



State of Vermont
Barre City Place, Suite
219 North Main Street
Barre, VT 05641
vtrans.vermont.gov

Agency of Transportation

[phone] 802-505-3480
[ttd] 800-253-0191

To: House Transportation Committee

From: David Thurber, AOT Fleet Division Director

Cc: Michele Boomhower, AOT Policy Director

Date: January 27, 2026

Subject: Follow-up from Agency Fleet Budget Testimony of January 23, 2026

During my testimony last week, I was asked if the Fleet Division could make do with less funding. My answer, as I'm sure you remember, was yes. However, I was thinking that the line of questioning related to the overall Agency budget shortfall, and that any funding withheld from Central Garage would be used to help reduce the overall budget shortfall.

I do understand that in tough economic times all parts of the Agency must closely examine our budgets on an ongoing basis. The question for Central Garage becomes, should funding be reduced, "what must we do and what could we delay doing or no longer do?". Would we not fix trucks and tell Maintenance that they need to be parked, effecting their ability to properly care of the roads, or do we delay buying new vehicles and equipment to replace tired, well-worn equipment, that will ultimately take more money to keep in service. As the Committee is aware, the Central Garage budget is not small and is funded solely by Transportation Fund dollars. I have been aware of that throughout my career and do my very best to ensure that all Central Garage staff spend those dollars wisely.

I understand and appreciate the difficult times we find ourselves in, however I do support the Governor's recommended budget for Central Garage as it will allow us to maintain a safe and operable fleet, ready to meet the mission of the Agency. It will also provide new equipment that helps us reduce our carbon footprint through advancements in technology that offer greater fuel efficiency and cleaner exhaust.

One other thing that I would like to clarify which I learned following my testimony. I testified that the supplemental transfer from the Transportation Fund to Central Garage Fund is approximately 3% a year. Generally, it has worked out to about that over time, but the supplemental transfer is actually calculated on the yearly Consumer Price Index, so it isn't an automatic 3% a year as I indicated; the figure for the FY27 supplemental transfer is \$1,694,212.00 or 2.6%.

Thank you again for your time and the privilege of talking with you all last week.