

Intermodal Transportation Facility Project Overview

The Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (Commission) will act as facilitator for the process and assist NHDOT with administrative staff support necessary to complete the alternatives analysis, including developing a Request for Proposals for the project consultant(s). Commission personnel will also act as staff to the Project Advisory Committee, including developing meeting agendas, minutes, and coordinating public outreach with the Upper Valley Transportation Management Association.

The Upper Valley intermodal transportation facility will serve as a terminal for intercity bus transit, provide connections between intercity and local transit, and serve as a public park-and-ride facility. The facility is planned to be located in the Upper Connecticut River Valley of New Hampshire/Vermont, and will directly serve Interstate 89. Approximately \$490,000 of funding has been secured in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 to conduct an alternatives analysis of potential sites and design the facility. It is anticipated that upon the completion of the alternatives analysis and design of the facility, the remaining funds from the \$490,000 appropriation will be supplemented with additional federal funding to procure land and construct the facility.

The placement of an intermodal transportation facility within the Upper Valley region will shape development patterns within the region for years to come. The location of transportation systems and facilities impacts regional travel patterns. An intermodal transportation facility in the Upper Valley could provide needed relief to growing local traffic congestion if sited in a location that aids in the region's efforts to reduce single-occupancy vehicle travel and increase use of the public transportation network. The proposed facility will be a welcome addition to the efforts currently underway in the region such as; Lebanon's City Transportation Master Plan, continuation of the Route 120 Corridor Planning Study, Dartmouth College's Transportation Demand Management (TDM) efforts, Bike to Work, Rideshare, Grafton County public transit/human services transportation coordination, and other initiatives.

The commutershed of the Upper Valley spans both Vermont and New Hampshire. The Upper Valley has a long tradition of bi-state coordination and due to the integration of services, education, housing and employment. This coordination is essential to maintain. The project will necessitate the collaboration between transportation agencies within both New Hampshire and Vermont. The regional significance of this project will influence both states.

The placement of an intermodal transportation facility will not only require accurate, time sensitive, and creative data generation, but will demand a thoughtfully guided public input process. It will be necessary to demonstrate to the public how the issues they raise during any public process will be incorporated into the decision-making process but also how their issues will continue to be integrated into the long-term planning for the facility. To address these issues, public involvement for this effort will utilize many of the Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) techniques and processes currently being utilized by the Commission in the Charlestown project.