

Exit 12 & VT2A Scoping Project

Final Scope of Work

INTRODUCTION

Background & Study Purpose

Following Governor Shumlin’s announcement in the spring of 2011 that the “The Circumferential (Circ) Highway as originally conceived will not be built,” a CIRC Alternatives Task Force was formed to identify alternative projects and planning activities to address the region’s transportation issues. One of the major planning activities undertaken was the Williston-Essex Network Transportation Study (WENTS). The focus of the WENTS Project was to develop multimodal strategies that enhance corridor mobility and safety, improve access to major employment and retail centers, and support land use goals of the municipalities of Williston, Essex, and Essex Junction.

The WENTS’ findings and recommendations, which were formally adopted by the CIRC Alternatives Task Force in January of 2013, specifically cited the Exit 12 & VT 2A Project (“Exit 12”) as a key network improvement within the region. A re-configured interchange at I-89 Exit 12, in association with a new intersection of grid streets on VT2A between Exit 12 and Marshall Avenue was seen as generating significant mobility benefits for the study area as a whole.

The Exit 12 Project will further investigate and refine transportation alternatives that address existing and projected traffic congestion; enhance safety for all users; improve bike-pedestrian connections from areas south of the interchange to the existing network north of the interchange; and advance economic growth in the study area (see Figure 1). In addition, access to a planned VTrans Park & Ride southwest of Exit 12 which will potentially serve a CCTA “Link” service will be considered.

Project Team

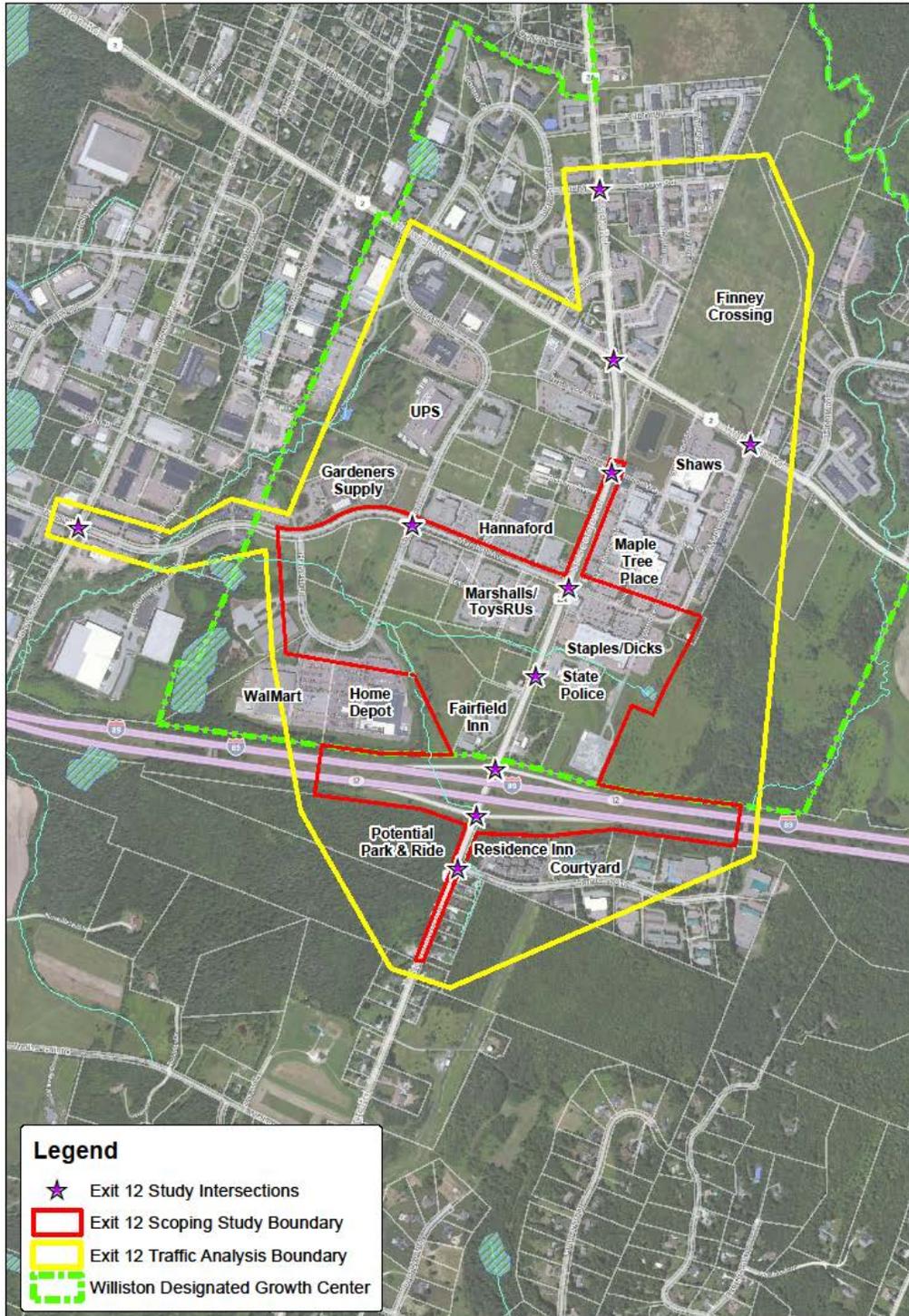
The lead consultant for this Scoping study is Resource Systems Group, Inc. (RSG). To effectively conduct this study, the following additional professional services will be included in the consultant team:

- Public Outreach – Third Sector Associates
- Interchange Design – John Sangster, P.E., SAIC
- Historic and Archeological Resource Assessment – UVM-CAP
- ROW & Survey – Vermont Survey & Engineering
- Environmental – Gilman & Briggs Environmental

Staff from the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) will manage the Exit 12 Project.



Figure 1: Exit 12 Project Area



0 280 560 1,120 1,680 Feet

PROJECT AREA
Exit 12 Scoping Study



Advisory Committee

An Advisory Committee will be formed to provide general oversight and policy direction for this project. The committee will include representatives from the following bodies/organizations/agencies:

- Williston Town: Planning and Zoning, Public Works, Police and Fire Departments
- Business Interests – (JL Davis Realty, RPAI US Management LLC, GBIC & IBM)
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans)
- Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC)
- Local Motion
- Chittenden County Transportation Authority (CCTA)
- Vermont State Police

A total of four Advisory Committee meetings are scheduled for the Exit 12 Scoping Study to correspond to the following key project milestones:

- Advisory Committee Meeting #1: Project Kick-Off
- Advisory Committee Meeting #2: Review of Draft Purpose & Need Statement
- Advisory Committee Meeting #3: Development of Build Alternatives
- Advisory Committee Meeting #4: Evaluation of Build Alternatives

SCOPE OF WORK

The following section outlines and briefly describes tasks performed in the course of the Exit 12 Scoping project. These tasks are in accordance with the CCRPC's Project Definition Studies Manual.

Task 1: Project Startup & Gather Data

Gather and review existing field conditions and collect and review all relevant studies, traffic data and recent survey data in the project area. Develop project base map.

Participate in the project's kickoff meeting with the Advisory Committee.

Deliverables & Meetings:

- Kickoff PowerPoint Presentation
- Kickoff Advisory Committee Meeting (#1)

Task 2: Local Concerns Meeting - Purpose & Need Statement

Facilitate a *Local Concerns* public meeting to solicit input and concerns from the public, elected officials, business community, resource agencies and other stakeholders.

Following the Local Concerns meeting, the project team will develop a draft Purpose & Need Statement that defines the problem and associated needs.

Based upon input from the Advisory Committee, a final Purpose and Need Statement will be developed.

Deliverables & Meetings:

- Local Concerns Public Meeting (hosted by the Williston Planning Commission)



- Local Concerns PowerPoint Presentation
- Draft Purpose & Need Statement
- Advisory Committee Meeting #2: Review and finalize Purpose & Need ; Develop preliminary alternatives
- Final Purpose & Need Statement

Task 3 - Alternatives Development

The project team will carry out the *Alternatives Development* task in a two-phase approach.

Preliminary Alternatives: A reasonable range of multimodal alternatives will be developed and evaluated qualitatively to determine which alternatives should be carried forward for comprehensive evaluation.

Criteria that could be used for screening of the preliminary alternatives include:

- Projected traffic impact
- Preliminary Resource impact
- Preliminary cost estimate
- Public acceptance

Based on preliminary alternative results, the Advisory Committee will select a smaller number of viable alternatives that will be carried forward for comprehensive evaluation.

Viable Alternatives: The multimodal Build Alternatives selected by the Advisory Committee will be carried forward for comprehensive traffic, environmental, and other resource impact analyses. A No-Build alternative will also be evaluated.

In tandem with the development of the alternatives, multimodal design criteria (profile and cross section geometry, vehicle design speed, bicycle & pedestrian facilities, etc.) will be established.

Performance measures will be developed and thresholds determined to be used for evaluating whether and to what extent a Build Alternative meets the Purpose & Need of the project.

Deliverables & Meetings:

- Advisory Committee Meeting #3: Review results of preliminary alternatives and select viable alternatives for detailed evaluation
- Memorandum #2: Development of Build Alternatives

Task 4 – Alternatives Evaluation

Identify and document all resource and traffic impacts in the project area affected by the viable Build Alternatives. Resources identified will include, but not limited to, the following:

- Archaeological and Historic Sites
- Section 4(f) Properties (historic properties, parks, recreation areas, and wildlife and waterfowl refuges)
- Community Character/Aesthetics/Scenic Resources
- Potential equity impacts to local populations
- Land and Water Conservation Fund Lands (Section 6(f))
- Hazardous Waste Sites/Brownfields
- Conformance to Town and Regional Plans

- Right-of-Way (ROW)
- Utilities (overhead and underground, electric, telecommunications, stormwater)

A special wetlands investigation may be warranted for this project to provide more detailed information on potential wetland impacts and the needs/options for mitigation. This specific task element could extend beyond GIS analysis and involve some amount of wetlands delineation in the field.

It is also anticipated that some additional surveying may be necessary to delineate current public rights-of-way.

A key effort in this task is the traffic evaluation of the Build Alternatives. Traffic analyses will be conducted for 2015 Base Year and 2035 Future Year using the TransModeler microsimulation model developed for WENTS. The PM peak hour traffic conditions will be analyzed for the scenarios listed below:

- No-Build, 2015 base year
- No-Build, 2035 future year
- Viable Build Alternatives, 2035 future year

Each scenario will be analyzed to determine the resulting redistribution of traffic, estimate congestion and intersection capacity under each scenario for the following intersections:

1. VT2A/Hurricane Lane
2. Exit 12 Southbound/VT2A
3. Exit 12 Northbound/VT2A
4. New VT 2A intersections
5. VT2A/Marshall Ave.
6. VT2A/Connor Way/Wright Ave.
7. VT2A/US2
8. VT2A/Zephyr Rd
9. The Maple Tree Place roundabout
10. New intersections with Harvest Lane.
11. Marshall Ave/Brownell Rd

All Build Alternatives will be evaluated to assess to what degree they meet the project's Purpose & Need based on performance measures developed under Task 3. An Evaluation Matrix will be developed summarizing resource impacts of each Build Alternative.

The project team will present the impacts and benefits of all viable alternatives to the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee will be encouraged to choose alternative(s) for Williston Selectboard's consideration.

Deliverables & Meetings:

- Memorandum #3: Evaluation of Build Alternatives
- Meeting with Advisory Committee #4: Evaluation of Build Alternatives

Task 5 – Alternatives Presentations

Detailed impact evaluation of all viable Build Alternatives will be presented at:

1. A public meeting (hosted by the Williston Planning Commission); and



2. Williston Selectboard meeting where Build Alternatives will be discussed and the Board will provide comments and select a preferred alternative for consideration by VTrans and FHWA.

Deliverables & Meetings:

- Two PowerPoint Presentations
- Alternatives Presentation - Public Meeting
- Alternatives Presentation - Williston Selectboard

Task 6 - Initial & Final Scoping Report

Prepare the initial Scoping Report documenting existing and future conditions, design assumptions and engineering analyses, build alternatives, resource impacts, estimated costs and public process. The draft report will be reviewed by CCRPC staff and a revised draft will be distributed to the Advisory Committee for their review and comment. Address all comments with Advisory Committee input and prepare the Final Scoping Report.

Deliverables & Meetings:

- Initial Scoping Report
- Final Exit 12 Scoping Report (5 hard copies & all electronic files)