Introduced by Committee on Transportation

Date:

Subject: Transportation; annual Transportation Program; electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE); vehicle incentives; Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST); town highway bridges; off-system bridges; zero-fare public transit; micro transit; Carbon Reduction Program; Transportation Alternatives Grant Program; 2021 Transportation Bill; bicyclists; pedestrians; bicycle and pedestrian facilities; Transportation Board; judicial review; on-premises signs; right-of-way permits; 1111 permits; municipal site plan review; Smugglers’ Notch; covered bridges; Route 207 Extension; electric vehicle supply equipment fees; technical corrections

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to adopt the State’s annual Transportation Program and make miscellaneous changes to laws related to transportation.

An act relating to the Transportation Program and miscellaneous changes to laws related to transportation
It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

* * * Transportation Program Adopted as Amended; Definitions * * *

Sec. 1. TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM ADOPTED; DEFINITIONS

(a) The Agency of Transportation’s Proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Transportation Program appended to the Agency of Transportation’s proposed fiscal year 2023 budget, as amended by this act, is adopted to the extent federal, State, and local funds are available.

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

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

(2) “Candidate project” means a project approved by the General Assembly that is not anticipated to have significant expenditures for preliminary engineering or right-of-way expenditures, or both, during the budget year and funding for construction is not anticipated within a predictable time frame.

(3) “Development and evaluation (D&E) project” means a project approved by the General Assembly that is anticipated to have preliminary engineering expenditures or right-of-way expenditures, or both, during the budget year and that the Agency is committed to delivering to construction on a timeline driven by priority and available funding.

(4) “Electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE)” has the same meaning as in 30 V.S.A. § 201.
(5) “Front-of-book project” means a project approved by the General Assembly that is anticipated to have construction expenditures during the budget year or the following three years, or both, with expected expenditures shown over four years.

(6) “Level 1 charger” or “level 1 EVSE” means EVSE that plugs directly into a standard 120-volt AC outlet and supplies an average output of 1.3 to 2.4 kilowatts.

(7) “Level 2 charger” or “level 2 EVSE” means galvanically connected EVSE with a single-phase input voltage range from 208 to 240 volts AC and a maximum output current less than or equal to 80 amperes AC.

(8) “Level 3 charger,” “level 3 EVSE,” or “direct-current fast charger (DCFC),” means EVSE that uses dedicated direct current (DC) to provide energy to a plug-in electric vehicle.

(9) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Transportation.

(10) “TIB funds” means monies deposited in the Transportation Infrastructure Bond Fund in accordance with 19 V.S.A. § 11f.

(11) The table heading “As Proposed” means the Proposed Transportation Program referenced in subsection (a) of this section; the table heading “As Amended” means the amendments as made by this act; the table heading “Change” means the difference obtained by subtracting the “As Proposed” figure from the “As Amended” figure; and the terms “change” or
“changes” in the text refer to the project- and program-specific amendments, the aggregate sum of which equals the net “Change” in the applicable table heading.

*** Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) Infrastructure ***

*** Investments in EVSE ***

 Sec. 2. INVESTMENTS IN ELECTRIC VEHICLE SUPPLY EQUIPMENT INFRASTRUCTURE

(a) Definitions. As used in this section:

(1) “Area median income” means the county or Metropolitan Statistical Area median income published by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(2) “Multiunit affordable housing” means a multiunit dwelling where:

(A) at least 50 percent of the units are or will be occupied by households whose income does not exceed 100 percent of the greater of the State or area median income; or

(B) all units are affordable to households earning between 60 and 120 percent of area median income.

(3) “Multiunit dwelling” means a housing project, such as cooperatives, condominiums, dwellings, or mobile home parks, with three or more units constructed or maintained on a tract or tracts of land.

(4) “Workplace” means a place where an individual works.
(b) State highway network. The Agency of Transportation is authorized to spend up to $6,250,000.00 as appropriated in the fiscal year 2023 budget to install level 3 EVSE along the State highway network consistent with the goals established in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 55, Sec. 30, as amended by Sec. 3 of this act. This authorization shall be used by the Agency to purchase and install level 3 EVSE or to provide grants for persons to purchase and install level 3 EVSE, or both.

(c) Housing, employers, and public venues and attractions.

(1) The Agency of Commerce and Community Development is authorized to spend up to $10,000,000.00 in total and as appropriated in the fiscal year 2023 budget to establish and administer one or more grant programs, which may build upon the existing EVSE Grant Program, to support the continued buildout of level 1 and 2 EVSE at multiunit dwellings, including multiunit affordable housing, and workplaces and level 1, 2, and 3 EVSE at public venues and attractions, such as parks, downtowns, museums, and ski mountains.

(2) The Agency of Commerce and Community Development shall allocate the $10,000,000.00, inclusive of administrative costs allowed under subsection (g) of this section, as follows:

(A) not less than 30 percent of the $10,000,000.00, inclusive of administrative costs allowed under subsection (g) of this section, for grants for
level 1 and 2 EVSE at multiunit dwellings, including multiunit affordable
housing;

(B) not less than 20 percent of the $10,000,000.00, inclusive of
administrative costs allowed under subsection (g) of this section, for grants for
level 1 and 2 EVSE at private workplaces;

(C) not less than 10 percent of the $10,000,000.00, inclusive of
administrative costs allowed under subsection (g) of this section, for grants for
level 1, 2, and 3 EVSE at public venues and attractions, such as parks,
downtowns, museums, and ski mountains;

(D) not less than 10 percent of the $10,000,000.00, combined and
inclusive of administrative costs allowed under subsection (g) of this section,
for the purchase of or grants for level 1 and 2 EVSE at State workplaces and
grants for level 1, 2, and 3 EVSE at public venues and attractions, such as
parks, downtowns, museums, and ski mountains that are available to any
member or the public; and

(E) the balance, up to 30 percent of the $10,000,000.00, inclusive of
administrative costs allowed under subsection (g) of this section, for the
purchase of or grants for EVSE at any eligible location permitted under
subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(3) Notwithstanding subdivision (2) of this subsection, if the Agency of
Commerce and Community Development, in consultation with the EVSE
Interagency Workgroup, determines that programmatic funding remains available following the first round of grant awards made pursuant to the allocations in subdivision (2) of this subsection, then the balance of the $10,000,000.00 shall be used for the purchase of or grants for EVSE at any eligible location permitted under subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(d) State parks and fishing access areas. The Agency of Natural Resources is authorized to spend up to $3,000,000.00 as appropriated in the fiscal year 2023 budget to install level 1 and 2 EVSE at State parks and fishing access areas managed by the State. This authorization shall be used by the Agency of Natural Resources to purchase and install level 1 and 2 EVSE or to provide grants for persons to purchase and install level 1 and 2 EVSE, or both.

(e) Purpose.

(1) The purpose of the expenditures authorized in subsections (b) and (d) of this section is to respond to negative economic impacts to the tourism, travel, and hospitality industries caused by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

(2) The purpose of the expenditures authorized in subsection (c) of this section is to respond to negative economic impacts to the tourism, travel, and hospitality industries caused by the COVID-19 public health emergency or to provide assistance to low- and moderate-income households that were impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency, or both.
(f) Eligibility criteria. Notwithstanding 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 139, Sec. 25; 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 55, Sec. 29; and any prior iterations of funding criteria used to distribute State EVSE grant awards through programs involving the EVSE Interagency Workgroup, the Agencies of Transportation, of Commerce and Community Development, and of Natural Resources may modify eligibility criteria for and programmatic implementation of any existing State EVSE grant programs to ensure that available federal monies are best utilized to build a network of EVSE throughout Vermont so as to support the widespread adoption of plug-in electric vehicles, as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 4(85), amongst Vermonters, including those of low and moderate income, and provide increased access to a reliable network of EVSE to better serve and support the travel, tourism, and hospitality industries.

(g) Administration expenses. Unless prohibited by federal or State law, the Agencies of Transportation, of Commerce and Community Development, and of Natural Resources may use up to 15 percent of the total amount that is distributed in grant awards under subsections (b)–(d) for costs associated with administering and promoting any State-run electric vehicle supply equipment grant programs, including translation and interpretation service, community outreach, and education.

(h) Carryforward; deployment in fiscal year 2023.
(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law and subject to the approval of the Secretary of Administration, appropriations to support the authorizations under this section remaining unexpended on June 30, 2023 shall be carried forward and designated for the same expenditures in the subsequent fiscal year.

(2) Every reasonable effort shall be made to obligate and deploy the monies authorized for expenditure under this section in fiscal year 2023 in order to achieve a pace of EVSE deployment necessary to meet the emissions reduction requirements of 10 V.S.A. § 578(a) and the recommendations of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) issued under 10 V.S.A. § 592.

(i) Outreach and marketing. The Agencies of Transportation, Commerce and Community Development, and Natural Resources shall ensure that there is sufficient outreach and marketing, including the use of translation and interpretation services, of the EVSE grant programs so that Vermonters who can secure financial assistance under one of the EVSE grant programs can easily learn about and how to apply for an EVSE grant.

*** EVSE Goals ***

Sec. 3. 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 55, Sec. 30 is amended to read:

Sec. 30. EVSE NETWORK IN VERMONT; REPORT OF ANNUAL MAP
(a) It shall be the goal of the State to have, as practicable, a level 3 EVSE charging port available to the public within:

(1) five miles one mile of every exit of the Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense Highways within the State; and

(2) 50 25 miles of another level 3 EVSE charging port available to the public along a State highway, as defined in 19 V.S.A. § 1(20).

(b) Notwithstanding 2 V.S.A. § 20(d), the Agency of Transportation shall file an up-to-date map showing the locations of all level 3 EVSE available to the public within the State with the House and Senate Committees on Transportation not later than January 15 each year until the goal identified in subsection (a) of this section is met.

**Vehicle Incentive Programs**

Sec. 4. VEHICLE INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

(a) Incentive Program for New PEVs. The Agency is authorized to spend up to $12,000,000.00 as appropriated in the fiscal year 2023 budget on the Incentive Program for New PEVs established in 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 59, Sec. 34, as amended.

(b) MileageSmart. The Agency is authorized to spend up to $3,000,000.00 as appropriated in the fiscal year 2023 budget on MileageSmart as established in 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 59, Sec. 34, as amended.
(c) Replace Your Ride Program. The Agency is authorized to spend up to $3,000,000.00 as appropriated in the fiscal year 2023 budget on the Replace Your Ride Program established in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 55, Sec. 27, as amended.

(d) eBike Incentive Program. The Agency is authorized to spend up to $1,000,000.00 as appropriated in the fiscal year 2023 budget on an eBike Incentive Program to provide incentives for the purchase of electric bicycles, as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 4(46). Incentives shall be available to all Vermonters who self-certify as to having an income at 80 percent of the State median income.

(e) eRecreation Incentive Program. The Agency is authorized to spend up to $1,000,000.00 as appropriated in the fiscal year 2023 budget on an eRecreation Incentive Program to provide incentives for the purchase of all-terrain vehicles, as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 3501, and snowmobiles, as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 3201, that do not contain an internal combustion engine as manufactured and sold.

(f) Purpose.

(1) The purpose of the expenditures authorized in subsections (a)–(d) of this section is to provide assistance to low- and moderate-income households that were impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency.
(2) The purpose of the expenditures authorized in subsection (e) of this section is to respond to negative economic impacts to the tourism, travel, and hospitality industries caused by the COVID-19 public health emergency and to encourage Vermonters to use all-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles without internal combustion engines as a means to support Vermont’s tourism, travel, and hospitality industries through increased outdoor recreation and the associated benefits to local businesses.

(g) Eligibility criteria. Notwithstanding this section; 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 59, Sec. 34, as amended by 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 121, Sec. 14, 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 154, Sec. G.112, 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 3, Sec. 56, and 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 55, Secs. 18, 19, and 21; and 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 55, Sec. 27, as amended by Sec. 5 of this act, the Agency may modify the eligibility criteria for and programmatic implementation of the Incentive Program for New PEVs, MileageSmart, the Replace Your Ride Program, and the eBike Incentive Program to ensure that available federal monies are best utilized to encourage Vermonters with low and moderate income to adopt more efficient modes of personal transportation.

(h) Administration expenses. Unless prohibited by federal or State law, the Agency may use up to 15 percent of any single authorization in subsections (a)–(e) and an additional $2,000,000.00 as appropriated in the fiscal year 2023 budget for costs associated with administering and promoting the vehicle.
incentive programs, including on the Agency’s existing partnership with Drive Electric Vermont, which shall support the expansion of the PEV market in the State through the provision of stakeholder coordination, policy engagement, consumer education and outreach, infrastructure development, and technical assistance, and translation and interpretation service, community outreach, and education.

(i) Carryforward; deployment in fiscal year 2023.

(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law and subject to the approval of the Secretary of Administration, appropriations to support the authorizations under this section remaining unexpended on June 30, 2023 shall be carried forward and designated for the same expenditures in the subsequent fiscal year.

(2) Every reasonable effort shall be made to obligate and deploy the monies authorized for expenditure under this section in fiscal year 2023 in order to achieve a pace of plug-in electric vehicle deployment necessary to meet the emissions reduction requirements of 10 V.S.A. § 578(a) and the recommendations of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) issued under 10 V.S.A. § 592.

(j) Outreach and marketing. The Agency, in consultation with Drive Electric Vermont and the Vermont Vehicle and Automotive Distributors Association, shall ensure that there is sufficient outreach and marketing.
including the use of translation and interpretation services, of the Incentive
Program for New PEVs, MileageSmart, and Replace Your Ride so that
Vermonters who are eligible under one or more of the incentive programs can
easily learn how to secure as many incentives as are available.

Sec. 5. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 59, Sec. 34(b), as amended by 2020 Acts
and Resolves No. 121, Sec. 14, 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 154, Sec. G.112,
2021 Acts and Resolves No. 3, Sec. 56, and 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 55,
Sec. 19 is further amended to read:

(b) Electric vehicle incentive program. An incentive program for Vermont
residents to purchase and lease new PEVs shall structure PEV purchase and
lease incentive payments by income to help Vermonters benefit from electric
driving, including Vermont’s most vulnerable. The program shall be known as
the Incentive Program for New PEVs. Specifically, the Incentive Program for
New PEVs shall:

* * *

(5) apply to manufactured PEVs with a Base Manufacturer’s Suggested
Retail Price (MSRP) of $40,000.00 $45,000.00 or less; and

* * *
**Vermont Association of Snow Travelers Authorizations**

Sec. 6. VERMONT ASSOCIATION OF SNOW TRAVELERS (VAST) AUTHORIZATIONS

The Agency of Transportation, through the Department of Motor Vehicles, is authorized to spend:

(1) $50,000.00 in one-time General Fund monies, as appropriated in Sec. B.1100(12)(A) of the fiscal year 2023 budget, in grants to the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST) to support the Law Enforcement and Safety Program; and

(2) $1,000,000.00 in one-time General Fund monies, as appropriated in Sec. B.1100(12)(B) of the fiscal year 2023 budget, in grants to VAST to support the Equipment Grant-in-Aid Program.

**Bridge Formula Program; Off-System Bridges**

Sec. 7. BRIDGE FORMULA PROGRAM; OFF-SYSTEM BRIDGES;

REPEAL

(a) Findings. The General Assembly finds that:

(1) the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Pub. L. No. 117-58 (IIJA) provides Vermont with $225,000,000.00 in Bridge Formula Program funding for federal fiscal years 2022 through 2026;

(2) the Bridge Formula Program funds are to be used for the preservation and replacement of bridges;
(3) as part of the Bridge Formula Program, states are required to allocate a minimum of 15 percent of the funding to address off-system bridge needs, where off-system bridges are those that are located along roadways off the federal aid system;

(4) in Vermont, roadways off the federal aid system are primarily owned and maintained by municipalities; and

(5) under the IIJA, the federal share of funding for municipally owned off-system bridges is 100 percent.

(b) Priority implementation. In order to implement and allocate the Bridge Formula Program funding, the Agency of Transportation is directed to simultaneously:

(1)(A) Fund at 100 percent federal share the construction phase of all off-system bridges in the Fiscal Year 2023 Transportation Program for Town Highway Bridges that:

(i) were not authorized for federal funds for the construction phase of the pending project prior to the Fiscal Year 2023 Transportation Program; and

(ii) are either listed as a front-of-book project or development and evaluation (D&E) project in the Fiscal Year 2023 Transportation Program.

(B) The engineering (PE) and right-of-way (ROW) phases of projects to be funded at 100 percent federal share under subdivision (A) of this
subdivision (1) shall continue to be funded at 80 percent federal, 10 percent
State, and 10 percent municipal.

(2)(A) In the Fiscal Year 2023 through 2029 Transportation Programs, fund the construction phase of off-system covered bridges and off-system historic truss bridges within the Transportation Programs for Town Highway Bridges based on the prioritization of covered bridges and historic truss bridges under the prioritization process outlined in 19 V.S.A. § 10g(l) at 100 percent federal share.

(B) The engineering (PE) and right-of-way (ROW) phases of projects to be funded at 100 percent federal share under subdivision (A) of this subdivision (2) shall continue to be funded at 80 percent federal, 10 percent State, and 10 percent municipal.

(c) Secondary implementation. Should funding through the federal Bridge Formula Program remain available following the implementation delineated under subsection (b) of this section, town highway bridges shall be advanced based on the prioritization process outlined in 19 V.S.A. § 10g(l).

(d) Repeal. This section is repealed on October 1, 2029, at the conclusion of the authorized implementation period for the IIJA.
Sec. 8. TOWN HIGHWAY BRIDGE PROGRAM

(a) Within the Agency of Transportation’s Proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Transportation Program for Town Highway Bridges, authorized spending for the construction phase of the following projects is amended to be 100 percent federal pursuant to Sec. 6(b)(1)(A) and (2)(A) of this act:

1. Clarendon BO 1443(55);
2. Hartford BO 1444(60);
3. Ludlow Village BO 1443(52);
4. Poultney BO 1443(53);
5. Stowe BO 1446(37);
6. Stowe BO 1446(39);
7. Statewide Preservation Easement Paint Program; and
8. Statewide Rehabilitation of Covered Bridges.

(b) Within the Agency of Transportation’s Proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Transportation Program for Town Highway Bridges, authorized spending is amended as follows:

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<th>FY23</th>
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(c) Within the Agency of Transportation’s Proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Transportation Program, the following covered bridges projects are added to the candidate list for Town Highway Bridges:

1. Belvidere (Bridge No. 12 on Town Highway 3);
2. Charlotte (Bridge No. 27 on Town Highway 9);
3. Chelsea (Bridge No. 46 on Town Highway 68);
4. Hartland (Bridge No. 22 on Town Highway 15);
5. Lyndon (Bridge No. 33 on Town Highway 58);
6. Northfield (Bridge No. 10 on Town Highway 3);
7. Northfield (Bridge No. 11 on Town Highway 3);
8. Northfield (Bridge No. 15 on Town Highway 3);
9. Troy (Bridge No. 8 on Town Highway 12); and
10. Weathersfield (Bridge No. 83 on Town Highway 65).
(d) Within the Agency of Transportation’s Proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Transportation Program, the following metal truss bridges projects are added to the candidate list for Town Highway Bridges:

(1) Berlin (Bridge No. 27 on Town Highway 61);
(2) Bridgewater (Bridge No. 26 on Town Highway 34);
(3) Enosburg (Bridge No. 45 on Town Highway 42);
(4) Lincoln (Bridge No. 46 on Town Highway 6);
(5) Moretown (Bridge No. 42 on Town Highway 39);
(6) Newfane (Bridge No. 49 on Town Highway 26);
(7) Northfield (Bridge No. 65 on Town Highway 57);
(8) Royalton (Bridge No. 30 on Town Highway 6); and
(9) Sheldon (Bridge No. 20 on Town Highway 22).

*** Amendments to Fiscal Year 2023 Authorizations ***

Sec. 9. PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Within the Agency of Transportation’s Proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Transportation Program for Program Development Administration, authorized spending is amended as follows:

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Sec. 10. TOWN HIGHWAY AID

Within the Agency of Transportation’s Proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Transportation Program for Town Highway Aid, authorized spending is amended as follows:

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Sources of funds

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Sec. 11. POLICY AND PLANNING

Within the Agency of Transportation’s Proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Transportation Program for Policy and Planning, authorized spending is amended as follows:
Sec. 12.  TOWN HIGHWAY STRUCTURES

Within the Agency of Transportation’s Proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Transportation Program for Town Highway Structures, authorized spending is amended as follows:

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Sources of funds

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<td>7,200,000</td>
<td>866,500</td>
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Sec. 13. TOWN HIGHWAY CLASS 2 ROADWAY

Within the Agency of Transportation’s Proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Transportation Program for Town Highway Class 2 Roadway, authorized spending is amended as follows:

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Sources of funds

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Sec. 14. HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE

Within the Agency of Transportation’s Proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Transportation Program for Maintenance, authorized spending is amended as follows:

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<tr>
<td>Operat. Exp.</td>
<td>61,554,303</td>
<td>58,492,635</td>
<td>-3,061,668</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>106,263,781</td>
<td>103,202,113</td>
<td>-3,061,668</td>
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Sources of funds

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<th>FY23</th>
<th>As Proposed</th>
<th>As Amended</th>
<th>Change</th>
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<td>State</td>
<td>105,517,966</td>
<td>102,456,298</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>645,815</td>
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Sec. 15. MOBILITY AND TRANSPORTATION INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM

(a) Project addition. The following project is added to the Agency of Transportation’s Proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Transportation Program for Public Transit: Mobility and Transportation Innovation (MTI) Grant Program.

(b) Authorization. Spending authority for Mobility and Transportation Innovation (MTI) Grant Program is authorized as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>FY23 (As Proposed)</th>
<th>FY23 (As Amended)</th>
<th>Change</th>
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<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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<td>500,000</td>
<td>500,000</td>
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<td>Sources of funds</td>
<td>State 0</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>500,000</td>
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</table>

(c) Implementation. The Agency of Transportation shall continue to administer the Mobility and Transportation Innovation (MTI) Grant Program, which was created pursuant to 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 121, Sec. 16. The Program shall continue to support micro-transit projects that improve both

* * * Mobility and Transportation Innovation Grant Program * * *
mobility and access to services for transit-dependent Vermonters, reduce the
use of single-occupancy vehicles, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

(d) Other funding sources for micro transit. Nothing in this section shall
limit the authority of the Agency to fund the implementation or operation of
micro-transit programs using other funding sources.

(e) Conversion of fixed route service. The Agency may assist public transit
providers with converting fixed-route service to micro-transit service,
including in the preservation of Federal Transit Administration monies.

* * * Zero-Fare Public Transit * * *

Sec. 16. ZERO-FARE PUBLIC TRANSIT

(a) Project addition. The following project is added to the Agency of
Transportation’s Proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Transportation Program for Public
Transit: Zero-Fare Public Transit for Fiscal Year 2023.

(b) Authorization. Spending authority for Zero-Fare Public Transit for
Fiscal Year 2023 is authorized as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY23</th>
<th>As Proposed</th>
<th>As Amended</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
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<td>State</td>
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<td>1,433,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,433,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(c) Implementation. The Agency shall ensure that public transit operated
by transit agencies that are eligible to receive grant funds pursuant to 49 U.S.C.
§ 5307 or 5311, or both, in the State on routes other than LINK Express Routes
shall be operated on a zero-fare basis during fiscal year 2023.

(d) Report. On or before January 31, 2023, the Agency of Transportation
shall file a written report with the House and Senate Committees on
Transportation that:

(1) shows changes in public transit ridership, by county and type of
service, in fiscal years 2020, 2021, and 2022 and in fiscal year 2023 through
the end of the second quarter; and

(2) estimates the amount of funding needed to continue to provide zero-
fare service on transit operated by public transit agencies that are eligible to
receive grant funds pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 5307 or 5311, or both, broken out
by county and type of service in fiscal year 2024.

*** Proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Transportation Program;
Carbon Reduction Program ***

Sec. 17. PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2024 TRANSPORTATION
PROGRAM

The Agency of Transportation, in consultation with the Vermont Climate
Council, shall ensure that within the Agency of Transportation’s Proposed
Fiscal Year 2024 Transportation Program all federal monies that are available
to the State under the Carbon Reduction Program, codified at 23 U.S.C. § 175, in federal fiscal years 2022, 2023, and 2024 are allocated toward projects that align with the recommendations of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) issued under 10 V.S.A. § 592.

* * * Transportation Alternatives Grant Program * * *

Sec. 18. 19 V.S.A. § 38 is amended to read:

§ 38. TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES GRANT PROGRAM

(a), (b) [Repealed.]

(c) The Transportation Alternatives Grant Program is created. The Grant Program shall be administered by the Agency, and shall be funded in the amount provided for in 23 U.S.C. § 133(h), less the funds set aside for the Recreational Trails Program. Awards shall be made to eligible entities as defined under 23 U.S.C. § 133(h), and awards under the Grant Program shall be limited to the activities authorized under federal law and shall not exceed $300,000.00 per grant allocation.

(d) Eligible entities awarded a grant must provide all funds required to match federal funds awarded for a Transportation Alternatives project. All grant awards shall be decided and awarded by the Agency.

* * *
(f)(1) In fiscal years 2018 and 2019, all Grant Program funds shall be reserved for municipalities for environmental mitigation projects relating to stormwater and highways, including eligible salt and sand shed projects.

(2) In fiscal years 2020 and 2021, Grant Program funds shall be awarded for any eligible activity and in accordance with the priorities established in subdivision (4) of this subsection.

(3) In fiscal year 2022 and thereafter, $1,100,000.00 50 percent of Grant Program funds, or such lesser sum if all eligible applications amount to less than $1,100,000.00 50 percent of Grant Program funds, shall be reserved for municipalities for environmental mitigation projects relating to stormwater and highways, including eligible salt and sand shed projects and the balance of Grant Program funds shall be awarded for any eligible activity and in accordance with the priorities established in subdivision (2) of this subsection.

(4)(2) Regarding Grant Program funds awarded in fiscal years 2020 and 2021, and the balance of Grant Program funds not reserved for environmental mitigation projects in fiscal year 2022 and thereafter, in evaluating applications for Transportation Alternatives grants, the Agency 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 Agency.
** Amendments to the 2021 Transportation Bill **

** Electric Bicycle Incentives Administrative Costs **

Sec. 19. 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 55, Sec. 2(8)(D) and (E) are amended to read:

(D) Replace Your Ride Program. Sec. 27 of this act creates a new program to be known as the Replace Your Ride Program, which will be the State’s program to incentivize Vermonters to remove older low-efficiency vehicles from operation and switch to modes of transportation that produce fewer greenhouse gas emissions, and authorizes up to $1,500,000.00 $1,495,000.00 for incentives under the Program and capped startup and administrative costs.

(E) Electric bicycle incentives. Sec. 28 of this act authorizes up to $50,000.00 $55,000.00 for $200.00 incentives for the purchase of an electric bicycle and capped administrative costs.

Sec. 20. 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 55, Sec. 27(d) is amended to read:

(d) Authorization. In fiscal year 2022, the Agency is authorized to spend up to $1,500,000.00 $1,495,000.00 in one-time Transportation Fund monies on the Replace Your Ride Program established under this section, with up to $300,000.00 $295,000.00 of that $1,500,000.00 $1,495,000.00 available for
startup costs, outreach education, and costs associated with developing and
administering the Replace Your Ride Program.

Sec. 21. 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 55, Sec. 28(b) is amended to read:

(b) Authorization.

(1) In fiscal year 2022, the Agency is authorized to spend up to
$50,000.00 in one-time Transportation Fund monies on the electric bicycle
incentives and up to $5,000.00 on the costs associated with developing and
administering the electric bicycle incentives.

(2) If less than $5,000.00 is expended on administrative costs associated
with developing and administering the electric bicycle incentives under
subdivision (1) of this subsection, then the balance of that $5,000.00 shall only
be authorized for startup costs, outreach education, and costs associated with
developing and administering the Replace Your Ride Program in addition to
the authorization in Sec. 27(d) of this act.

*** EVSE Grant Program ***

Sec. 22. 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 55, Sec. 29 is amended to read:

Sec. 29. GRANT PROGRAMS FOR LEVEL 2 CHARGERS EVSE IN
MULTIUNIT DWELLINGS; REPORT

(a) As used in this section:

***
(2) “Multi-unit Multiunit affordable housing” means a multi-unit Multiunit dwelling where:

* * *

(3) “Multi-unit Multiunit dwelling” means a housing project, such as cooperatives, condominiums, dwellings, or mobile home parks, with 10 or more units constructed or maintained on a tract or tracts of land.

(4) “Multi-unit Multiunit dwelling owned by a nonprofit” means a multi-unit Multiunit dwelling owned by a person that has nonprofit status under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, as amended, and is registered as a nonprofit corporation with the Office of the Secretary of State.

(5) “Electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE)” includes both level 1 chargers, which connect directly into a standard 120-volt AC outlet and supply an average output of 1.3 to 2.4 kilowatts and are also known as level 1 EVSE, and level 2 chargers, which have a single-phase input voltage range from 208 to 240 volts AC and a maximum output current less than or equal to 80 amperes AC and are also known as level 2 EVSE.

(b) The Agency of Transportation shall establish and administer, through a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Housing and Community Development, a pilot program to support the continued buildout of electric vehicle supply equipment at multi-unit Multiunit affordable housing and multi-unit Multiunit dwellings owned by a nonprofit and build upon the
existing VW EVSE Grant Program that the Department of Housing and Community Development has been administering on behalf of the Department of Environmental Conservation.

* * *

(d) Pilot program funding shall be awarded with consideration of broad geographic distribution as well as service models ranging from restricted private parking to publicly accessible parking so as to examine multiple strategies to increase access to EVSE.

* * *

(f) If the Agency of Transportation, in consultation with the interagency team, determines that programmatic funding remains available following the first round of grant awards, then the pilot program shall be opened up and made available to any multi-unit dwelling.

* * *

*** Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Integration Pilot Program; Report ***

Sec. 23. BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PLANNING INTEGRATION

PILOT PROGRAM

(a) Establishment. The Agency of Transportation shall establish a pilot program to support the continued development and buildout of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. The purpose of the pilot program is to do at least one of the following:
(1) ensure alignment and integration of municipal and State bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure deployment and to provide a framework for municipal prioritization of bicycle and pedestrian projects that can be integrated into the VTrans Project Selection and Project Prioritization (VPSP2) process as projects are evaluated for funding through State-sponsored programs, including the Bike and Pedestrian Program, the Transportation Alternatives Program, and the Downtown Transportation Fund; or

(2) integrate bicycle and pedestrian elements into Agency-developed projects.

(b) Consultation and implementation. The Agency shall work with the State’s Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) in implementing the pilot program by providing funding through the Transportation Planning Initiative (TPI) Program for RPCs to develop prioritized municipal bicycle and pedestrian plans or to assist member municipalities in developing prioritized municipal bicycle and pedestrian plans.

(c) Report. The Agency of Transportation shall file a written report on the outcomes of the pilot program with the House and Senate Committees on Transportation on or before January 15, 2023.

**Pedestrian Safety Outreach**

Sec. 24. PEDESTRIAN SAFETY OUTREACH

The Agency shall:
(1) develop outreach information regarding pedestrian safety funding
d and programs available to communities; and
(2) disseminate that outreach information to communities in
coordination with the State’s Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) and
through both the annual Transportation Planning Initiative (TPI) Program and
Local Motion.

* * * Transportation Board * * *

Sec. 25. 5 V.S.A. chapter 3 is redesignated to read:

CHAPTER 3. PROCEEDINGS BY THE BOARD; APPEAL TO SUPERIOR
COURT JUDICIAL REVIEW

Sec. 26. 5 V.S.A. § 37 is amended to read:

§ 37. MEMBERS; TERMS; RETIREMENT; APPEAL
(a) When a Board member who hears all or a substantial part of a case
retires from office before the case is completed, he or she that individual shall
remain a member of the Board for the purpose of concluding and deciding the
case, and signing the findings, orders, decrees, and judgments of the case. A
retiring chair shall also remain a member for the purpose of certifying
questions of law if appeal is taken.
(b) A case shall be deemed completed when the Board enters a final order
even though the order is appealed to a Superior Court and judicial review is
sought pursuant to 19 V.S.A. § 5(c) or the case remanded to the Board. Upon
remand, the Board then in office may consider relevant evidence, including
any part of the transcript of testimony in the proceedings prior to appeal.

Sec. 27. 5 V.S.A. § 40 is amended to read:

§ 40. PLEADINGS; RULES OF PRACTICE; FINDINGS OF FACT

(a) The forms, pleadings, and rules of practice and procedure before the
Board shall be prescribed by the Board.

(b) The Board shall hear all matters within its jurisdiction and make
findings of fact. It shall state its rulings of law when required. Upon appeal to
a Superior Court judicial review pursuant to 19 V.S.A. § 5(c), the Board’s
findings of fact shall be accepted unless clearly erroneous.

Sec. 28. 5 V.S.A. §§ 43 and 44 are amended to read:

§ 43. REVIEW BY SUPERIOR COURT JUDICIAL REVIEW

A party to a cause who feels aggrieved by the final order, judgment, or
decree of the Board may appeal to a Superior Court under Rule 74 of the
Vermont Rules of Civil Procedure seek judicial review pursuant to 19 V.S.A.
§ 5(c). However, the Board, before final judgment, may permit an
interlocutory appeal to be taken by any party pursuant to a Superior Court
19 V.S.A. § 5(c) for determination of questions of law in the same manner as
the Supreme Court may by rule provide for appeals before final judgment from
a Superior Court. Notwithstanding the provisions of the Vermont Rules of
Civil Procedure or the Vermont Rules of Appellate Procedure, neither the time
for filing a notice of appeal nor the filing of a notice of appeal, as provided in
this section, shall operate as a stay of enforcement of an order of the Board
unless the Board or the Supreme Court grants a stay under the
provisions of section 44 of this title chapter.

§ 44. POWERS OF THE SUPREME COURT

Upon appeal to the Supreme Court, the Court may reverse or
affirm the judgments, orders, or decrees of the Transportation Board and may
remand a cause to it with mandates, as law or equity shall require; and the
Board shall enter its judgment, order, or decree in accordance with these
mandates. Appeals to the Supreme Court shall not have the effect of
vacating any judgment, order, or decree of the Board, but the Supreme
Court, upon notice to interested parties, may suspend execution of a
Board judgment under a decree as justice and equity require unless otherwise
specifically provided by law.

Sec. 29. 5 V.S.A. § 207(d) is amended to read:

(d) The application for a certificate of approval of the site selected shall be
in writing and substantially describe the property involved and the general
purposes for which it is to be acquired and the manner in which the acquisition
is asserted to serve the public interest. The application shall designate the
names of all owners or persons known to be interested in lands adjoining the
property and their residences, if known, and shall contain such further matter
as the Board by rule shall determine. The application shall be supported by
documentation showing that the proposed facility has received municipal
approval. After evaluating the application, the Board shall issue its order
giving notice of the time and place of hearing on the application. The
applicant shall give notice of the proceedings to all persons owning or
interested in adjoining lands by delivery of a true copy of the application and
order for hearing by registered or certified mail to the last known address of
each of the persons; the notice to be mailed at least 12 days prior to the date of
the hearing. Notice of the hearing and a general statement of the purpose shall
be published at least once in a newspaper of common circulation in the town
where the property described in the application is situated at least two days
before the date of the hearing, and a similar notice shall be posted in a public
place at least 12 days before the hearing. Upon compliance by the applicant
with the foregoing provisions for notice, the Board shall hear the applicant and
all parties interested on the question of approval of the site or sites and shall
consider and determine whether in the public interest the application ought to
be granted. Whenever the Board makes an order granting or denying a
certificate of approval of an airport, or a restricted landing area, approval to use
or operate an airport or a restricted landing area or other air navigation facility,
an aggrieved person may have the decision reviewed on the record by the
Superior Court pursuant to Rule 74 of the Vermont Rules of Civil Procedure

seek judicial review pursuant to 19 V.S.A. § 5(c).

Sec. 30. 5 V.S.A. § 652 is amended to read:

§ 652. SUPERIOR COURT JUDICIAL REVIEW

The Secretary of Transportation or the legislative body of a municipality, as defined in 24 V.S.A. § 2001, or the committee representing two or more municipalities, when authorized by vote of their legislative bodies, may proceed in Superior Court as provided in 19 V.S.A. chapter 5, except as otherwise provided in this subchapter.

Sec. 31. 5 V.S.A. § 3639 is amended to read:

§ 3639. FARM CROSSINGS AND CATTLE GUARDS; CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE; JUDICIAL REVIEW

(a) A person or corporation owning or operating a railroad shall construct and maintain farm crossings of the road for the use of the proprietors of lands adjoining the railroad, and cattle guards at all farm and road crossings sufficient to prevent cattle and animals from getting on the railroad. A farm crossing may be temporarily or permanently closed or discontinued by mutual agreement between all parties having an interest therein. If no such mutual agreement can be reached by such interested parties, then a person or corporation owning or operating a railroad and desiring to close any farm crossing shall make application to the Transportation Board. The Board shall
thereupon give notice to all parties interested, in such manner as the Board
can select, of hearing on the application, the hearing to be in the county
where such crossing is located. After the hearing, a person or corporation
owning or operating a railroad shall not close such farm crossing without the approval of
the Transportation Board. A person aggrieved by the closing of a farm
crossing after January 1, 1955 by a person or corporation
owning or operating
a railroad may notify the Transportation Board by registered or certified mail
of the closing, and thereupon the Board shall conduct a hearing. Notice and
place of hearing shall be as set forth in this subsection. The Transportation
Board may require the reopening of any such crossing and make such other
order as is permitted in section 3649 of this title. At any such hearing, the
burden of proof shall rest with the person or persons effecting or seeking to
effect the closing of such farm crossing. Any person aggrieved by an the final
order of the Transportation Board, who was a party to the proceedings, may, in
accordance with Rule 74 of the Vermont Rules of Civil Procedure, appeal to
the Superior Court, whereupon such cause shall be tried as an original action
brought under the provisions of 12 V.S.A. § 402 seek judicial review pursuant
to 19 V.S.A. § 5(c).

(b) A person or railroad corporation
closing any farm crossing in violation
of a provision of this section or failing to comply with any such order shall be
fined not less than $50.00 nor more than $500.00, and any person aggrieved by
such violation may recover his or her the person’s damages in an action on this statute.

Sec. 32. 5 V.S.A. § 3788 is amended to read:

§ 3788. ORDERS OF BOARD; APPEALS JUDICIAL REVIEW

The order of the Board relating to any matter upon which it may act under the authority of this chapter shall be communicated in writing to the petitioners and to all persons to whom notice of the hearing on such petition was given. Any person aggrieved by such order, who was a party to such proceedings, may appeal from such order to the Superior Court in accordance with Rule 74 of the Vermont Rules of Civil Procedure seek judicial review pursuant to 19 V.S.A. § 5(c).

Sec. 33. 9 V.S.A. § 4100b is amended to read:

§ 4100b. ENFORCEMENT; TRANSPORTATION BOARD

(a) The Transportation Board established in 19 V.S.A. § 3 shall enforce the provisions of this chapter.

* * *

(h) Within 20 days after any order or decision of the Board authorized under this chapter, any party to the proceeding may apply for a rehearing with respect to any matter determined in the proceeding or covered or included in the order or decision. The application for rehearing shall set forth fully every ground upon which it is claimed that the decision or order complained of is
unlawful or unreasonable. No appeal from any order or decision of the Board shall be taken unless the appellant makes an application for rehearing as provided in this subsection, and when the application for rehearing has been made, no ground not set forth in the application shall be urged, relied on, or given any consideration by the Board unless the Board for good cause shown allows the appellant to specify additional grounds. Any party to the proceeding may appeal the final order, including all interlocutory orders or decisions, pursuant to the Superior Court 19 V.S.A. § 5(c) within 30 days after the date the Board rules on the application for reconsideration of the final order or decision. All findings of the Board upon all questions of fact properly before the court shall be prima facie lawful and reasonable. The order or decision appealed from shall not be set aside or vacated except for errors of law. No additional evidence shall be heard or taken by the Superior Court on appeals from orders or decisions by the Board authorized under this title.

(i) In cases where the Board finds that a violation of this chapter has occurred or there has been a failure to show good cause under section 4089 or 4098 of this title, the Superior Court Board, upon petition, shall determine reasonable attorney’s fees and costs and award them to the prevailing party.
Sec. 34. 19 V.S.A. § 5 is amended to read:

§ 5. TRANSPORTATION BOARD; POWERS AND DUTIES

(a) General duties and responsibilities; exceptions. The regulatory and quasi-judicial functions relating to transportation shall be vested in the Board, except that the duties and responsibilities of the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles in Titles 23 and 32, including all quasi-judicial powers, shall continue to be vested in the Commissioner.

(b) Naming transportation facilities.

(1) Except as otherwise authorized by law, the Board is the sole authority responsible for naming transportation facilities owned, controlled, or maintained by the State, including highways and the bridges thereon, airports, rail facilities, rest areas, and welcome centers. The Board shall exercise its naming authority only upon petition of the legislative body of a municipality of the State, of the head of an Executive Branch agency or department of the State, or of 50 Vermont residents.

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

(c) Hearing examiners; report of findings; final orders; judicial review.
The Board may delegate the responsibility to hear quasi-judicial matters, and
other matters as it may deem appropriate, to a hearing examiner or a single
Board member, to hear a case and make findings in accordance with 3 V.S.A.
chapter 25, except that highway condemnation proceedings shall be conducted
pursuant to the provisions of chapter 5 of this title. A hearing examiner or
single Board member so appointed shall report the findings of fact in writing to
the Board. Any order resulting from those findings shall be rendered only by a
majority of the Board. Final orders of the Board issued pursuant to section 20
of this title (small claims against the Agency) may be reviewed on the record
by a Superior Court pursuant to Rule 74 of the Vermont Rules of Civil
Procedure. All other final orders of the Board may be reviewed on the record
by the Supreme Court.

(d) Specific duties and responsibilities. The Board shall:

* * *

(e) Offices and assistance. Suitable offices and office equipment shall be
provided by the State for the Board at Montpelier. The Board may employ
clerical or other employees and assistants whom it deems necessary in the
performance of its duties and in the investigation of matters within its
jurisdiction.

(f) Jurisdiction; subpoenas; witness fees. The Board shall have the power
to determine and adjudicate all matters over which it is given jurisdiction. It
may render judgments and make orders and decrees. Whenever the Board is
sitting in a quasi-judicial capacity, it may issue subpoenas for the testimony of
witnesses or the production of evidence. The fees for travel and attendance of
witnesses shall be the same as for witnesses and officers appearing before a
Civil Division of the Superior Court.

(g) Reports to the General Assembly. From time to time, the Board may
report to the General Assembly with suggestions of amendment to existing law
or of new legislation as it deems necessary and any information concerning the
companies, matters, and things under the jurisdiction of the Board and Agency
that, in its opinion, will be of interest to the General Assembly.

(h) Appeals from the Agency to the Board. Unless otherwise provided by
law, when an appeal is allowed from the Agency to the Board, the appeal shall
be taken by filing a notice of appeal with the Secretary within 30 days of the
date of the Agency decision from which the appeal is taken. The Secretary
shall promptly forward the notice of appeal to the Board, together with the
Agency’s record of decision.
** * * Repeal of 5 V.S.A. Chapter 5 * * *

Sec. 35. REPEAL

5 V.S.A. chapter 5 (assessments to support Agency of Transportation and Transportation Board) is repealed.

** * * On-Premises Signs * * *

Sec. 36. 10 V.S.A. § 493 is amended to read:

§ 493. ON-PREMISES SIGNS

Owners or occupants of real property may erect and maintain on the property; on-premises signs advertising the sale or lease of the property or activities being conducted on the property. Those signs shall be subject to the regulations set forth below.

(1) On-premises signs may be erected or maintained, with a total area of not more than 150 square feet, advertising activities being conducted on the same premises. However, this limitation does not apply to signs existing on May 1, 1971, or attached to or part of the building in which the activities are being carried on. An on-premises sign shall not be located more than 1,500 feet from a main entrance from the highway to the activity or premises advertised. The 1,500-foot distance shall be measured along the centerline of the highway or highways between the sign and a main entrance or a straight line, but only if the difference in elevation between the on-premises sign and a main entrance is more than 100 feet. A main entrance shall be a principal,
private roadway or driveway that leads from a public highway to the advertised activity. For the purposes of this subdivision, premises shall not include land that is separated from the activity by a public highway, or other intervening land use not related to the advertised activity. Undeveloped land or farmland shall not be considered as an intervening land use.

* * *

* * * Right-of-Way Permits; 1111 Permits; Municipal Site Plan Review * * *

Sec. 37. 19 V.S.A. § 1112 is amended to read:

§ 1112.  DEFINITIONS; FEES

(a) As used in this section:

* * *

(4) “Subsurface stormwater system” means a stormwater system, as defined in 10 V.S.A. § 1264(b)(15), that is beneath the surface.

(b) The Secretary shall collect the following fees for each application for the following types of permits issued pursuant to section 1111 of this title:

* * *

(2) utility installations, including each direct connection to the State highway subsurface stormwater system: $100.00

* * *
Sec. 38. 24 V.S.A. § 4416(b) is amended to read:

(b) Whenever a proposed site plan involves access to a State highway or other work in the State highway right-of-way such as excavation, grading, paving, or utility installation, the application for site plan approval shall include a letter from the Agency of Transportation confirming that the Agency has reviewed the proposed site plan and determined whether a permit is required under 19 V.S.A. § 1111. If the Agency determines that a permit for the proposed site plan is required under 19 V.S.A. § 1111, then the letter from the Agency shall set out any conditions that the Agency proposes to attach to the permit required under 19 V.S.A. § 1111.

* * * Smugglers’ Notch Motor Vehicle Limitations * * *

Sec. 39. 23 V.S.A. § 1006b is amended to read:

§ 1006b. SMUGGLERS’ NOTCH; WINTER CLOSURE OF VERMONT ROUTE 108; COMMERCIAL VEHICLE OPERATION PROHIBITED

(a) Winter closure. The Agency of Transportation may close the Smugglers’ Notch segment of Vermont Route 108 during periods of winter weather.

(b) Vehicle operation prohibition.

(1) As used in this subsection, “commercial vehicle” means truck-tractor-semitrailer combinations and truck-tractor-trailer combinations.
(2) Commercial Single-unit motor vehicles over 40 feet in length and combination vehicles over 45 feet in total length are prohibited from operating on the Smugglers’ Notch segment of Vermont Route 108.

(3)(2) Either the The operator of a commercial vehicle who violates this subsection, or and the operator’s employer, unless they are the same person, shall each be subject to a civil penalty of $1,000.00. If $1,500.00 or, if the violation results in substantially impeding the flow of traffic on Vermont Route 108, the penalty shall be $2,000.00 a civil penalty of $3,000.00. For a second or subsequent conviction within a three-year period, the applicable penalty or penalties shall be doubled.

(3) The prohibition in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not apply to law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services, and search and rescue vehicles involved in training or responding to real-world incidents.

(c) Required signage. The Agency shall erect signs conforming to the standards established by section 1025 of this title to indicate the closures and restrictions authorized under this section.

* * * Municipal Restrictions; Covered Bridges; Damages and Expenses * * *

Sec. 40. 19 V.S.A. § 313 is amended to read:

§ 313. Restricting Use of Covered Bridges

The Agency and the selectmen of the town where a covered bridge is located or, if parts of such a bridge are located in more than one town, the
selectmen of the towns acting jointly, may restrict the use of the bridge to
vehicles that are within limits as to weight, height, and width as they shall
establish. The limitation shall be plainly posted at the approaches to the bridge
at approximately 100 feet from each end of the bridge, and at intersections as
may be required to enable operators of restricted vehicles to proceed by the
most direct alternate unrestricted route. Posting shall be by means of
permanent signs of a standard size of at least 24 inches by 24 inches, and with
lettering not less than three inches high. [Repealed.]

Sec. 41. 19 V.S.A. § 315 is amended to read:

§ 315. PENALTIES

A person who operates a vehicle exceeding the limit prescribed on a bridge
thus restricted shall be fined not more than $200.00 for the first offense and not
more than $300.00 for each subsequent offense. [Repealed.]

Sec. 42. 23 V.S.A. § 1396 is redesignated to read:

§ 1396. SPECIAL WEIGHT LIMITS FOR BRIDGES AND HIGHWAYS

Sec. 43. 23 V.S.A. § 1397 is redesignated to read:

§ 1397. WEIGHT LIMIT SIGNS

Sec. 44. 23 V.S.A. § 1397a is added to read:

§ 1397a. SPECIAL LIMITS FOR COVERED BRIDGES

The legislative body of a municipality where a covered bridge is located or,
if parts of such a bridge are located in more than one municipality, the
legislative bodies of the municipalities where a covered bridge is located acting jointly may, after consultation with the Agency of Transportation, restrict the use of the bridge to vehicles that are within limits as to one or more of the following, as they shall establish: weight, height, or width. Any limitation shall be permanently posted by the municipality, with signs that conform to the standards established by section 1025 of this title, approximately 100 feet from the approaches to the bridge and at intersections as may be required to enable operators of restricted vehicles to proceed by the most direct alternate unrestricted route.

Sec. 45. 23 V.S.A. § 1398 is amended to read:

§ 1398. CERTIFIED STATEMENT TO BE FILED

A certified statement shall be filed with the clerk in each town, village, or city municipality in which the posting occurs, as provided in sections 1397 and 1397a of this title subchapter, stating the location of the highway or bridge posted, the legal load limit or limits to which such the highway or bridge is restricted, and the date of posting. If such a restriction is removed at any time by the Secretary of Transportation, selectboard, trustees, or city council, or legislative body of the municipality, or both, a similar certified statement of the removal shall be filed with the clerk of the town, village, or city as the case may be municipality.
Sec. 46. 23 V.S.A. § 1399(b) is amended to read:

   (b) Nothing contained in sections 1391–1398 of this title subchapter shall restrict the weight of:

   (1) Snow plows, road machines, oilers, traction engines, tractors, rollers, power shovels, dump wagons, trucks, or other construction or maintenance equipment when used by any town, incorporated village, city, or the State in the construction or the maintenance of any highway, provided that such construction or maintenance is performed by persons employed by or under contract with such town, incorporated village, city, or the State for this purpose. However, any operation of motorized highway building equipment or road making appliances used in construction work contracted by a town, incorporated village, city, or the State shall be unrestricted as to weight only within a construction area.

   (2) Municipal and volunteer fire apparatus and law enforcement motor vehicles.


Sec. 47. 23 V.S.A. § 1400d is amended to read:

§ 1400d. AGRICULTURAL SERVICE VEHICLES

   (a) An agricultural service vehicle, as defined in subdivision 4(71) of this title, shall be exempt from the provisions of sections 1400 and 1400a and
subsection 1434(c) of this title subchapter if the gross weight does not exceed 60,000 pounds.

(b) Municipalities shall not be liable for injuries or damages to agricultural service vehicles or their operators that result from crossing a posted bridge with an agricultural service vehicle that weighs more than the posted weight limit.

Sec. 48. 23 V.S.A. § 1434 is amended to read:

§ 1434. OPERATION IN EXCESS OF WEIGHT, HEIGHT, OR WIDTH LIMITS; PENALTIES

(a) General limits. The operation of a vehicle on a public highway in excess of the legal height, width, or length limits as prescribed in section 1431 or 1432 of this title subchapter without first obtaining a permit to operate the vehicle, whether or not a permit is available, shall be a traffic violation, as defined in section 2302 of this title. A violation shall be, and punishable by a civil penalty of $300.00 for a first offense, $600.00 for a second offense within a two-year period, and $800.00 for a third or subsequent offense within a two-year period.

(b) Permit limits. The operation of a vehicle on a public highway in excess of the legal height, width, or length limits as prescribed in section 1431 or 1432 of this title subchapter in violation of the terms of a permit issued in conformance with section 1400 of this title subchapter shall be a traffic
violation, as defined in section 2302 of this title, and shall be punishable by a civil penalty of $300.00 for a first offense, $600.00 for a second offense within a two-year period, and $800.00 for a third or subsequent offense within a two-year period.

(c) Covered bridges. The operation of a vehicle on a public highway in excess of the legal limits designated for a covered bridge under section 1397a of this subchapter or applicable under subdivisions 1392(1) and (2) of this subchapter shall be a traffic violation, as defined in section 2302 of this title, and punishable by a civil penalty of $1,500.00 or, if the violation results in substantially impeding the flow of traffic, $2,000.00. For a second or subsequent conviction within a three-year period, the applicable penalty shall be doubled.

(d) Refusal to issue a permit. In the case of a violation under subsection (a) of this section, the Commissioner may refuse to issue a permit to the violator under section 1400 of this title subchapter for a period not to exceed three months, if the owner or lessee commits four or more violations within a two-year period. If the holder of a permit commits four or more violations under subsection (b) of this section within a two-year period, the Commissioner may suspend, for a period not to exceed three months, any permit issued to the violator under section 1400 of this title subchapter. For the purposes of this
section, the owner or lessee of the vehicle shall be considered the holder of, or
applicant for, the permit.

Sec. 49. 23 V.S.A. § 1492 is amended to read:

§ 1492. LIABILITY FOR DAMAGE DEFINED; LIMITATIONS

The owner, driver, operator, or mover of any motor truck, tractor, trailer,
wagon, cart, carriage, or other object or contrivance which is moved or
operated on any highway in violation of any of the provisions of sections 1098,
1083, 1092, 1302, 1305, and 1431 and subsection 1434(c) of this title,
subchapter; such portion of section 1444 sections 1003 and 1081 of this title
subchapter as pertains to trucks and buses; and such portion of section 1391 of
this title subchapter as relates to weight in relation to tire surface, shall be
liable to the State or municipal corporation in which the act is committed for
damages to a public highway or bridge occasioned by such moving or
operating, to be recovered in a civil action, in the name of the State or
municipal corporation, or in an action on the bond provided in this chapter in
connection with the issuance of permits, provided the action is brought within
two years after such act is committed.

Sec. 50. 24 V.S.A. § 2296a is added to read:

§ 2296a. RIGHT TO RECOVER EXPENSES FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES
A municipality that deploys police, fire, ambulance, rescue, or other services to aid stranded operators of vehicles or to move disabled vehicles may recover from the operator or the operator’s employer the costs of providing the services.

* * * Fees for State Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment; Sunset * * *

Sec. 51. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 59, Sec. 38 is amended to read:

Sec. 38. ELECTRIC VEHICLE SUPPLY EQUIPMENT FEES REPEAL

32 V.S.A. § 604 (electric vehicle supply equipment fees) is repealed on July 1, 2022.

Sec. 52. 32 V.S.A. § 604 is amended to read:

§ 604. ELECTRIC VEHICLE SUPPLY EQUIPMENT FEES

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter, any agency or department that owns or controls electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE), as defined in 30 V.S.A. § 201, may establish, set, and adjust fees for the use of that electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE). The agency or department may establish fees for electric vehicle charging at less than its costs, to cover its costs, or equal to the retail rate charged for the use of electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) available to the public. Fees collected under this section shall be deposited in the same fund or account within a fund from which the electric operating expense for the electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) originated.
(b) Notwithstanding 2 V.S.A. § 20(d), the Agency of Transportation, in consultation with the Department of Buildings and General Services, shall file an annual written report with the House Committees on Transportation, on Corrections and Institutions, and on Ways and Means and the Senate Committees on Finance, on Institutions, and on Transportation not later than January 15 that provides an update on the State’s efforts to collect fees for the use of EVSE that is owned or controlled by the State pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and any significant national trends with regard to the pricing of EVSE. As part of that report, the Agency of Transportation shall include a copy of any applicable fee schedules, along with an explanation as to whether or not the fee schedule accounts for expenses associated with the EVSE, including electricity costs.

*** Relinquishment of Vermont Route 207 Extension in the Town of St. Albans ***

Sec. 53. 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 153, Sec. 23(a) is amended to read:

(a) Pursuant to 19 V.S.A. § 15(a)(2), the general assembly General Assembly approves the secretary of transportation Secretary of Transportation to enter into an agreement with the town Town of St. Albans to relinquish to the town’s Town’s jurisdiction a segment of state State highway right-of-way in the town Town of St. Albans, which has not been constructed to be a traveled road, and which was to be known as the Vermont Route 207
Extension. This authority shall expire on June 30, 2022. The segment authorized to be relinquished measures approximately 1.7 acres, is approximately 160 feet in width, and starts at a point 200 feet west of the intersection of the U.S. Route 7/Vermont Route 207 centerline of highway project S0297(2), and continues westerly for 463 feet.

**Codified Law Technical Corrections**

Sec. 54. REPEAL

19 V.S.A. § 22 (fine applicable for a violation of the since repealed 19 V.S.A. § 21(c)) is repealed.

Sec. 55. 19 V.S.A. § 11a(b) is amended to read:

(b) In fiscal year 2017, of the funds appropriated to the Department of Public Safety pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the amount of $1,680,000.00 is allocated exclusively for the purchase, outfitting, assignment, and disposal of State Police vehicles. In fiscal year 2018 and in succeeding fiscal years, of the funds appropriated to the Department of Public Safety pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the amount of $2,100,000.00 is allocated exclusively for the purchase, outfitting, assignment, and disposal of State Police vehicles. Any unexpended and unencumbered funds remaining in this allocation at the close of a fiscal year shall revert to the Transportation Fund. The Department of Public Safety may periodically recommend to the
General Assembly that this allocation be adjusted to reflect market conditions
for the vehicles and equipment.

Sec. 56. 19 V.S.A. § 996(a) is amended to read:

(a) The Agency of Transportation shall work with municipal
representatives to revise the Agency of Transportation’s Town Road and
Bridge Standards in order to incorporate a suite of practical and cost-effective
best management practices, as approved by the Agency of Natural Resources,
for the construction, maintenance, and repair of all existing and future State
and town highways. These best management practices shall address activities
that have a potential for causing pollutants to enter the groundwater and waters
of the State, including stormwater runoff and direct discharges to State waters.
The best management practices shall not supersede any requirements for
stormwater management already set forth in 10 V.S.A. §§ 1264 and 1264a that
apply to State and town highways. The Agency of Transportation shall report
to the House and Senate committees on Transportation, the house committee
on fish, wildlife and water resources, and the Senate Committee on Natural
Resources and Energy by January 15, 2011, on the best management practices
to be incorporated into the Agency of Transportation’s Town Road and Bridge
Standards.
**Effective Dates**

Sec. 57. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Secs. 51 (amendment to sunset of 32 V.S.A. § 604) and 53 (extension of authority to relinquish State highway right-of-way for Vermont Route 207 Extension) shall take effect on passage.

(b) Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, Secs. 19–22 (amendments to the 2021 Transportation Bill) shall take effect retroactively on July 1, 2021.

(c) All other sections shall take effect on July 1, 2022.