

Following Sue Scribner 1/28/15

Kenneth Bruno

From: Scribner, Sue <Sue.Scribner@state.vt.us>
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2015 10:13 AM
To: Kenneth Bruno
Subject: Follow up to Testimony of 1/27/2015

Good morning,

It was very nice to meet you yesterday. During my morning testimony on programs within the Municipal Assistance Bureau, a few questions were posed that I needed to do some follow up on. Please share the following with the committee members on my behalf.

1. Senator Degree asked if the Highgate Rest Area will ever be reopened. Below is an excerpt from Secs. 105-110 of Act No. 50 of 2009 which addressed various rest area issues, including the Highgate closure:
* * * 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.

No new ways to use these buildings for state purposes have been identified to date.

2. Senator Kitchel asked how many spaces are currently available at the St. Johnsbury Park & Ride facility and how many will be available after the programmed project. There are currently approximately 40 spaces and after the project there will be 82 spaces, 5 of which will be handicapped.
3. Senator Westman asked for details on the scope of the Jefferson scoping study which has funds authorized through the Bicycle and Pedestrian Program. The project description contained within their application describes the project as "This project will provide basic scoping and prioritization of future sidewalks and bike lanes within the Village of Jeffersonville. The streets involved include Main Street, School Street, Carlton Avenue, Depot Street, Maple Street, Upper Pleasant Valley Road from Church Street to Williamson Road, Mill Street from Main Street to Brewster River Park, and Route 108 from Main Street to the Cambridge Greenways Trail." The project has been slow to get started but is expected to get going in the very near future.

Thank you for forwarding this to the committee members. Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Regards,

Susan E. Scribner

Director, Municipal Assistance Bureau

Highway Division

Vermont Agency of Transportation

1 National Life Drive

Montpelier, Vermont 05633

Phone: (802) 828-3588

Fax: (802) 828-5712

E-mail: sue.scribner@state.vt.us