



Circ-Williston EIS

www.circEIS.org

Extensive Public Comments on the DEIS

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Circ-Williston Transportation Project was published on August 10, 2007. The public comment period was extended to November 21, 2007, bringing the total time duration of the comment period to 110 days. All of the comments can be downloaded from the project website, www.circeis.org.

How Many Comments Were Received?

Over 300 comments on the DEIS were received through postal mail, faxes, email, and through the project website. Public hearings on the DEIS were held on October 16, 2007 in Essex Junction and Williston. Over 40 individuals commented for the record during the hearings, some commented multiple times. Figure 1 displays the number of comment documents (letters, faxes and emails) received by the location of the commenter. The project area municipalities of Williston and Essex Junction were the source of the largest number of comment documents, with 37 each.

Who Commented?

Individuals:

- 267 individuals submitted a comment, some submitted multiple comments.

Federal Agencies:

- Department of the Army, New England District Corps of Engineers

- Department of the Interior (Fish & Wildlife Service and Park Service)

- Environmental Protection Agency

State Agencies/State Elected Officials:

- Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
- Peter D. Hunt, State of Vermont House of Representatives
- Linda Myers, State of Vermont House of Representatives
- Christopher Pearson, State of Vermont House of Representatives

Local Agencies:

- Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission
- City of Burlington
- Town of Essex Selectboard
- Village of Essex Junction Board of Trustees
- Town of Milton Selectboard
- Town of Williston Selectboard
- Williston Planning Commission

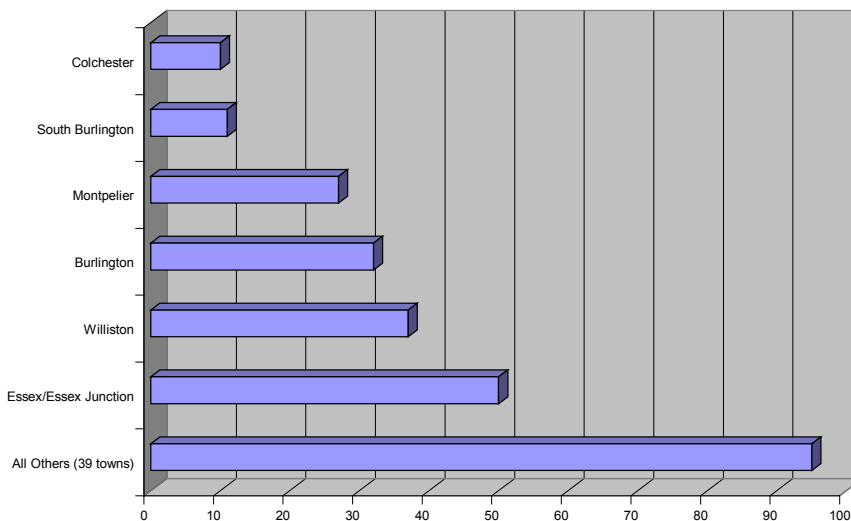
Private Organizations and Businesses:

- Bilodeau Wells & Co.

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Comments Received by Location of Commenter

(Note: Not shown are 43 comment documents submitted without a mailing address. Comments sent by multiple methods (e.g. by email and by postal mail) were counted only once.)



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- Conservation Law Foundation, Friends of the Earth, Vermont Sierra Club, Vermont Natural Resources Council, Vermont Public Interest Group, Smart Growth Vermont and Vermont Smart Growth Collaborative
- Engelberth Construction Inc.
- Forcier Aldrich & Associates
- Green Mountain Services, Central Beverage Essex, Essex Colonial Mart, Essex Discount Beverage, Five Corners Discount Beverage, Five Corners Mobile, FW Webb, Jiffy Lube, Martones, Rocky's Pizza, Sondik Supply and Twin State Electric
- Home Builders and Remodelers Association of Northern Vermont
- IBM Corporation
- Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation (GBIC)
- Meadow Run Condominium Association
- National Association of Realtors and Gray Group
- Pinewood Manor Inc.
- Plageman, Gagnon and Daughters, Inc.
- Resolution, Inc.
- Richmond Climate Action Committee
- The Inn at Essex
- Tony's Tack Shop

What did the Commenters Say?

The comments reflected a diversity of opinions and concerns. Some of the reoccurring themes in the comments included the following:

- Support for a Circ A/B Alternative as the best solution for addressing local traffic problems
- Opposition to VT 2A Alternatives due to community impacts and roundabouts
- Opposition to a Circ A/B Alternative due to environmental impacts
- Concerns about transportation funding issues
- Frustration with delays in the planning and construction of the Chittenden County Circumferential Highway

Commenters also provided factual corrections of the information presented in the DEIS, technical critiques of the DEIS analysis methods, and suggested additional alternatives for consideration.

What Happens Next?

Agency of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, and the consultant team are currently developing responses to the comments on the DEIS, performing additional analyses, and coordinating with other agencies. The next step in the EIS process for the Circ-Wiliston Transportation project is the selection of a preferred alternative and preparation of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). The FEIS will contain responses to all of the comments received on the DEIS, as well as factual corrections and clarifications to the text of the document. Where appropriate, the FEIS will provide additional analyses necessary in order to respond to a comment. The FEIS will identify a preferred alternative and explain the reasoning behind the selection of the preferred alternative. The FEIS is expected to be published later this year. There will be an opportunity for public comment on the FEIS.

