



For Immediate Release:
Aug. 10, 2010
Release No. VT 2010-081

Contact:
Tim Dugan, 978-318-8264
timothy.j.dugan@usace.army.mil

Vermont Agency of Transportation seeks Corps of Engineers permit to place fill for Circ-Williston corridor

CONCORD, Mass. – The Vermont Agency of Transportation is seeking a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to conduct work in waters of the United States in conjunction with transportation improvements to the Circ-Williston corridor in the vicinity of Williston and Essex Junction, Vermont.

The purpose of the project is to improve access to, from, and within the project area and remedy existing and projected deficiencies including congestion, safety and mobility issues (including movement of both people and goods) in the Circ-Williston corridor.

The proposed project is the subject of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) being prepared by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) with the Corps of Engineers as a cooperating agency. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was published on Aug. 10, 2007. The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) was published on July 13, 2010. The FEIS is available for review on the project website at <http://www.circeis.org>. The FEIS also is available for review at the main public libraries in Burlington, Colchester, Essex, Essex Junction, and Williston; at the FHWA office, Room 216, 87 State Street in Montpelier; and at the VTrans project office at 20 Kimball Avenue, Suite 301, South Burlington (phone 802-828-2645).

The original Corps public notice seeking comments on the proposed project was issued on Sept. 11, 2007. Since the 2007 public notice, additional aquatic resources associated with Alternative 17 were identified, and Alternative 17 has been refined to minimize impacts to aquatic resources north of Mountainview Road. As currently configured, Alternative 17 will directly impact about 21.8 acres of wetland and about 6,255 linear feet of stream, and this alternative has been identified as the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative.

Three potential mitigation sites were identified in the original public notice in 2007. Only one of the three potential mitigation sites described in the original public notice – the Lemire site – is still being considered as mitigation. Four additional wetland mitigation sites and three stream mitigation sites have been identified. The purpose of the currently revised Corps public notice is to seek public comment on the currently proposed mitigation.

-- more --



Vermont Agency of Transportation seeks Corps permit/2-2-2-2

The Corps public notice, with more detailed information on the proposed project and the proposed mitigation, can be reviewed online at the Corps website <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil>. Select Regulatory/Permitting and then weekly public notices and search by file number or state.

The application for the federal permit was filed with the Corps of Engineers in compliance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, which regulates the discharge or fill of material in United States waters, including wetlands; and with Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, which provides for federal regulation of any work in, or affecting navigable waters of the United States.

Public comments on the Corps permit review (File # NAE-2004-2762) should be forwarded no later than Sept. 10, 2010 to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Vermont Project Office (ATTN: Marty Abair), 8 Carmichael Street, Suite 205, Essex Junction, Vermont 05452. Additional information is available from Permit Project Manager Marty Abair at 802-872-2903 or 802-872-2893 or by email to martha.a.abair@usace.army.mil.

#

