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### **VTrans Gives Go Ahead for New Lane Configuration on Barre-Montpelier Road**

MONTPELIER, Vt. -- August 10, 2016--The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) is moving forward with the final lane configuration aka "Road Diet" on the Barre-Montpelier Road in Berlin. As part of a resurfacing project, VTrans has reduced the travel lanes from two-lanes in each direction to one lane in each direction with center left turn lanes. Designated bike lanes were also added to the corridor. This configuration has already been implemented in Norwich, Williston and Burlington, and has been identified by the Federal Highway Administration as a proven safety countermeasure. National data shows a 19-47% reduction in crashes where this approach is used.

"Just as with roundabouts and rumble stripes, this new lane configuration is going to require a period of adjustment for road users," said VTrans Chief Engineer, Kevin Marshia. "We will continue to monitor the road over time to improve performance and identify further opportunities to make this corridor safer".

The project called for a monitoring period of the new lane configuration which started on June 3, 2016 and ended August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016. Traffic volumes, speed, congestion and safety data was collected and evaluated. Customer surveys were also sent out pre-construction and post-construction and public comment was collected through local outreach efforts. Educational materials are currently being created for road users on how to navigate the new lane configuration.

With the assistance of public feedback and field observations, VTrans was able to identify areas that needed modifications. To relieve delays at the Berlin State Highway/US 302 intersection, the eastbound designated right turn lane on US 302 was restored. Further, the westbound US 302 left turn lane was also adjusted at this intersection so trucks turning west off the Berlin State Highway had more space to navigate the turn.

Once the new lane configuration is complete and construction has ended, VTrans will perform a speed study along the corridor. Traffic signal retiming and phasing will also occur post construction to look for opportunities to optimize the operation of the signals.

Night paving and line striping with the new configuration will begin the week of August 15<sup>th</sup>. The majority of the paving and line striping will occur at night between 6:00 pm and 6:00 am. Miscellaneous line striping and paving of side road and driveway entrances may occur during daytime work hours.

More information on Road Diets can be found at:

<http://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/local-projects/bike-ped/road-diet>