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Office of the Secretary
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Agency of Transportation

October 4, 2016

Representative Oliver Olsen
1320 Middletown Road
South Londonderry, VT 05155

Dear Representative Olsen:

Let me start by apologizing for any misinformation that you and your community may have received from various parts of our Agency. We do strive to provide quality customer service and provide accurate information to the communities we serve, so I appreciate the feedback when we haven't gotten it right, as in this instance. The other thing I've encouraged our staff to do is to set realistic expectations for project delivery so we avoid disappointing customers by giving them a date that then changes. However, this is sometimes unavoidable as funding levels change; we have had downgrades in State Transportation Funds every six months for the last couple of years and we have more projects in our program than available revenues.

You were correct in your email: we are very aware of the condition of this highway from Londonderry through to Springfield. We hear from motorists and our own maintenance staff as to its condition. There are currently two paving projects in our Capital Program for this stretch of highway. The first is from Londonderry to Chester, a distance of approximately 14 miles and is programmed as a pavement reclamation project with an estimated cost of \$11 million. The second is from Chester to Springfield, a distance of 6.7 miles and is programmed as a level and overlay project with an estimated cost of \$3.5 million. Given the condition of the roadway, we anticipate that both of these projects would be built in the 3-4 year timeframe if Federal and State funding levels stay approximately the same as they are currently.

As I mentioned earlier, we have dual challenges facing the Agency: stagnant State revenues that don't meet forecasts and a program that has a number of legacy projects that when they go under construction, have an impact on the other projects in our program. This combination of factors has required the Agency to realign some project schedules within the available budgets. Both of these projects, most specifically the Londonderry to Chester project, have been impacted by those changes. That combined with the challenges of design, permitting and property acquisitions for an \$11 million project have indeed led to some changes in our delivery schedule. The timing and nature of our communication can certainly be improved in this arena and we have learned from this example and will be more proactive in our future communication on project schedule changes.

Representative Oliver Olsen

October 4, 2016

Page 2

While I recognize and appreciate that the timeframe for construction is not going to meet all of our customers' expectations, I can assure you that we will continue to monitor the condition of these segments of highway and perform routine maintenance as necessary to get us through to construction. If you would like additional information or want to discuss any of these points in more detail, I would encourage you to contact VTrans Chief Engineer, Kevin Marshia, at (802) 279-3594.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chris Cole".

Chris Cole
Secretary of Transportation