

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Submitted by: Francine Perkins
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Barre-Montpelier Road Resurfacing Project with New Lane Configuration to Begin

VTrans - The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) announced construction is scheduled to start in April on US 302-Barre-Montpelier Road in Berlin. The resurfacing project extends from the Barre City/Berlin Town line, just south of Highland Avenue, to the Wayside Restaurant for a distance of 1.8 miles.

Crews are planning to install construction signs the week of April 11th, 2016 with heavier construction starting the week of April 25th, 2016. Construction includes typical resurfacing activities such as milling, paving of leveling course and wearing course, line striping and structure adjustment. Included in this project is the replacement of the rail crossing located near Rubber Bubbles and The Computer Barn and a culvert near Pizza Hut.

As part of this project, VTrans is implementing a new lane configuration, also known as a "road diet", for a portion of the Barre-Montpelier Road that stretches from the Berlin State Highway to just west of the bridge over Stevens Branch. The new lane configuration will reduce travel lanes from two in each direction to one in each direction leaving the existing two-way left turn lane in the middle as is. This corridor has a crash history of 49% of crashes being rear -end, sideswipe and left turn conflict crashes. These types of crashes are reduced dramatically (19-47%) when two through lanes in one direction are replaced with a single through lane and a continuous left turn lane.

Additionally, both VTrans and the Town of Berlin desire better conditions for bicyclists in this corridor. By eliminating a through lane in each direction, space is created for on-road bicycle lanes. For much of the corridor being paved, there is also enough space for a striped buffer which will make the bike lanes even safer by further separating them from motor vehicle traffic. New bike lanes will be included from Hersey Road to Highland Avenue.

Milling, paving of leveling course, structure adjustments and experimental line striping for new lane configuration must be completed by June. A subsequent 30 - 60-day monitoring period for the new lane configuration will be in effect following the June deadline. Final paving and line striping will occur following the completion of the monitoring period.

During construction, two-way traffic will be maintained as much as possible through the duration of the project. However, there are some sections of roadway that will require lane closures with alternating one-way traffic. These sections are too narrow to allow for two-way traffic within the construction area. Flaggers will be present to assist in maintaining traffic flow.

At this time, crews plan to work daytime hours, M-F and some Saturdays. The contract completion is scheduled for September 2016.

Weekly work updates and press releases will be issued and distributed to various media sources. Information will also be available on www.roadworkupdates.com.

Francine Perkins of FRP Enterprises, LLC has been assigned as Project Outreach Coordinator to provide the public with information about the project. Contact Francine at 802-479-6994.