

Vermont Statutes Annotated - 2006 (Michie)

3 V.S.A. APP CH 19 Executive Order No. 19-3

VERMONT STATUTES ANNOTATED
TITLE THREE(APP) Executive Orders
CHAPTER 19. Highways

Executive Order No. 19-3

(No. 07-01) [Conservation of land in and around interstate interchanges]

WHEREAS, Vermont's interstate highway system is a unique public resource that serves as both an engine for economic growth and a highly scenic corridor for tourism and travel; and

WHEREAS, the advantages of easy motor vehicle access to the interstate highway system and high vehicle counts are magnets for development at interstate interchanges; and

WHEREAS, development at interstate interchanges may diminish the scenic character of the landscape, impair critical natural and agricultural resources, and negatively impact the overall quality of Vermont tourism; and

WHEREAS, development at interstate interchanges may also pull commerce away from traditional villages and growth centers, and undermine the economic vitality of Vermont's downtowns; and

WHEREAS, Vermont invests heavily to promote economic development in its village and downtowns; and

WHEREAS, public safety on Vermont's interstate highway system is increasingly threatened by rapid growth at the interchanges; and

WHEREAS, where lands near interstate interchanges contain conservation, agricultural, scenic, and recreational values, state and local nonprofit organizations and municipal conservation commissions can provide community support and resources to protect them from development; and

WHEREAS, Vermont's land use goals, as established in [24 V.S.A. § 4302](#), seek to plan development so as to maintain the historic settlement pattern of compact villages and urban centers separated by rural countryside; and

WHEREAS, Vermont's land use goals, as stated in [24 V.S.A. § 4302 \(c\)\(1\)\(A\)](#), discourage strip development along highways; and

WHEREAS, Vermont's land use goals, as stated in [24 V.S.A. § 4302 \(c\)\(5\)](#), seek to identify, protect and preserve important natural and historic features of the Vermont landscape including significant roads and views; and

WHEREAS, development that jeopardizes agricultural land and detracts from valued scenic landscapes jeopardizes the economic vitality of Vermont's traditional town centers, disrupts traditional settlement patterns, or endangers important natural and historic resources, is inconsistent with Vermont's land use goals;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, Howard Dean, by virtue of the power vested in me as Governor, do hereby direct that:

1. All state agencies and departments shall, as appropriate, foster conservation of land in and around interstate interchanges and shall work to ensure that any development at interchanges is done in a manner consistent with [24 V.S.A. § 4302](#).
2. All state agencies and departments shall implement relevant policies and programs in a coordinated fashion to ensure that:
 - (a) the historic settlement pattern of compact villages and urban centers surrounded by rural countryside is maintained; and
 - (b) the scenic, agricultural, natural, or historic features around the interchanges are protected and preserved; and
 - (c) the public investment in a safe and efficient transportation system is preserved; and
 - (d) Vermont's traditional settlement patterns, and downtown developments are supported; and
 - (e) such policies and programs are coordinated with municipal and regional plans and policies.
3. All agencies and departments shall coordinate their participation in Act 250 cases with the Agency of Natural Resources in order to achieve Vermont's land use goals at interstate interchanges; and
4. The Agency of Natural Resources shall review any proposal for sewer or water infrastructure funding in and around interchanges utilizing the criteria established in the waste water priority points system, and shall deny those projects that would result in development that is incompatible with Vermont's land use goals and growth center planning; and
5. The Agency of Transportation, prior to allocating federal or state transportation funds, including but not limited to TEA-21 funds, and prior to approving additional means of vehicular access (such as curb-cuts, drives, highways, rights of way) near interstate interchanges or other limited access highways, shall investigate whether lands near said exchanges should be protected from development and protected for conservation, scenic and recreational uses; and
6. The Department of Housing and Community Affairs shall support, through department grant funds, community planning and zoning projects that seek to preserve the unique values of lands around interstate interchanges; and
7. The Governor's Development Cabinet, acting through the Department of Housing and Community Affairs, in collaboration with property owners, state agencies, and municipal and regional planning and development entities, shall inventory interstate interchange lands and monitor development proposals at interstate interchanges; and
8. The Governor's Development Cabinet, acting through the Department of Housing and Community Affairs, shall evaluate prime interstate interchange lands for conservation efforts; and
9. After completion of an inventory of interstate interchange lands, the Department of Housing and Community Affairs shall work collaboratively with the Agency of Natural Resources, the Department of Agriculture Food and Markets, the Department of Buildings and General Services, Regional Planning Commissions, the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions and interested nonprofit conservation organizations to determine which such lands present important conservation, agricultural, scenic and recreational values; and
10. If parcels near interstate interchanges contain multiple conservation values, the Governor's Development Cabinet, acting through the Department of Housing and Community Affairs, shall work with the Vermont Housing Conservation Board and the Board's public and nonprofit conservation partners to assemble the resources necessary to conserve priority parcels; and
11. All agencies, departments and instrumentalities of the State of Vermont with missions or responsibilities that affect development of lands near interstate interchanges, including, but not limited to, the Agency of Transportation, the

Agency of Natural Resources, the Department of Housing and Community Affairs, and the Department of Buildings and General Services, shall provide information and resources for conservation efforts of priority parcels at interstate interchanges.

This executive order will sunset on October 1, 2010.

Dated September 13, 2001.

NOTES, REFERENCES, AND ANNOTATIONS

History

Editor's note— 2003. The department of agriculture, food and markets, referred to in the paragraph 9 of this order, was renamed the agency of agriculture, food and markets by 2003, No. 42, § 3.

2005 ADJOURNED SESSION (2006) ANNOTATIONS CURRENT THROUGH August 26, 2005 (178 VT REPORTS) (177 VT Reports)

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