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**Vermont Secures Nearly \$1million Federal Grant for Smarter Highways**

MONTPELIER, Vt. – April 6, 2015--U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx announced this week the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans), in partnership with the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC), will receive \$981,780 under the Federal Highway Administration’s Accelerated Innovation Deployment (AID) demonstration program. The grant will be used to develop next generation traffic monitoring systems along selected corridors in Chittenden County.

“This grant will help accelerate the adoption of innovative technologies with the ultimate goal of improving traffic flow in our region,” said Charlie Baker, Executive Director of the CCRPC.

“Specifically, through new practice and tools, this project will seek to reduce commuter congestion and crashes in the corridors selected for implementation, as well as to improve the overall efficiency, safety, reliability, and sustainability of our transportation system.”

“Optimizing our existing road network is a cost-effective way to accommodate growth and support Vermont’s economy,” said VTrans Director of Policy, Planning and Intermodal Development, Michele Boomhower. “This was a highly competitive grant and we appreciate the forethought of the CCRPC in pursuing it. We look forward to seeing the improvements that this technology will bring to the travelling public.”

AID grant monies will be used by VTRANS and CCRPC to deploy blue tooth monitoring devices on up to five transportation corridors in four municipalities: I-89 Exit 14 in South Burlington; I-89 Exits 16 and 17 in Colchester; VT 289 (Susie Wilson Rd.) in Essex; and VT 2/2A (I-89 Exit 12) in Williston. The project is designed to advance traffic monitoring in high volume roadway corridors where safety, commuter congestion and construction activity are paramount issues.

Since its launch in February 2014, the AID demonstration program has provided more than \$20 million to help federal, state, local and tribal government agencies speed up their use of innovations for 29 projects.

The program, which will ultimately invest \$30 million provided under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act, builds on the success of FHWA’s ongoing “Every Day Counts” (EDC) initiative, a partnership formed by FHWA and states to accelerate the use of innovations and reduce project delivery times.

For more information about these grants, and FHWA’s AID demonstration program, visit [www.fhwa.dot.gov/accelerating/grants](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/accelerating/grants).