fiscal year 2016.
8 If a project that otherwise would have proceeded in fiscal year 2016 is delayed,
9 the Secretary shall promptly notify:

10 (1) the House and Senate Committees on Transportation when the
11 General Assembly is in session; or

12 (2) the Joint Transportation Oversight Committee and the Joint Fiscal
13 Committee Office when the General Assembly is not in session.

14 * * * Contingent Spending Authority * * *

15 Sec. 3a. CONTINGENT SPENDING AUTHORITY; DELAYED PROJECTS

16 AND PAVING PROGRAM PROJECTS OR ACTIVITIES

17 (a) As used in this section:

18 (1) The phrase “net balance” means an overall positive balance
19 consisting of either the sum of any unreserved monies in the Transportation
20 Fund and TIB Fund remaining at the end of fiscal year 2015, or the overall

1 positive balance in either Fund at the end of fiscal year 2015 after subtracting
2 any deficit in the other Fund.

3 (2) The phrase “net increase” means an overall increase in forecasted
4 revenues under the July 2015 consensus revenue forecast over the January
5 2015 consensus revenue forecast for fiscal year 2016, consisting of either the
6 sum of forecasted increases in Transportation Fund and TIB Fund revenues, or
7 an overall increase in forecasted revenues after subtracting a forecasted
8 downgrade in either Fund.

9 (b) Subject to the funding of the Transportation Fund Stabilization Reserve
10 in accordance with 32 V.S.A. § 308a and to the limitations of 19 V.S.A. § 11f
11 (Transportation Infrastructure Bond Fund), and notwithstanding 32 V.S.A.
12 § 308c (Transportation Fund Balance Reserve), if any net balance exists at the
13 end of fiscal year 2015, or if there is a net increase in the July 2015 consensus
14 revenue forecast, up to a total amount of \$3,000,000.00 of the net balance and
15 the net increase, and up to a total amount of \$12,000,000.00 in matching
16 federal funds, is authorized for expenditure and is hereby appropriated to be
17 used on a project that otherwise would be required to be delayed under Sec. 3
18 of this act.

19 (c) If the full amount of any net balance and net increase is not expended
20 under subsection (a) of this section, the remaining amount is authorized for
21 expenditure and is hereby appropriated to advance Paving Program projects or

1 to increase Statewide Paving Program activities in the Transportation Program
2 adopted under this act.

3 (d) If the Agency expends funds under the authority of this section, it shall
4 notify the House and Senate Committees on Transportation when the General
5 Assembly is in session, or the Joint Transportation Oversight Committee when
6 the General Assembly is not in session.

7 * * * Maintenance Program * * *

8 Sec. 4. MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

9 (a) Total authorized spending in the Maintenance Program is amended as
10 follows:

11	<u>FY 16</u>	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
12	Personal services	43,784,445	43,784,445	0
13	Operating expenses	43,890,139	43,190,139	-700,000
14	Grants	95,000	95,000	0
15	Total	87,769,584	87,069,584	-700,000
16	<u>Sources of funds</u>			
17	State	83,169,447	82,469,447	-700,000
18	Federal	4,500,137	4,500,137	0
19	Interdep't transfer	100,000	100,000	0
20	Total	87,769,584	87,069,584	-700,000

1 will continue to reduce motor vehicle fuel consumption. In conducting this
2 analysis, the Agency shall:

3 (1) review current State and federal transportation funding sources and
4 policies, as well as policies and trends that have and will continue to reduce
5 motor vehicle fuel consumption;

6 (2) review and expand on the funding options contained in the report on
7 transportation funding required by 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 153,
8 Sec. 40; and

9 (3) review the actions of other states and provinces that have reduced or
10 eliminated motor vehicle fuel taxes and replaced them with other funding
11 sources.

12 (b) The Agency also shall identify and evaluate funding sources, other than
13 local property taxes, to support the local share of increasing costs or the
14 expansion of public transportation services statewide.

15 (c) The Agency shall deliver a written report of its findings and any
16 recommendations to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation on
17 or before January 15, 2016.

1 * * * Study of Commuter Rail and Bus Service * * *

2 Sec. 11. STUDY OF MONTPELIER TO ST. ALBANS COMMUTER RAIL
3 SERVICE, ALBANY TO BENNINGTON TO MANCHESTER BUS
4 SERVICE

5 (a) The Agency shall study the financial and operational feasibility of a
6 commuter rail service in the corridor between St. Albans, Essex Junction, and
7 Montpelier, with connecting service to Burlington, and shall report its findings
8 and any recommendations to the House and Senate Committees on
9 Transportation on or before January 15, 2017.

10 (b) The Agency shall study the expected benefits and costs to the State of
11 Vermont, implementation steps, and timeline associated with various models
12 for initiating and operating an Albany to Bennington to Manchester bus
13 service, and shall report its findings and any recommendations to the House
14 and Senate Committees on Transportation on or before January 15, 2016.

15 * * * Review of Transportation Service Programs * * *

16 Sec. 12. REVIEW OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICE PROGRAM

17 (a) The Agency, in consultation with the Agency of Human Services and
18 interested stakeholders, shall review the Elders and Persons with Disability
19 Transportation Program (E&D Program). In carrying out its review, the
20 Agency shall analyze:

1 (1) the gap between current and projected E&D Program resources and
2 needs over a 10-year time frame, on regional and statewide levels;

3 (2) regional transportation service delivery models and their adequacy in
4 meeting E&D Program participant needs;

5 (3) opportunities to achieve efficiencies by coordinating E&D Program
6 and other human services transportation programs, and obstacles to achieving
7 such efficiencies;

8 (4) challenges that exist for partner organizations to raise local matching
9 funds for transportation services;

10 (5) the current and expected impact of Medicaid waiver programs on the
11 E&D Program; and

12 (6) existing and emerging technology and the potential role it could play
13 in increasing service to elders and persons with disabilities.

14 (b) The Agency shall submit a written report of its findings and any
15 recommendations to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation on
16 or before January 15, 2016.

17 * * * Authority of the Agency and Secretary * * *

18 Sec. 13. 5 V.S.A. § 204 is amended to read:

19 § 204. POWERS OF AGENCY GENERALLY

20 (a) To carry out the purposes of this part, the Agency of Transportation
21 shall have power, subject to subsection (b) of this section:

1 (b) ~~¶~~ The Agency is authorized to accept, receive, and receipt for federal
2 ~~moneys monies~~ monies and other ~~moneys monies~~, either public or private, for and in
3 behalf of this ~~state~~ State, appropriated to the Agency or that have been
4 approved for receipt pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5 or 511.

5 (c) All ~~moneys monies~~ monies accepted for disbursement by the ~~agency~~ Agency
6 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall be deposited in the ~~state treasury~~
7 State Treasury and, unless otherwise prescribed by the authority from which
8 the money is received, kept in separate funds, designated according to the
9 purposes for which the ~~moneys monies~~ monies were made available, and held by the
10 ~~state~~ State in trust for such purposes. All ~~moneys are hereby appropriated for~~
11 ~~the purposes for which they were made available, to~~ monies shall be expended
12 for the purposes for which they were made available and in accordance with
13 federal laws and regulations and with this chapter. The ~~agency~~ Agency is
14 authorized, whether acting for this ~~state~~ State or as the agent of any of its
15 municipalities, or when requested by the ~~United States~~ U.S. government or any
16 agency or department of the ~~United States~~ U.S. government, to disburse such
17 ~~moneys monies~~ monies for the designated purposes, but this shall not preclude any
18 other authorized method of disbursement.

1 Sec. 15. 19 V.S.A. § 1502 is amended to read:

2 § 1502. ~~COOPERATION WITH~~ COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL
3 GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS; USE OF FEDERAL AID
4 MONEY

5 (a) To effect the purposes of section 1501 of this title, the ~~agency~~ Agency
6 may comply with federal rules and regulations, and may use so much of the
7 funds appropriated to the Agency, or available to it pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5
8 or 511, for highway purposes as shall be necessary to secure aid from the
9 federal government under the federal act specified in section 1501; and in
10 addition may use ~~further~~ such sums as may be necessary for surveys, plans,
11 specifications, estimates, and assistance necessary to carry out the provisions
12 of this chapter.

13 (b) To carry out the transportation planning process required by the
14 Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (the Act), ~~Pub. L.~~
15 ~~No. 102-240, § 1024, 105 Stat. 1914, 1955 (1991) (now codified at 23 U.S.C.~~
16 § 134), as may be amended, the ~~governor~~ Governor shall designate a
17 metropolitan planning organization for any urbanized area of more than 50,000
18 population and may take other action necessary to ensure the ~~state's~~ State's
19 compliance with the ~~federal act~~ Act and any federal regulations pertaining to
20 the ~~aet~~ Act. A designation of a metropolitan planning organization shall
21 remain in effect until revoked by the ~~governor~~ Governor.

1 Sec. 16. 19 V.S.A. chapter 1 is amended to read:

2 CHAPTER 1. STATE HIGHWAY LAW; GENERAL
3 TRANSPORTATION PROVISIONS

4 * * *

5 § 7. SECRETARY; POWERS AND DUTIES

6 (a) The Agency shall be under the direction and supervision of a Secretary,
7 who shall be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the
8 Senate and shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

9 (b) The Secretary shall be responsible to the Governor and shall plan,
10 coordinate, and direct the functions vested in the Agency in accord with the
11 transportation policies established by the Agency under ~~section 10b~~ of this
12 title.

13 (c) The Secretary may, with the approval of the Governor, transfer
14 classified positions between the Department, Divisions, and other components
15 of the Agency, subject only to personnel laws and rules.

16 (d) The Secretary shall determine the administrative, operational, and
17 functional policies of the Agency and be accountable to the Governor for these
18 determinations. The Secretary shall exercise the powers and shall perform the
19 duties required for the Agency's effective administration.

20 (e) In addition to other duties imposed by law, the Secretary shall:

21 (1) administer the laws assigned to the Agency;

- 1 (2) coordinate and integrate the work of the Agency;
- 2 (3) supervise and control all staff functions; and
- 3 (4) whenever the Agency is developing preliminary plans for a new or
- 4 replacement maintenance facility or salt shed, first conduct a review of all
- 5 previously developed building plans and give priority to utilizing a common,
- 6 uniform, preexisting design.

7 (f) The Secretary may, within the authority of relevant State and federal
8 statutes and regulations:

9 (1) ~~within the authority of relevant State and federal statutes and~~
10 ~~regulations~~, transfer appropriations or parts of appropriations within or
11 between the department, divisions, and sections;

12 (2) cooperate with the appropriate federal agencies and receive federal
13 funds in support of programs within the Agency;

14 (3) submit plans and reports, and in other respects comply with federal
15 laws and regulations which pertain to programs administered by the Agency;

16 (4) make rules consistent with the law for the internal administration of
17 the Agency and its programs;

18 (5) create advisory councils or committees as he or she deems necessary
19 within the Agency, and appoint the members for a term not exceeding his or
20 hers. Councils or committees created pursuant to this subdivision may include
21 persons who are not officers or employees of the Agency;

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* * * Clean Water * * *

Sec. 20. 19 V.S.A. § 38 is amended to read:

§ 38. TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES GRANT PROGRAM

* * *

(f) Each year, ~~\$200,000.00~~ \$1,100,000.00 of the Grant Program funds, or such lesser sum if all eligible applications amount to less than ~~\$200,000.00~~ \$1,100,000.00, shall be reserved for municipalities for environmental mitigation projects relating to stormwater and highways, including eligible salt and sand shed projects. ~~Grant awards for eligible projects shall not exceed \$50,000.00 per project.~~ Regarding the balance of Grant Program funds, in evaluating applications for Transportation Alternatives grants, the Transportation Alternatives Grant Committee shall give preferential weighting to projects involving as a primary feature a bicycle or pedestrian facility. The degree of preferential weighting and the circumstantial factors sufficient to overcome the weighting shall be in the complete discretion of the Transportation Alternatives Grant Committee.

* * *

Sec. 21. 19 V.S.A. § 306(i) is added to read:

(i) Monies disbursed from the Clean Water Fund established in 10 V.S.A. § 1388 for municipalities for environmental mitigation projects related to stormwater and highways shall be administered by the Agency through the

1 Municipal Mitigation Grant Program. Grants provided to municipalities under
2 the Program shall be matched by local funds sufficient to cover 20 percent of
3 the project costs.

4 * * * State Highway Bridge Program; Causeway Scoping Study * * *

5 Sec. 22. STATE HIGHWAY BRIDGE PROGRAM

6 (a) The following project is added to the State Highway Bridge Program:

7 Missisquoi Bay Causeway Scoping Study.

8 (b) Spending authority for the Missisquoi Bay Causeway Scoping Study is
9 authorized as follows:

10	<u>FY 16</u>	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
11	PE	0	125,000	125,000
12	Construction	0	0	0
13	Total	0	125,000	125,000
14	<u>Sources of funds</u>			
15	State	0	0	0
16	TIB	0	0	0
17	Federal	0	100,000	100,000
18	Special	0	25,000	25,000
19	Total	0	125,000	125,000

1 * * * Motor Fuel Transportation Infrastructure Assessment * * *

2 Sec. 23. 23 V.S.A. § 3106 is amended to read:

3 § 3106. IMPOSITION, RATE, AND PAYMENT OF TAX

4 (a)(1) Except for sales of motor fuels between distributors licensed in this
5 State, which sales shall be exempt from the taxes and assessments authorized
6 under this section, unless exempt under the laws of the United States at the
7 time of filing the report required by section 3108 of this title, each distributor
8 shall pay to the Commissioner:

9 (A) a tax of \$0.121 upon each gallon of motor fuel sold by the
10 distributor; and

11 (B) the following assessments, ~~which shall be levied on the~~
12 ~~tax-adjusted retail price of gasoline as defined herein:~~

13 (i) a motor fuel transportation infrastructure assessment ~~in the~~
14 ~~amount of~~ that is the greater of:

15 (I) \$0.0396; or

16 (II) two percent of the tax-adjusted retail price upon each
17 gallon of motor fuel sold by the distributor; and

18 (ii) a fuel tax assessment, which shall be used exclusively for
19 transportation purposes and not be transferred from the Transportation Fund,
20 that is the greater of:

21 (I) \$0.134 per gallon; or

1 (II) four percent of the tax-adjusted retail price or \$0.18 per
2 gallon, whichever is less, upon each gallon of motor fuel sold by the
3 distributor.

4 * * *

5 * * * Welcome Center and Airport Namings * * *

6 Sec. 24. 29 V.S.A. § 821(a) is amended to read:

7 (a) State buildings.

8 * * *

9 (11) “Senator James M. Jeffords Welcome Center” shall be the name of
10 the Welcome Center in Bennington.

11 (12) “Northeast Kingdom International Airport” shall be the name of the
12 Newport State Airport in Coventry.

13 * * * Process for Naming of Transportation Facilities * * *

14 Sec. 25. 10 V.S.A. § 152 is amended to read:

15 § 152. AUTHORITY TO NAME ROADS AND GEOGRAPHIC

16 LOCATIONS

17 The ~~board of libraries~~ Board of Libraries is hereby designated the ~~state~~ State
18 agency to name ~~roads and~~ geographic locations including ~~but not limited to~~
19 mountains, streams, lakes, and ponds upon petition signed by not less than 25
20 interested persons or by petition of an administrative department of the ~~state~~
21 State.

1 Sec. 26. 10 V.S.A. § 153 is amended to read:

2 § 153. PROCEDURE

3 When the ~~board~~ Board receives a petition to act under section 152 of this
4 title it shall give reasonable notice to each administrative department of the
5 ~~state~~ State having jurisdiction of the ~~road or~~ location to be named, and to each
6 town in which the ~~road or~~ location lies of the time and place when it will hear
7 all interested parties.

8 Sec. 27. 19 V.S.A. § 5 is amended to read:

9 § 5. TRANSPORTATION BOARD; POWERS AND DUTIES

10 (a) The regulatory and quasi-judicial functions relating to transportation
11 shall be vested in the ~~transportation board~~.

12 ~~(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, Board, except that the~~
13 duties and responsibilities of the ~~commissioner of motor vehicles~~
14 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles in Titles 23 and 32, including all
15 quasi-judicial powers, shall continue to be vested in ~~that individual~~ the
16 Commissioner.

17 (b)(1) Except as otherwise authorized by law, the Board is the sole
18 authority responsible for naming transportation facilities owned, controlled, or
19 maintained by the State, including highways and the bridges thereon, airports,
20 rail facilities, rest areas, and welcome centers. The Board shall exercise its
21 naming authority only upon petition of the legislative body of a municipality of

1 the State, of the head of an Executive Branch agency or department of the
2 State, or of 50 Vermont residents.

3 (2) The Board shall hold a public hearing for each facility requested to
4 be named. The Board shall adopt rules governing notice and conduct of
5 hearings, the standards to be applied in rendering decisions under this
6 subsection, and any other matter necessary for the just disposition of naming
7 requests. The Board shall issue a decision, which shall be subject to review on
8 the record by a Superior Court pursuant to Rule 74 of the Vermont Rules of
9 Civil Procedure. The Board may delegate the responsibility to hold a hearing
10 to a hearing officer or a single Board member, subject to the procedure of
11 subsection (c) of this section, but shall not be bound by 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 in
12 carrying out its duties under this subsection.

13 (c) The ~~board~~ Board may delegate the responsibility to hear quasi-judicial
14 matters, and other matters as it may deem appropriate, to a hearing examiner or
15 a single ~~board~~ Board member, to hear a case and make findings in accordance
16 with 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 ~~of Title 3~~, except that highway condemnation
17 proceedings shall be conducted pursuant to the provisions of chapter 5 of this
18 title. A hearing examiner or single ~~board~~ Board member so appointed shall
19 report his or her findings of fact in writing to the ~~board~~ Board. Any order
20 resulting therefrom shall be rendered only by a majority of the ~~board~~ Board.
21 Final orders of the ~~board~~ Board may be reviewed on the record by ~~the superior~~

1 ~~court~~ a Superior Court pursuant to Rule 74 of the Vermont Rules of Civil
2 Procedure.

3 * * *

4 * * * Byways Advisory Council; Scenic Roads and Byways * * *

5 Sec. 28. REPEAL

6 10 V.S.A. § 425 (Byways Advisory Council) is repealed.

7 Sec. 29. 19 V.S.A. chapter 25 is amended to read:

8 CHAPTER 25. SCENIC ROADS

9 § 2501. STATE SCENIC ROADS AND BYWAYS; DESIGNATION AND

10 DISCONTINUANCE

11 (a) On the recommendation ~~of the Byways Advisory Council~~ of the
12 municipalities through which a proposed or existing State Scenic Road or
13 Byway passes and of the regional planning commissions that serve such
14 municipalities, the Transportation Board may designate or discontinue any
15 State highway, or portion of a State highway, as a State Scenic Road or
16 Byway, in accordance with standards adopted by the Board by rule. The Board
17 shall hold a public hearing on the recommendation, giving notice thereof to the
18 municipalities and regional planning commissions, the Secretary, and the
19 Commissioner of Tourism and Marketing, and shall submit a copy of its
20 findings and decision together with its findings to the Byways Advisory
21 Council to these parties within 60 days after receipt of the recommendation.

1 The hearing shall be held in the vicinity of the proposed ~~scenic highway~~ State
2 Scenic Road or Byway.

3 (b) [Repealed.]

4 (c) A State Scenic Road or Byway shall not be reconstructed or improved
5 unless the reconstruction or improvement is conducted in accordance with the
6 Agency of Transportation's Vermont Design Standards, as amended. Signs
7 along State Scenic Roads and Byways shall comply with the Federal Highway
8 Administration's Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, as amended.

9 § 2502. TOWN SCENIC ROADS; DESIGNATION AND

10 DISCONTINUANCE

11 (a) On recommendation of the planning commission of a municipality, or
12 on the initiative of the legislative body of a municipality, a legislative body
13 may, after one public hearing warned for the purpose, designate or discontinue
14 any town highway or portion of a town highway as a town scenic ~~highway~~
15 road. Such action by the legislative body may be petitioned by the registered
16 voters of the municipality pursuant to the provisions of 24 V.S.A. § 1973.

17 (b) A town scenic road may be reconstructed or improved in a manner
18 consistent with the ~~agency of transportation's~~ Agency's Vermont Design
19 Standards, as amended. A class 1, 2, or 3 scenic ~~highway~~ road shall still be
20 eligible to receive aid pursuant to the provisions of this title. Signs along town

1 scenic roads shall comply with the Federal Highway Administration's Manual
2 on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, as amended.

3 (c) [Repealed.]

4 § 2503. REGISTER

5 The ~~agency of transportation~~ Agency may annually publish a register
6 containing a listing of all ~~state~~ State and locally designated scenic roads and
7 byways. Any listing shall include the mileage of each road or byway and any
8 special, natural, historical, or scenic attractions on the road or byway.

9 § 2504. ADDITIONAL FUNDS

10 The ~~agency~~ Agency, and any qualifying municipality, ~~shall have~~ within the
11 authority to ~~of State and federal law, may~~ accept and spend any funds made
12 available to them for the purpose of enhancing or establishing designated
13 scenic roads or byways.

14 § 2505. RIGHTS OF ADJACENT LANDOWNERS

15 Nothing in this chapter shall preclude the rights of a landowner from
16 developing property adjacent to a designated scenic road or byway, so long as
17 the development is in accordance with existing law or ordinance.

18 * * * Utility Transmission System Plans; Notification of Public Meetings * * *

19 Sec. 30. 30 V.S.A. § 218c(d)(2) is amended to read:

20 (2) Prior to the adoption of any Transmission System Plan, a utility
21 preparing a Plan shall host at least two public meetings at which it shall present

1 a draft of the Plan and facilitate a public discussion to identify and evaluate
2 nontransmission alternatives. The meetings shall be at separate locations
3 within the State, in proximity to the transmission facilities involved or as
4 otherwise required by the Board, and each shall be noticed by at least two
5 advertisements, each occurring between one and three weeks prior to the
6 meetings, in newspapers having general circulation within the State and within
7 the municipalities in which the meetings are to be held. Copies of the notices
8 shall be provided to the Public Service Board, the Department of Public
9 Service, any entity appointed by the Public Service Board pursuant to
10 subdivision 209(d)(2) of this title, the Agency of Natural Resources, the
11 Division for Historic Preservation, the Department of Health, ~~the Byways~~
12 ~~Advisory Council~~, the Agency of Transportation, the Attorney General, the
13 chair of each regional planning commission, each retail electricity provider
14 within the State, and any public interest group that requests, or has made a
15 standing request for, a copy of the notice. A verbatim transcript of the
16 meetings shall be prepared by the utility preparing the Plan, shall be filed with
17 the Public Service Board and the Department of Public Service, and shall be
18 provided at cost to any person requesting it. The Plan shall contain a
19 discussion of the principal contentions made at the meetings by members of
20 the public, by any State agency, and by any utility.

1 * * * Property Transfer Tax Return; Exemption * * *

2 Sec. 32. 32 V.S.A. § 9606(d) is amended to read:

3 (d) The property transfer tax return shall not be required of properties
4 qualified for the exemption stated in subdivision 9603(17) of this title, or
5 qualified for the exemption stated in subdivision 9603(2) of this title if the
6 transfer is of an interest in property for highway purposes and the
7 consideration for the transfer is \$10,000.00 or less. ~~A public utility~~ An entity
8 acquiring such properties shall notify the listers of a municipality of the
9 grantors, grantees, consideration, date of execution, and location of the
10 easement property when it files for recording a deed ~~transferring a utility line~~
11 ~~easement~~ that does not require a transfer tax return under this subsection.

12 * * * Tax on Gains from the Sale or Exchange of Land; Exemption * * *

13 Sec. 33. 32 V.S.A. § 10002(q) is added to read:

14 (q) Also excluded from the definition of “land” is a transfer of property to
15 the State of Vermont or a municipality for a project that is authorized under the
16 State’s enacted Transportation Program or for an emergency project within the
17 meaning of 19 V.S.A. § 10g(h), regardless of whether the State or the
18 municipality has commenced any condemnation proceedings.

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* * * Evaluation of Adopt a Park and Ride Program * * *

Sec. 34. EVALUATION OF ADOPT A PARK AND RIDE PROGRAM

The Agency shall evaluate the merits of implementing an Adopt a Park and Ride Program, whereby organizations volunteer to clean up litter at State Park and Ride facilities with permission of the Agency. On or before January 15, 2016, the Agency shall either begin to implement such a Program or report back to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation on the reasons it does not recommend implementing a Program.

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 35. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2015, except that:

(1) Sec. 21 (administration of certain Clean Water Fund monies through the Municipal Mitigation Grant Program) shall take effect if and when the Clean Water Fund is established; and

(2) Secs. 25–27 (naming of State transportation facilities) shall take effect on March 1, 2016.

(Committee vote: _____)

Senator _____

FOR THE COMMITTEE