



TO: Eric Blatt, P.E., Director, Facilities Engineering Division

FROM: Robert Pelosi, E.I., Design Engineer, Facilities Engineering Division

SUBJECT: Town of Brandon
Park Street Improvement Project

Evaluation of Eligibility for a **Finding of No Significant Impact**

DATE: December 11, 2018

A. Project Identification

Project Name: Town of Brandon, Vermont
Park Street Improvement Project

Address: David Atherton, Town Manager
Town of Brandon
49 Center Street
Brandon, VT 05733

Project Location: This project is aligned along Park Street which runs concurrent with VT Route 73 and is bound by US Route 7 to the west in the Town of Brandon, Vermont.

Funding: Vermont/USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan Number RF1-214
Vermont/USEPA Drinking Water Revolving Loan: WPL-286

B. Summary of Environmental Review

The Department of Environmental Conservation, Facilities Engineering Division, has reviewed this proposed project in accordance with Department's Environmental Review Procedures for Projects Funded Through the Vermont/EPA Revolving Loan Program. Consistent with those procedures, the Department intends to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed Park Street Improvement Project

The Department has reviewed the following planning documents:

- **Preliminary Engineering Report**, titled *Town of Brandon, Vermont, Park Street Improvements – Sewer and Drinking Water Preliminary Engineering Report*, dated October 2018, and prepared by Aldrich + Elliott Water Resource Engineers of Essex Junction, Vermont.
- **Environmental Information Document**, titled *Town of Brandon, Vermont, Park Street Improvements – Sewer and Drinking Water Preliminary Engineering Report, Appendix D, Categorical Exclusion Environmental Analysis Sheet*, prepared by Aldrich + Elliott Water Resource Engineers of Essex Junction, Vermont, and furnished on October 2018.
- **Archeological Resource Assessment**, titled *Town of Brandon, Vermont, Park Street Improvements – Sewer and Drinking Water Preliminary Engineering Report, Appendix E, Archeological Resource Assessment*, prepared by Hartgen Archeological Associates, Inc. of Putney, Vermont on July 2018, and furnished by Aldrich + Elliott Water Resource Engineers of Essex Junction, Vermont on October 2018.
- **Historical Resource Identification Study**, titled *Town of Brandon, Vermont, Park Street Improvements – Sewer and Drinking Water Preliminary Engineering Report, Appendix F, Historical Resource Identification Study*, prepared by Hartgen Archeological Associates, Inc. of Putney, Vermont on August 2018, and furnished by Aldrich + Elliott Water Resource Engineers of Essex Junction, Vermont on October 2018.

A **Finding of No Significant Impact** (FONSI) is the appropriate environmental review response for this project. The project is primarily ineligible for Categorical Exclusion from detailed Environmental Review as some of the green stormwater infrastructure create new discharges to groundwater. However, the direct and indirect environmental effects of the project are not significant enough to require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), as described in Section XI of the Department's environmental review procedures.

1. Project Description

The Town of Brandon is in Rutland County, Vermont. As part of the project, the Town proposes to install approximately 1300 linear feet of new water and sewer lines, 500 linear feet of new storm drain with appurtenant catch basins, green stormwater infrastructure including 11 bioswales, new curbing, and restore the road surface. The above improvements are intended to address the existing, aging infrastructure that is in poor condition.

As mentioned previously, the project is not eligible for Categorical Exclusion.

2. Justification for Finding of No Significant Impact

The Design Section has determined that the proposed project meets the criteria for issuance of a Finding of No Significant Impact.

As discussed in a prior section, the Design Section recognizes that the project creates new discharges to groundwater. However, the scope and magnitude of these discharges are such that the direct and indirect environmental effects of the project are not significant.

Per procedure, the Design Section has also determined that no other direct or indirect environmental effects warrant an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). As evidenced by the Environmental Information Document and the VT ANR Resource Atlas, all construction is proposed outside of delineated wetland buffers and there are no proximate rare, threatened, or endangered species present. Finally, after extensive Archeological Resource Assessment and coordination with the State Historical Preservation Office, there are no anticipated effects on historic or prehistoric sites.

The Town held an Environmental Impact Hearing on January 23, 2018 to discuss project details with the public. Attendees did not raise objections or voice concerns about the project.

Further, VTrans is co-funding this project and plans to perform environmental review on the aspects specific to road surface restoration. Though not definitive, VTrans is likely to convene additional meetings to discuss project aspects with the community. Thus, additional opportunity for public involvement is expected.



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December 11, 2018

David Atherton, Town Manager
Town of Brandon
49 Center Street
Brandon, VT 05733

**RE: Park Street Improvement Project
Town of Brandon, VT
Vermont/USEPA Clean Water Revolving Loan: RF1-214
Vermont/USEPA Drinking Water Revolving Loan: WPL-286
Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact**

Dear Mr. Atherton:

The Department of Environmental Conservation intends to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed Town of Brandon, Park Street Improvement Project. As part of the project, the Town proposes to install approximately 1300 linear feet of new water and sewer lines, 500 linear feet of new storm drain with appurtenant catch basins, green stormwater infrastructure including 11 bioswales, new curbing, and restore the road surface. The above improvements are intended to address the existing, aging infrastructure that is in poor condition.

The project does not qualify for a Categorical Exclusion from Environmental Review as some bioswales create new discharges to groundwater. The Department, however, has determined that the direct and indirect environmental effects of the project are not significant enough to require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), under the Department's environmental review procedures.

The Department's environmental review procedures require a 30-day public comment period following the issuance of a Notice of Intent to Issue a FONSI. If no public comments are received during this period, the Finding of No Significant Impact becomes effective immediately. If comments are received, the Department must evaluate and address any comments before affirming the decision.

Copies of documents supporting a FONSI are enclosed. Please keep copies of the enclosed documents, along with any pertinent reports by your consulting engineer, available for public inspection during the 30-day public comment period. The documents which must be available for public inspection are listed below.

Please contact Robert Pelosi at (802) 522-2192 if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Eric Blatt, P.E.
Director
Facilities Engineering Division

Sincerely,



Robert Pelosi, E.I.
Pollution Control Design Engineer
Facilities Engineering Division

Enclosures

Documents Enclosed for Finding of No Significant Impact Public Comment Period (30 Days)

1. **Notice of Intent** to Issue a **Finding of No Significant Impact**
(Signed by Eric Blatt, P.E., Director, Facilities Engineering Division)
2. **Evaluation** of Eligibility for Finding of No Significant Impact
(Approved by Eric Blatt, P.E., Director, Facilities Engineering Division)
3. **Environmental Review Procedures** for Projects Funded Through the Vermont/EPA Revolving Loan Program

Additional Documents Needed for Finding of No Significant Impact Public Comment Period (30 Days)

4. **Preliminary Engineering Report**, titled *Town of Brandon, Vermont, Park Street Improvements – Sewer and Drinking Water Preliminary Engineering Report*, dated October 2018, and prepared by Aldrich + Elliott Water Resource Engineers of Essex Junction, Vermont.
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7. **Historical Resource Identification Study**, titled *Town of Brandon, Vermont, Park Street Improvements – Sewer and Drinking Water Preliminary Engineering Report, Appendix F, Historical Resource Identification Study*, prepared by Hartgen Archeological Associates, Inc. of Putney, Vermont on August 2018, and furnished by Aldrich + Elliott Water Resource Engineers of Essex Junction, Vermont on October 2018.

COPY LIST

Everett Marshall, Information Manager, Nongame and Natural Heritage Program, VT Department of Fish and Wildlife

Scott Dillon, Archeologist, Division for Historic Preservation, VT Department of Housing and Community Affairs

From: [Pelosi, Robert](#)
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Subject: Brandon (RF1-214) -- Notice of Intent for the Park Street Improvement Project
Date: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 1:34:25 PM
Attachments: [Brandon_RF1-214_FONSI_NOI_CoverLetter.121118.pdf](#)
[Brandon_RF1-214_FONSI_NOI_CoverLetter.121118.pdf](#)

Mr. Atherton,

Attached is a Notice of Intent to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the above-referenced project. The FONSI requires a 30-day comment period. The comment period began yesterday and ends on January 10, 2019. During that time, you will need to keep the [referenced documents](#) on hand for the public.

Note that this determination supplements the Environmental Review process that VTrans is conducting.

Please contact me with any questions.

Robert Pelosi, E.I., Pollution Control Design Engineer

Water Infrastructure Financing Programs

Department of Environmental Conservation

Facilities Engineering Division

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