

Route 2A Connector Scoping Study Proposal

Prepared for the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission



September 4, 2020

Table of Contents

1	Project Description	1
2	Study Area Scope and Approach.....	3
	A. Kick-Off Meeting	3
	B. Compile Existing/Future Conditions Data & Develop a Base Map.....	3
	C. Local Concerns Meeting.....	3
	D. Purpose and Need.....	4
	E. Develop Conceptual Alternatives	4
	F. Identify Natural and Cultural Resource Constraints and Permitting Requirements.....	5
	G. Identify Right-of-Way	6
	H. Identify Utility Conflicts.....	7
	I. Alternatives Evaluation and Presentation Meeting	7
	J. Develop Preliminary Cost Estimates	7
	K. Report Production	8
	L. Project Team.....	8
3	TASK / LABOR ITEM / COST	8
4	Appendices	11
	Appendix A – Project schedule	11
	Appendix B – Hartgen Associates.....	13

1 Project Description

Over the last 10 years the Town of Williston has pursued a shared use path connecting the Williston bicycle and pedestrian network to the Village of Essex Junction's network and the regional network beyond. During this time, many segments of this connection have been completed. Generally, these segments parallel the Route 2A corridor. One of the greatest challenges of this connection was to develop a crossing of Allen Brook. In 2016 the Town constructed a pedestrian bridge across Allen Brook and then connected the path to Beaudry Lane. One of the remaining segments along this corridor is connecting from Beaudry Lane to Taft Corners. The Town had been working with the Alliance Church on the redevelopment of their parcel which planned to incorporate a shared use path connecting Beaudry Lane to the bike and pedestrian facilities in the Finney Crossing and the Chelsea Commons developments and thereby access to Taft Corners and the Williston greater shared use path network. This Alliance Church redevelopment is now inactive and the community continues to request the Town to complete a connection.

This is a scoping project to identify a preferred alternative for this important missing link. The investigation of alternatives will focus on using the highway right-of-way along Route 2A. The project area begins on the east side of Route 2A, at the Vermont State Employee Credit Union driveway and opposite O'Brien Court, where an existing sidewalk that extends to Taft Corners to the south ends. The project extends northward approximately 800 feet along Route 2A and turns eastward for 350 feet along Beaudry Lane where it connections to the recently completed shared use path to the north.

In this area, Route 2A is approximately 30 feet wide with 4 foot shoulders. There are approximately 13,000 vehicles per day and the speed limit is 40 MPH. The existing highway right-of-way (ROW) for Route 2A is 66 feet wide.

Since the project needs include a focus on bicycles and pedestrians, it is assumed that alternatives to be developed and evaluated include the following:

- Do Nothing
- A 10 foot wide shared use path along the east side of Route 2A and along Beaudry Lane with an standard offset of approximately 5 feet from the edge of the Route 2A shoulder pavement.
- A 10 foot wide shared use path along the east side of Route 2A and along Beaudry Lane with a varying offset from the edge of the Route 2A shoulder pavement to minimize impacts.

During the process, a project steering committee (PSC) will be consulted for input, guidance and support and act as a liaison to other town groups and committees. Members will include Lisa Schaeffler, Christine Forde, Sai Sarepalli and others that the town desires. The PSC will approve the Purpose and Need Statement and make a recommendation on alternatives after conferring and getting input. The preferred alternative will go forward in a memo to the Selectboard. The CCRPC will keep VTrans informed as the project proceeds.



Figure 1: Project Area Plan

2 Study Area Scope and Approach

The following utilizes the standard scope provided by the CCRPC for scoping projects. Stantec has included additional detail to clarify the scope for this project.

A. Kick-Off Meeting

Scope: Stantec will meet with CCRPC, Town of Williston, and a Project Committee as developed by the CCRPC to discuss the project goals, objectives, process, timeliness and deliverables.

Approach/Assumptions: This meeting has occurred on August 28, 2020 as part of the proposal development process.

Deliverables: Meeting agenda, and presentation of existing information.

B. Compile Existing/Future Conditions Data & Develop a Base Map

Scope/Approach/Assumptions: Using the available high resolution orthophotos, the CCRPC will develop an existing conditions base map. The map will include available GIS layers as obtained from the Town/CCRPC and VCGI. These may include existing transportation, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, tax parcels, environmental resources, stormwater, hazardous waste sites, and utilities. The Town will provide any permitted developments that may affect the corridor. Stantec will also solicit CCTA's plans for the area and indicate existing and/or proposed bus routes, facilities and stops.

It is assumed no field survey or digital terrain model will be provided for the project area. The project base map will be based on available orthophotos and Lidar. Stantec will also research the existing highway ROW for Route 2A. The existing ROW will be shown on the base mapping (Task G). It is assumed that Stantec will contact Vermont Gas Systems requesting information on any of their existing facilities in the project area. Using the information provided, the general location of the existing facilities will be shown on the base mapping. It is assumed that additional field survey to provide utility elevations, such as pipe inverts, will not be required.

For the Route 2A intersections, it is assumed that traffic analysis of existing or projected conditions will not be required. Stantec will request crash data from VTrans, summarize the data, and highlight the predominating causes.

Stantec will collect and review existing studies. Using the Vermont State Standards, Stantec will develop the project's design criteria.

Deliverables: Existing conditions map and design criteria.

C. Local Concerns Meeting

Scope: Stantec, working with the PSC, will organize and facilitate a Local Concerns Meeting to hear the public's issues and concerns to develop a clear understanding of the purpose and need of the project. This meeting will be hosted by the CCRPC and the Town of Williston with local officials invited and maybe held virtually using a community accessed video conferencing site. This meeting may be an opportunity to discuss any future maintenance issues or concerns with the proposed project. As an outcome of the local concerns meeting and the project kickoff meeting, the consultant will develop the Project's Draft Purpose and Need Statement.

The consultant will generate this statement based on local input and an understanding of existing conditions.

Approach/Assumptions: Stantec will develop a meeting agenda and a slide presentation in close coordination with the CCRPC Project Manager to facilitate the Local Concerns Meeting. The names and addresses of all people, including adjacent property owners, to be notified will be provided by the Town and CCRPC. A direct mailing will be sent out and announcements will be posted via Front Porch Forum and on the Town website by the Town. The presentation will include an existing conditions plan illustrating collected information. This information will be reviewed by the CCRPC and Town and edited for the Local Concerns Meeting. The presentation and agenda will include pertinent discussion items such as: existing traffic operations, safety, crash prone conditions, bicycles, pedestrians, etc. The goal is to facilitate an organized solicitation of concerns. Potential alternatives will also be discussed. The virtual on-line meeting will be recorded for future reference and possibly posted online for the public to access.

The Stantec team shall prepare minutes of the meetings and distribute them to the CCRPC Project Manager. Comments received from anyone not present at the meetings, such as ones received via the comment section on the project website, will be attached to the minutes of the meetings. The meeting minutes will focus on the comments received and required action items. Comments will be organized by topic for easy referencing.

Deliverables: Meeting agenda, slide presentation, and meeting minutes.

D. Purpose and Need

Scope: Following the Local Concerns meeting, Stantec will develop a draft Purpose and Need Statement for this project. Stantec understands the importance of the Purpose and Need Statement as it is used to identify and evaluate alternatives and assist with selecting a preferred alternative. Based on our experience with scoping projects, the needs portion typically points out existing issues revealed during the information collection and local concerns tasks. The Purpose and Need Statement will be distributed to the CCRPC Project Manager for review and approval. The Purpose and Need Statement will be discussed at subsequent meetings and throughout the scoping process. Any discussed edits will be included and an updated statement distributed.

Deliverables: Draft and revised Purpose and Need Statement.

E. Develop Conceptual Alternatives

Scope: In cooperation with the Town and CCRPC staff, the consultant will identify potential alternatives utilizing the information compiled for the base plan and site visit. The consultant will develop typical sections for the different alternatives that show basic dimensions and, if applicable, where the facility is located within existing road rights of way and in relation to travel lanes, shoulders, existing building faces and other features.

Approach/Assumptions: To develop an accurate evaluation of impacts and costs, the alternatives will be developed using the base mapping. It is assumed the following two long term alternatives (in addition to the Do Nothing) will be developed and evaluated:

- Do Nothing (No-Build)
- A 10 foot wide shared use path along the east side of Route 2A and along Beaudry Lane with an standard offset of approximately 5 feet from the edge of the Route 2A shoulder pavement.
- A 10 foot wide shared use path along the east side of Route 2A and along Beaudry Lane with a varying offset from the edge of the Route 2A shoulder pavement to minimize impacts.

Short term improvements such as crosswalks and pavement markings will also be considered, discussed and included in the scoping report.

The need for storm water treatment will be included on the evaluation. The proposed improvements will be shown on the base mapping.

Once alternatives are analyzed and alternative sketches are developed, the Stantec team, in coordination with the CCRPC and the Town, will conduct an alternative presentation meeting to solicit ideas, issues, and concerns.

The alternative plans will include the following:

1. Plan sheets showing proposed improvements.
2. Existing Right-of-Way.
3. Conceptual cost estimate.

During development of the alternatives, it is assumed one meeting with the CCRPC and Town will be required.

Deliverables: Draft and revised alternative plans and conceptual cost estimate, alternatives presentation agenda, presentation and meeting notes.

F. Identify Natural and Cultural Resource Constraints and Permitting Requirements

Scope: Review natural and cultural resource issues including wetlands, surface waters, flora/fauna, endangered species, storm water, hazardous material sites, forest land, historic, archaeological and architectural resources, 4(f) and 6(f) public lands, and agricultural lands. Identify potential impacts on these resources and permitting requirements, including the potential for review under Act 250. When possible, documentation from appropriate state and federal agencies (e.g. Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Corps of Engineers) will be included to summarize the extent to which resources may or may not be impacted. The consultant will identify any permits that will likely be needed for the project.

Where a closed, subsurface drainage system is proposed (new or addition to existing), an estimate of new, redeveloped and existing contributing surface areas will be included as well as an assessment of what will be required to obtain a stormwater discharge permit. An estimate of the area of disturbance that will result from the project will be included to assess the extent of mitigation that will be required under the National Pollutant Discharge and Elimination of Sediment (erosion prevention and sediment control) permit.

Historic and Archaeological resources will be reviewed by qualified experts in those fields to determine potential impacts to those resources. For the Historic resources, a reconnaissance-level survey will be performed. For Archaeology, an "Archaeological Resources Assessment" which involves no excavations, will be performed to determine where and how much of a proposed project area has "archaeologically sensitive" land.

Approach/Assumptions: The area of identification will be limited to the area shown on the project location plan. The identification method for each resource is as follows:

- Wetlands: Field review, functional assessment and report.
- Archaeological and historic sites/districts: See proposal, Appendix B.
- Air & Water Quality: this task would typically assess the 10-year increase in the AADT and the report would note any additional steps needed to address air quality in the instance the 10-year increase in the AADT exceeds 10,000 vehicles as allowed per MOA with VANR. Given the nature of this project and declining traffic volumes, it is assumed this assessment is not applicable. Regarding adjacent streams, their status of impairment will be noted for consideration for stormwater treatment.
- Noise Sensitive Land Uses: Existing residential and lodging facilities will be noted on the mapping. Given the nature of this project being a pedestrian improvement, it is assumed a noise analysis is not required.
- Fish and Wildlife Habitats: The results of research and field review will be shown on the mapping.
- Endangered / Threatened Species: The results of research and field review will be shown on the mapping.
- Community Character (local aesthetics): Any scenic views and valued aesthetics will be noted on the mapping.
- Socio-economic Characteristics: Local and regional plans will be reviewed and pertinent portions noted.
- Agricultural land: The results of research and field review will be shown on the mapping.
- LWCF lands (Section 6(f)): Stantec will review the latest listing posted on the relevant websites and any lands will be noted on the mapping.
- Public and Recreation Land (Section 4(f)): Based on field review and input from communities, these lands will be noted on the base mapping.

Deliverables: Results of field and research reviews to be incorporated into existing conditions plan.

G. Identify Right-of-Way

Scope: Compile right-of-way and property ownership information along the alignment of the proposed project. This information should identify public/private ownership and any existing easements or restrictions (e.g. Act 250 permits) on affected property. Right-of-way information will be mapped on the same base mapping as the existing conditions.

Approach/Assumptions: Stantec will solicit the existing highway right-of-way from VTrans and include on the base mapping. The Town will provide the names of the property owners in the project area. Stantec will include this information on the plans.

Deliverables: Documentation of research and right-of-way for base map.

H. Identify Utility Conflicts

Scope: Identify and discuss public and private underground and overhead utilities (water, sewer, fiber optics, electric, TV, cable, phone) in the project area. Include a preliminary assessment of whether any relocation will be required and indicate if the relocations may occur outside of the existing Rights of Way. For underground utilities, an assessment should be made of whether they will be impacted by construction of the proposed improvements. The assessment will include identification of owners of potentially impacted utilities.

Approach/Assumptions: Stantec will provide a project plan to area utility companies asking for what existing facilities or proposed expansion or relocation plans they have in the project area and request any location information and condition information they have. This information along with the aerial line information will be shown on the plans. Impacts to existing facilities and potential mitigation will be depicted.

Deliverables: List of utility impacts.

I. Alternatives Evaluation and Presentation Meeting

Scope: The proposed alternatives, including the no build alternative, will be evaluated and the results summarized in an alternatives matrix. The matrix will include transportation impacts (traffic, bike and pedestrian), resource impacts, right-of-way impacts, utility impacts, ability to meet the project purpose and need, estimated cost and any other factors that will help the community evaluate the alternatives being considered. The new pedestrian link has the potential to improve the community character and this item will be part of the evaluation. The socio-economic impact or benefit of alternatives will be noted.

Stantec and CCRPC staff will present the alternatives considered and seek the Town Selectboard endorsement of a preferred alternative.

Approach/Assumptions: A draft will be developed and provided by Stantec to the CCRPC and Town for review prior to meeting. Comments will be incorporated for the subsequent presentation to the Town Selectboard. The provided information will also include a draft scoping report describing the project, existing conditions, and alternatives.

The alternatives presentation is planned to be in PowerPoint format

Deliverables: Recommendation on preferred alternative, evaluation matrix, draft scoping report, PowerPoint of alternatives.

Alternative presentation in PowerPoint format and meeting notes from alternatives presentation

J. Develop Preliminary Cost Estimates

Scope: The consultant will develop preliminary cost estimates for further planning, design, construction and maintenance costs of the project. Cost estimates will include preliminary bid

item quantities. Per foot or lump sum costs will not be an acceptable substitute. The long-term alternatives estimates will assume that the project will be constructed using a combination of Federal and local funding and will be managed by the local community. The long-term alternatives cost estimates will include amounts for construction, engineering, municipal project management and construction inspection. For the short term/interim improvements that are identified, estimates will be provided assuming local funding will be used for their implementation.

Approach/Assumptions: Stantec will utilize the VTrans Estimator database and recent bid results to develop a cost estimate for the preferred alternative. Cost estimates prepared to compare alternatives will be order of magnitude estimates and will not be carried out to the same level of detail as the preferred alternative cost estimate. Cost estimates will be conducted in tandem with the Alternatives Evaluation and be presented to the Project Advisory Committee as part of the alternatives matrix at their meeting under Task I.

Deliverables: Cost estimates for alternatives.

K. Report Production

Scope: Using information gathered from the activities outlined above and from the meetings with the Town and CCRPC, submit draft and final scoping reports outlining the findings of the study. This report will be an update and reference the previous report.

Approach/Assumptions: It is proposed the report sections be developed as the work is completed. For instance, the Existing Conditions sections and Proposed Alternatives section will be completed prior to the alternatives presentation meeting. This will allow a draft document to be used to update parties interested on the project status. It will also facilitate input on alternatives.

L. Project Team

The proposed Stantec Project Team includes:

- Gregory Edwards, PE – Principal - in-charge
- Erik Alling, PE – Project Manager/Senior Engineer
- Caela Waite – Project Engineer
- Sean Neely – Project Engineer
- Polly Harris - Environmental Specialist

3 TASK / LABOR ITEM / COST

The task labor hours' estimate can be found on the following page.

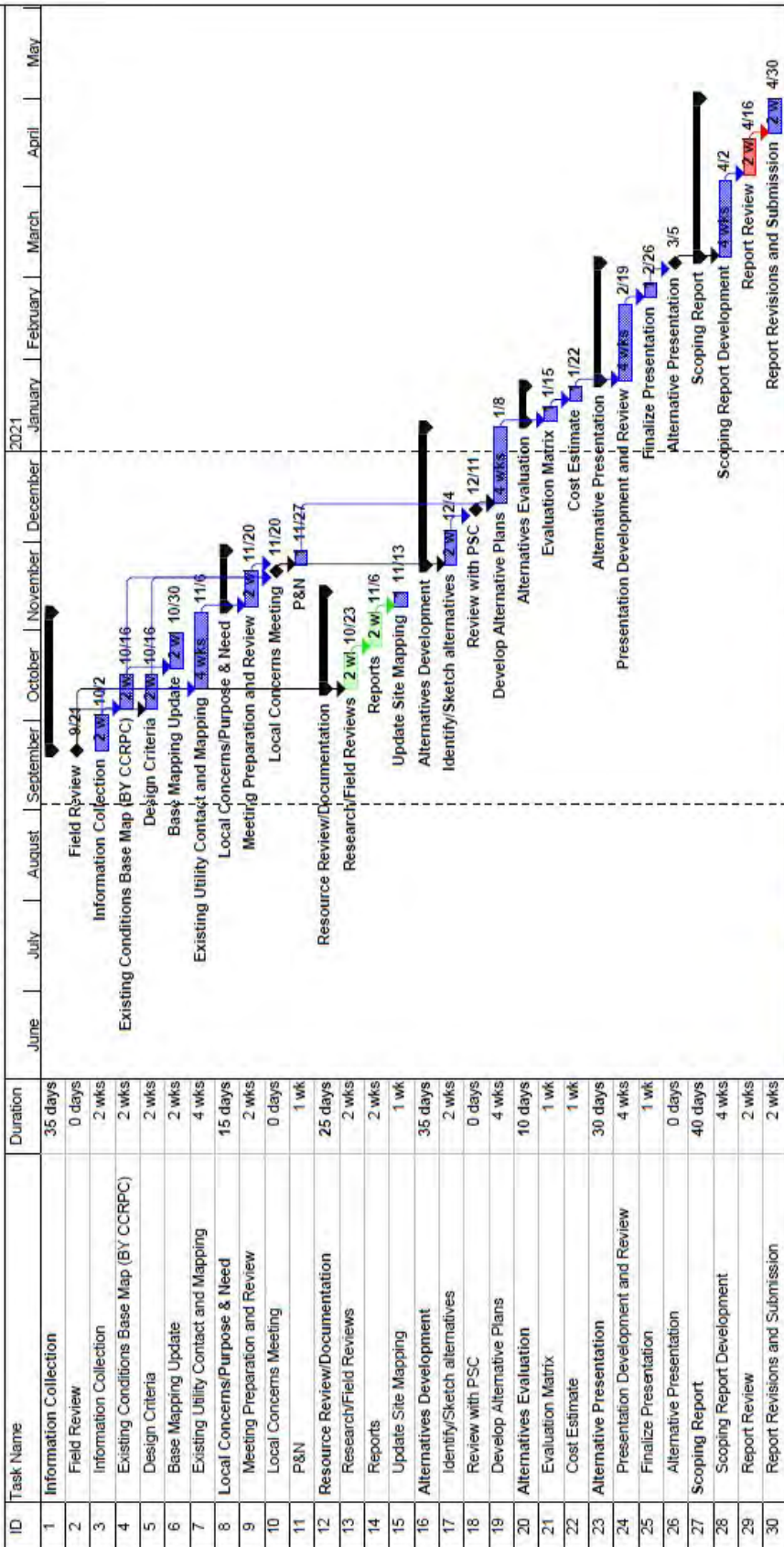
4 Appendices

APPENDIX A – PROJECT SCHEDULE

PROPOSED PROJECT SCHEDULE

Williston Route 2A Connector Path Scoping Study

Stantec Consulting Services Inc.
 South Burlington, Vermont



Date: Thu 9/3/20

Task	Project Summary	Manual Summary
Split	External Milestone	Start-only
Milestone	Inactive Task	Finish-only
Summary	Inactive Milestone	External Tasks
Rolled Up Task	Inactive Milestone	External Milestone
Rolled Up Split	Inactive Summary	Progress
Rolled Up Milestone	Manual Task	Deadline
Rolled Up Progress	Duration-only	
VAOT Task	Manual Summary Rollup	

APPENDIX B – HARTGEN ASSOCIATES



September 2, 2020

PO Box 81
Putney, Vermont 05346

Greg Edwards
Stantec
55 Green Mountain Drive
South Burlington, Vermont 05403-7824
p. (802) 497-6398
e. greg.edwards@stantec.com

CORPORATE
1744 Washington Ave. Ext
Rensselaer NY 12144
p +1 518 283 0534
f +1 518 283 6276

NEW ENGLAND
PO Box 81
Putney VT 05346
p +1 802 387 6020
f +1 802 387 8524

Subject: Route 2A Connector Path Scoping Study, Town of Williston, Chittenden County,
Vermont
Proposal for Archeological Resource Assessment
P2020-214

Dear Greg,

This letter presents Hartgen Archeological Associates, Inc.'s proposal for the above-referenced project. Hartgen's understanding of the project is summarized below:

- The project has involvement from the Vermont Agency of Transportation and is subject to compliance with Section 106 of the National Historical Preservation Act.
- The cultural resources investigation will be reviewed by the VTtrans archeology officer.
- The project entails construction of a new sidewalk along Beaudry Lane to Route 2A and then along the east side of Route 2A to the Vermont State Employee's Credit Union to the south, a distance of approximately 1,100 feet (335 m).
- Assuming a width of 20 feet (6 m), the area of potential effects (APE) measures approximately 0.5 acres (0.2 ha).

SCOPE OF WORK

This section outlines Hartgen's proposed scope of work, which adheres to the *Guidelines for Conducting Archeology in Vermont* (2017). The investigation will be overseen by one of Hartgen's Principal Investigators, who each meet the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards outlined in *Archeology and Historic Preservation: Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines as Amended and Annotated* and required under Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 61 (36 CFR 61).

Archeological Resource Assessment

The Phase ARA will entail the following tasks:

- Compile project information including the project size, location, and description of proposed undertaking.
- Review environmental information including soils, bedrock geology, topography and hydrology.
- Conduct a site visit to observe and photograph existing conditions, present land use, and any evidence of prior soil disturbance.
- Consult the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation's Online Resource Center (ORC) to identify known archeological sites, previous archeological surveys, and National Register listed and eligible properties and districts in the vicinity of the APE.
- Examine historical maps and provide an interpretation of potential historic resources.
- Photograph structures within the APE.
- Assess the archeological sensitivity and potential and provide recommendations regarding Phase IB testing.

Report Preparation

The report will be prepared according to the *Guidelines for Conducting Archeology in Vermont* (2017). As appropriate, the report will contain text, tables, color maps and photographs. Hartgen will provide a PDF version of the draft report for the client's review. The client will compile and submit all comments to Hartgen in a single submission. Hartgen will address one round of comments, making revisions to the report as appropriate. Hartgen will issue one hard copy and one PDF copy of the final report.

SCHEDULING

A preliminary schedule follows. Hartgen will commit to a schedule at the time of authorization.

- The site visit can currently be scheduled for September 2020.
- The report can typically be completed within 4-6 weeks of the completion of site visit.

PROVISOS

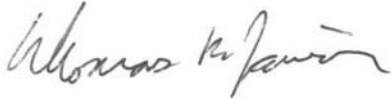
- Hartgen will be provided with projected shapefiles or a geodatabase that can be used in ArcGIS or a CAD file that can be opened in AutoCAD 2012. Include projection information. If the file is in a local coordinate system, provide a pdf file with enough information so that the site can be georeferenced (placed in the "real-world").
- The site visit must take place when there is no snow cover.
- This proposal does not include meeting attendance.

FEES

- The scope of work outlined in this proposal will be completed for a lump sum cost of \$2,920.00.
- This proposal and cost is in effect for the next 60 days.

If you have any questions about this proposal, please contact me at tjamison@hartgen.com or 802.387.6020.

Regards,



Thomas R. Jamison, PhD, RPA #16566
Project Manager