



STATE OF VERMONT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

To: Secretary of Transportation Joe Flynn
From: Thomas I. Chittenden, Vermont State Senator - Chittenden District

Re: Richmond-Bolton STP 2924(1) Final Plans
Date: March 27th 2022

The purpose of this letter is to strongly encourage the Vermont Department of Transportation (VTRANS) to include in the Richmond-Bolton STP 2924(1) Final Plans a change order to expand the road shoulder to 5 ft at the identified pinch points.

To meet our climate change emergency goals, we need to build safer roads for greener transportation. This stretch of Route 2 is a critical artery between the Village of Richmond and one of the heaviest used Park & Rides serving the I89 corridor. This Park & Ride is a heavily used pick up location for Public Transportation and commuters – having a safe road shoulder on this entire stretch is essential to invite greener modes of transportation including bikes, e-bikes and pedestrians.

The Town of Richmond have been generous municipal partners over the last decade saving VTRANS hundreds of thousands of dollars ensuring that the town stormwater structures flow either directly to, or directly from the State's Rt. 2 stormwater infrastructure. They have done this with their Millett Street stormwater project, the replaced water mains along East Main Street, the Jericho Road/Bridge street storm water crossing, the Rt 2 East Main Street stormwater contract design and the recently completed phase I of the East Main Street Stormwater outfall are examples of their excellent stewardship of the state road infrastructure through their town. These examples illustrate how eager they have been and continue to be to support the important work of VTRANS. Their advocacy for these pinch points on Rt 2 is aligned with our state safety priorities, greener transportation modes and good stewardship of our infrastructure.

In recent conversations on this topic, I've been told that one of these culverts is programmed as a separate project within our roadway program. The culvert being replaced through the roadway program is RICHMOND STP CULV(58) which is a box culvert near Blackfork Towing, or at mile marker 1.81. It would be greatly appreciated if all that can be done to accelerate or prioritize the necessary efforts for this Roadway project are being considered to get this important pinch point addressed for this critical stretch of Route 2 as part of the coming paving/rehab project for this stretch of state road.

This letter is to advocate for VTrans to complete the entire project with assurances to the Town of Richmond to come back and expand the shoulders between the village and the park & ride to five feet where they cannot it might be achieved in this immediate paving project. In the interim as this project proceeds, it would be very appreciated if the VTRANS program focused on painting Bike Lanes could be used to properly stripe these pinch points with clear road way indications of bike/ped traffic (as done in other communities) with green lanes and other slash line markings.

In every conversation I've had on this discussion, the professionalism and attentiveness of VTRANS shined. In this new role as a State Senator, I am repeatedly impressed by the world class professionalism illustrated by your team and the highly functioning respectful collaborations illustrated in these important conversations. Please consider this letter as just my voice in this role representing the Town of Richmond advocating for the importance of this stretch of roadway to our regional and state green & safe transportation priorities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Thomas I. Chittenden'.

Thomas Chittenden
Vermont State Senator 2021 - present
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