



Meeting Minutes September 13, 2022

ACEC-VT / VTrans Quarterly Meeting

Location: In-Person – Dill Building 2178 Airport Road, Berlin, VT (Conf Rm 135)
Virtual Option – Microsoft Teams

Date: September 13, 2022

Program Discussion and General Meeting 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Roll Call ACECVT Transportation Committee members: Anant Panwalker, Aaron Guyette, Patricia Shedd, Jon Olin (Chair). Joined Later: Greg Goyette, Dale Gozalkowski

Featured Presentation

- VTrans and BGS – (Jennifer Fitch, Commissioner of Department of Buildings and General Services) - presentation attached.
 - Jennifer provided a detailed summary of the efforts of BGS on the following categories and the collaboration between BGS and VTrans to achieve these goals:
 - i. Background and History of the Department of Buildings and General Services
 - ii. Supporting Vermont's Climate Action Plan (Act 153)
 - iii. Vermont Clean Water Act – 3-Acre General Permit (8 BGS facilities)
 - iv. Vermont Information Centers (VICD)
 - v. State Office Spaces and Facilities in the new working environment

Questions/Answers:

- *Question (Chris B)* - Is BGS trying to get any grants?
Answer - Most of the money we get is state funded. Trying to tap into energy efficiency grants from federal government.
 - *Question (Jon O)* - Information centers – did you find any times when you have volumes.
Answer - Gilford no 1 Sharon is no 2. Hours vary. Smaller are 10 to 6 others are 7 to 7. Most usage is in the morning and 5 to 7 pm.
 - *Questions (Jon O)*: Are charging stations at information centers available to the public?
Answer: Initially they were opened just for employees and now they are in process of being opened for public.
 - *Question (Anant P)*: Is there a map for locations of these charging stations?
Answer: There is a map. Jenn will share it with John.
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- Rail / Aviation Updates – Dan Delabruere/Paul Libby
No update. To be rescheduled.
 - MicroStation CONNECT OpenRoads Update – *Mike Longstreet*
Mike provided a brief update identifying the current versions of Microstation, OpenRoads, and ProConcrete being used by VTrans and which are needed to work properly with the VTrans workspace. Mike also showed additional information being provided in the Feature Definition, and the benefits of ProConcrete. Link found here:



<https://outside.vermont.gov/agency/VTRANS/external/CADD/WebFiles/Downloads/General/MicroStation%20CONNECT%20OpenRoads%20Update10-13-2022.pdf>

- *Question (Jon O.)* – With the additional attributes being used in the feature definition, is there way to sync it with CMS and the estimate module?
Answer - We can create reports on all items that are in the model and create a spreadsheet. Which may be able to coordinate with CMS.
- *Question (Erik A)* – How frequently VTrans is keeping up with Bentley releases for OpenRoads and how frequently we should keep up with it?
Answer – We are trying to keep up with OpenRoads. For major releases it will take some time, for small releases trying to do it immediately.
- *Question* - Will you put it on VTrans Cad website when you use the release?
Answer – yes as soon as I get it, I will put it on website.

General Meeting

- VTrans Operations – *Rob White*
 - Performance / On-Time Delivery
 - i. 71 projects advertised. 90% on time. 10% late due to budget constraints.
 - Staffing Updates
 - vi. Kristin Higgins retired. VTrans is in process of hiring the new Structures Manager.
 - vii. Nick Wark, Hydraulics Manager will be moving to become ROW/Environmental section lead.
 - viii. Shawn Corbett has moved utility relocation. Focusing on some fiber optic relocation. Melissa is doing oversight of utility relocation.
 - *Question (Jon O)* – Are Org charts updated and can they be provided to consultants?
Answer (Rob W) – yes VTrans is working on org charts. Within couple of weeks they will be updated.
 - *Question (Chris B)* - How are you dealing with high prices?
Answer (Rob W) – we adjusted on the fly for a first few projects. Other than 3 or 4 projects, we have not seen too many projects with higher costs. We have told program managers, project managers to keep information up to date. Towards the end of the year, I do anticipate we will move some projects in the future due to limited funds.
 - *Comment (Erin Sisson)* – We recently received approval for 12 new positions tied to IIJA funding. 5 of those will be in project delivery. we had been trying to get additional locations since November 2021. Rob – most of the positions are advertised now and are largely associated with support services for projects (e.g. utilities, environmental).
- Contract Administration – *Jeremy Stephens/Doreen Carminati*
 - Upcoming RFP's
 - i. **I-91 Bridge Improvements in Lyndon should be hitting the streets very soon.**
 - ii. **RFQ for At-The-Ready Design, Construction Inspection, and MPM services scheduled for last week of November, proposals due 1/13/23**
 - iii. **Environmental Consulting & Resource Services 2022**
 - iv. **AOT Crash Data Project 2022**
 - v. **Structural Engineering Services 2022**
 - vi. **Natural Resource Services 2022**
 - vii. **HSIP Consultant Support Services**



- Very large shortage of winter maintenance staff anticipated. Seeking seasonal construction and construction inspection staff.
- Consultant evaluation process is wrapping up.
- WOR Updates / VT Buys
 - i. Anticipate the templates in October.
 - ii. VT Buys (E-procurement software) - Will be implemented by Summer 2023. Need to register to do business with VTrans.
 - iii. All future RFPs including second tier WOR requests will go through this system. It will help us modernize the purchasing system. In addition, it will also handle consultant evaluation. This system will help with data tracking and reporting. Improve consistency in VTrans and BGS.
- Build America Buy America (BABA) Updates
 - i. Waiting to see if there will be any waivers.
 - ii. Nov 10th is the anticipated deadline.
 - iii. Existing waivers from BA may be added to BABA. Lot of unknowns until we get clarification from FHWA.
 - iv. *Comment (Jon O)* – Discuss this topic again during December meeting.
- Committee Updates
 - VTrans Committees – ACECVT Appointees
 - David Hoyne – VTrans Specifications Committee – NOT Present (no update)
 - Preparing for 2023 Specifications Update
 - Evan Detrick – VTrans Standard Details Committee – NOT Present – Update from Jim Lacroix
 - i. Not much of an update. Waiting for new spec book to be finalized and then we will go through standards to correct.
 - ii. Some updates to existing standard drawings. Reference VTrans webpage for latests
 - Dave Youlen – VTrans Work Zone Committee – NOT Present (no update)
 - Patricia Shedd – 8th Annual Workshop Call for Presentations (schedule) Tentatively March 15th. We will send out call for presentations. Abstracts due end of Oct. notifications in Dec.

FHWA

- No Update. No Representatives from FHWA present at meeting

Events - Recent and Scheduled

- ACECVT BOD Meetings
 - August 24, 2022 – Virtual Meeting
 - Next Meeting – September 28, 2022
- VTrans Research & Innovation Symposium – Dill Bldg Wednesday September 14th (tomorrow!) 8:30am – 1:30pm <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/research/2022-symposium>



Future Meetings - Potential Topics

- Next meeting: December 13, 2022 – To be joint in-person/virtual format. On-Going Second Tuesday from 1-2:30pm.
- Upcoming Event – AASHTO ROW Committee Meeting to be held in Vermont – 2023

Future Meeting Topics (June Qtly)

- 2023 Specifications and Changes – CMS, Special Provisions..
- E-delivery: General Overview – Molly Perrigo
- E-delivery: Open Bridge Modeler – Pilot projects, Status/Plans for long term implementation
- CMS Estimator Updates – Project Implementation – Case Study (challenges & resolve) – Design Phase Transition
- VTrans Construction – Feedback from the field
- VTrans Operations Stormwater – Training/Guidance/Updated April 2022 Protocol
- VTrans Bicycle & Pedestrian Design Guidance (recent updates and retiring of 2002 manual)
- *Other future agenda items? Please forward*

Minutes Posted at: <https://www.acec.org/vermont/about-us/meeting-minutes/>

Prepared by: Anant Panwalker

Submitted by: Jon Olin, Chair - ACECVT/VTrans Committee



Working Together to Achieve Successful
Outcome for Vermonters
BGS and VTrans



Our History

- In 1960, Executive Branch took responsibility of all facilities and gave authority to create a new Division of State Buildings
- Other internal government services were placed in a Department of General Services during the 1960's and 70's
- In 1996, the two were joined



Our Mission

Dedicated to providing essential resources and services to support our government partners, Vermonters, and visitors.

Our Goals

- Streamlining government operations
- Modernization
- Preparing for the future



Our Budget and Workforce

- 11 Program Budgets
- \$45.8M FY22 Budget Request
- \$32M in Capital Bill Appropriations
- 340 Permanent Employees and 60 Temporary Employees
- Primarily comprised of frontline employees



Our Structure

- 4 Divisions and 4 Offices:
 - Planning and Property Management
 - Design and Construction
 - Operations and Maintenance
 - Government Business Services
 - Office of Purchasing and Contracting
 - Office of State Safety and Security
 - Energy Office
 - Curator's Office





Supporting the Vermont Climate Action Plan

Act 153, Global Warming Solutions Act



Global Solutions Warming Act

- Reduce GHG emissions by no less than 26% below 2005 GHG emissions by Jan 2025
- No less than 40% below 1990 GHG emissions levels by Jan 2030
- No less than 80% below 1990 GHG emissions levels by Jan 2050
- Transportation comprise 39.7% of total emissions
- Buildings comprise 33.9% of total emissions



What we're doing about it

- 29 V.S.A. § 168 establishes a State Energy Management Program (SEMP)
- Responsible for all energy management measures in state buildings and facilities
- Implemented through two revolving fundings



Energy Efficiency Measures

- Installation of energy efficient buildings and building systems
 - LED lighting with sensor technology
 - Renewable heating and cooling systems
 - Optimizing building automation systems
 - Battery back-up systems
- Maximizing reliance on renewable energy generation
- Flexible load management strategies
- State Agency Energy Plans



Our impact on the environment

- As of January 2022:
 - \$5.6M in investments through 78 projects
 - \$2.9M in avoided energy costs
 - Conserved over 202,117 MMBTU and reduced roughly 17,615 metric tons of carbon dioxide (MTCO₂E) equivalent GHGs



Electrifying the Fleet

- Support workplace charging
- 29 Electrical Vehicles Supply Equipment (EVSE) stations statewide
- \$500K awarded in 2019
- 29 V.S.A. § 903 No less than 75% hybrid or plug-in purchased or leased

New Vehicle Acquisition by Fuel Type				
Fuel Type	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Internal Combustion Engine	78	70	19	22
PHEV + Hybrid	6	14	48	36
BEV Battery Electric				8



What's Next

- Municipal State Energy Program
- Act 172, "An act relating to municipal energy resilience initiatives"
- \$45M program to:
 - Conduct building assessments
 - Education and outreach
 - Energy resilience improvement projects





Vermont Clean Water Act

Three-Acre General Permit



Vermont Clean Water Act

- Improving water quality to achieve reduction targets for Phosphorus Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) in Lake Champlain
- Reduce runoff from parking lots, roads, and roofs by 20%
- Requires landowners with more than three acres of 'impervious surfaces' to develop and implement projects to treat runoff to remove phosphorus, sediment, and other pollutants



BGS and the Three-Acre General Permit

- 8 sites identified
- \$600,000 requested in FY23 Capital Bill to begin planning and design

BUILDING	ADDRESS (E-911)	TOWN
Central Services, Troop HQ, Garage	1078, 1080 U.S. Route 2	Middlesex
Capital Complex		Montpelier
Department of Labor	5 Green Mountain Drive	Montpelier
Northern State Correctional Facility	2559 Glen Road	Newport
Vt. Police & Fire Academy	93 Davison Drive	Pittsford
Northwest State Correctional Facility	3649 Lower Newton Road	St. Albans
Northland Job Corps	100 MacDonough Drive	Vergennes
Waterbury State Office Complex	280 State Drive	Waterbury





Serving the Traveling Public and Supporting Economic Development

Vermont Information Centers Division (VICD)



VICD Overview

- Rest areas constructed along interstate system to provide basic services and safety breaks
- Stop gap during a time when few services were available off the interstate's exits
- Managed by VTrans throughout the 1960's and 70's
- 17 state-owned facilities and two public-private partnerships
- Serves 9,000 people a day
- Managed in partnership with BGS, VTrans, and ACCD



Program Sustainably and the Pandemic

- Needs of the system were becoming fiscally unsustainable
- Partnered on a planning effort to develop recommendations for strategic future investments to meet programmatic objectives and requirements of the information center program in a fiscally responsible manner over the next 20 years
- Ran concurrent with the pandemic
- All centers were closed



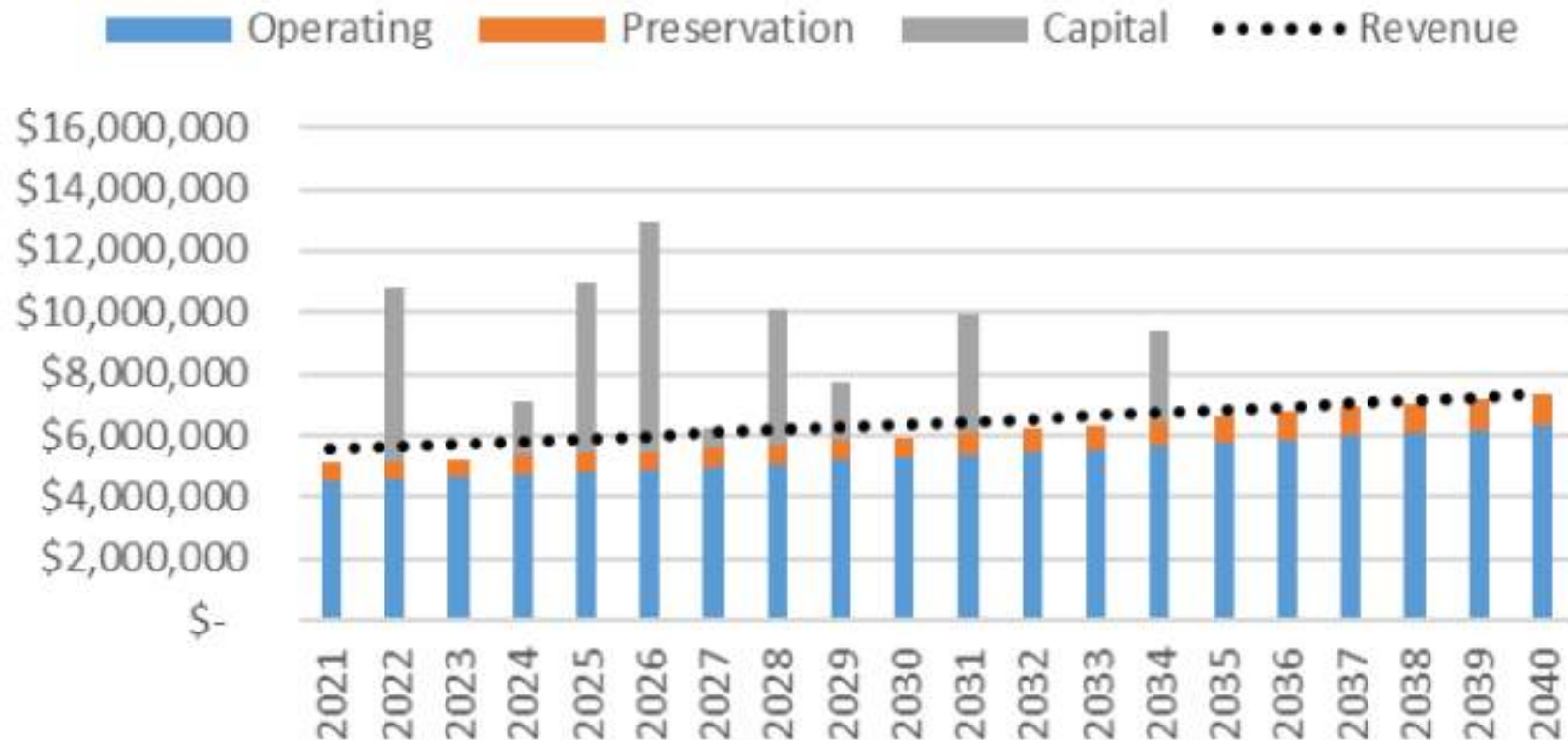
Scenario Planning and Alternatives Evaluation

- Maintain existing VICD system with annual increase in funding
- Reduce the size of the VICD system
 - Facility closures
 - Reduction in service hours
 - Public-Private partnerships



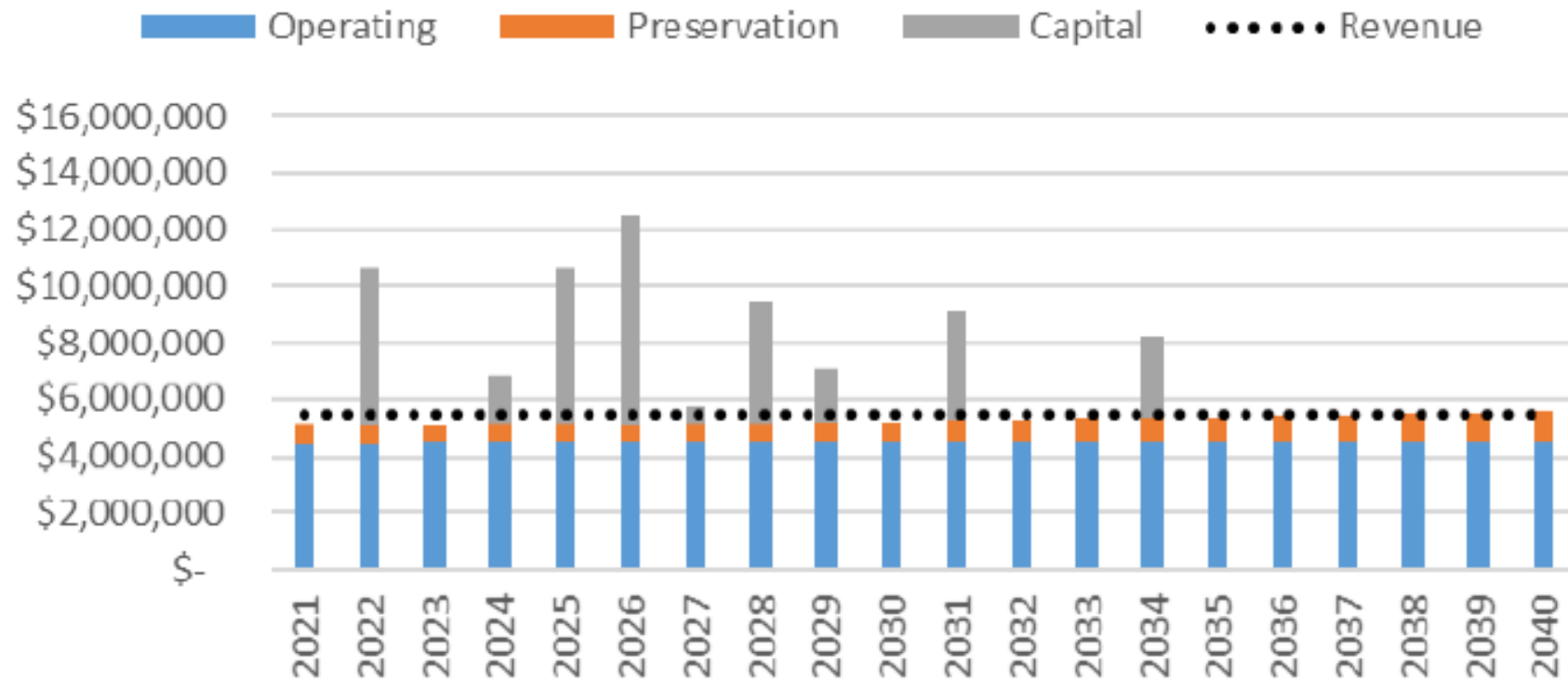
Scenario Planning and Alternatives Evaluation

Figure 21: Future Financial Projection – Existing System + Additional Funding Alternative



Scenario Planning and Alternatives Evaluation

Figure 22: Future Financial Projection – Reduced Spending Alternative



Meanwhile...Phased Reopening

- Opened 8 of the centers on July 22, 2020, to reduced hours of 10 AM to 6 PM
- Reopened remaining centers on June 26, 2021, to reduce hours
- Collected traffic data during summer and all of 2021
- Refined hours of operation to capture 80% of the traffic volume



Our Work Continues

- Northwest Gateway
- Derby Welcome Center
- Randolph Information Center





Space – The Final Frontier

Optimizing state space with a higher reliance on WFH



Building Portfolio

- 360 State Buildings
 - 240 state owned; 3M square feet
 - 120 leased; 1M square feet
 - \$43M annually
- Office space, correctional facilities, laboratories, police barracks, courthouses, mental health care facilities, the State House



History of Working from Home Model

- Pre-pandemic
 - Inconsistent across state government
 - Up to the supervisor
 - Low adoption rate
- Post-pandemic
 - Greater consistency
 - Approved by the appointing authority
 - High Adoption Rate



Pros of WHF Model ("me" space)

- Wider talent pools
- Improved mental health
- Reduced commuting
- Employee retention
- Greater flexibility for employees and uninterrupted 'heads down time'
- More effective for positions with a low amount of collaboration



Pros of Working in the Office (“we” space)

- Improved life work balance
- In-person collaboration (hallway conversations)
- Improved team morale
- Supports workplace culture
- Improved onboarding experience for new employees
- Easier to monitor performance



Where do we go from here?

- The future is uncertain
- Wait and see model
- Expensive to downsize and refit spaces – we need to get it right
- 2022 BGS Space Standards
 - Flexible office space
 - Free address model
 - Touch down spaces
 - 150 square feet/person



Other considerations

- Economic impacts
- Disparities with frontline staff
- Change management





Working Together to Support Successful Outcomes for Vermonters

Questions Welcome

