



# VERMONT

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*Agency of Transportation*

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To: House Transportation Committee  
  
From: Michele Boomhower, AOT Policy Director  
  
Cc: Jayna Morse, Andrea Wright, Jeremy Reed, Jordan Villa  
  
Date: January 15, 2026  
  
Subject: Follow-up from Agency Overview Testimony of January 8, 2026

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The following questions were posed to the Agency during the testimony of January 8<sup>th</sup>. Please see our associated responses following each question.

1. How much July 2025 storm funding was determined not FHWA eligible, and subsequently requested through FEMA is outstanding with current litigation?

Response - Regarding FHWA eligibility, the 7/10/25 storm did not meet FHWA threshold which is at least \$700,000 (federal share). Additionally, each site must have a minimum of \$5,000 in damages to be eligible. AOT established 5 damage locations, the damage total was \$455,000, which did not meet the threshold for federal share. One of the sites also did not reach \$5,000. AOT did not send a letter of intent to FHWA to request ER funds for this storm since it didn't meet threshold.

Initial Damages Assessment total: \$454,147

Impacted areas:

- VT114 East Haven
- US5 Lyndon
- VT108 Stowe
- VT122 Wheelock
- TH-1 Sutton

AOT did not request any FEMA monies for the July 2025 storm. Per VEM, a disaster declaration was submitted to FEMA for \$1.8M which was subsequently denied. VEM has appealed the denial. If there are further inquiries regarding the FEMA submittal and denial, Director Forand would be the appropriate contact. [Eric.Forand@vermont.gov](mailto:Eric.Forand@vermont.gov)

2. Is there Section 1111 data informing development trends?

Response – The one trend which stood out for staff with regards to the applications for commercial Section 1111 this past year was an expansion of industrial parks in the state. It mainly consisted of the subdivision of land for potential future manufacturing/warehousing or other industrial type land uses. Specifically, here are five ventures that were of note:

- Interstate Commerce Park in Milton. Subdivision of four lots with a new development in the northernmost lot.
- Saxon Hill Industrial Park Phase II in Essex. Subdivision of five lots with a proposed warehouse in one of the lots.
- Industrial Park at Leo Drive in Essex. Subdivision of eight lots.
- Industrial Park across from Wescom Road in Johnson. Subdivision of 10 lots.
- Industrial Park across from Morrisville-Stowe Airport in Morristown. Subdivision of 26 lots.

3. Representative Burke inquired as to whether or not we can incorporate the ability to use any credit card into our DBOOM contracts with NEVI contractors?

Response - Our contracts include the following language:

*Contractor shall ensure each charger must: a. Provide for secure payment methods, accessible to persons with disabilities, which at a minimum shall be capable of processing payment through either a chip or swipe reader of major debit and credit cards and provide either an automated toll-free phone number or a short message/messaging that provides the EV charging customer with the option to initiate a charging session and submit payment.*

4. Can the Agency provide the committee with annual cost of encampment program management?

Response – The Agency currently estimates this to be an annual cost of \$125,000 to \$150,000.

5. Chair Walker would like to hear more about the Quechee Gorge bridge project.

Response – Additional details regarding the Quechee Gorge Bridge Project will be provided during upcoming testimony on the Structures Budget Presentation.

6. Representative White would like to hear more about the pollinator grant.

Response – The Agency is prepared to have Bonnie Donahue, VTrans Landscape Architect, give a presentation on the Agency's approach to pollinators.

7. The Committee is interested in hearing more about how the Agency is addressing bike/pedestrian safety and working toward the installation of bike safety signage.

Response – This presentation is scheduled for Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:15

*Cycling Highway Safety Education, Outreach and Signage Deployment Update*

Amanda Holland, Active Transportation, Agency of Transportation  
Pat McManamon, Education Unit Supervisor, Department of Motor Vehicles