

From: Arancio, Matthew <Matthew.Arancio@vermont.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 23, 2023 5:03 PM
To: Town Administrator <townadmin@southherovt.org>
Subject: RE: Regarding discussion of Rte. 2 in South Hero

Hi Sue,

Thank you for your patience. I've collated some responses to your questions below; if you'd like to discuss further, please feel free to give me a call.

The best way to conceptualize the costs and benefits of Class 1 TH takeover is to reflect with your Selectboard on maintenance burden versus desire for additional agency to pursue quality of life improvements to the roadway within the Town. Both are salient needs and opportunities, and exploring the balance of the two helps determine whether a Class 1 TH designation is appropriate for the Town of South Hero.

For your reference, the attached presentation provides the best reference of how responsibilities shift when a municipality designates as roadway as Class 1 TH, and is the presentation that I gave to the Town's Planning Commission.

In terms of specific responses to your questions:

- Should the highway remain under VTrans jurisdiction, the Town will have to seek permits and coordinate with VTrans for any improvements it wishes to pursue such as request additional reductions to the speed limit, the installation of pedestrian signage and crossings, the installation of pedestrian signage and crossings, etc. Paramount in approaching the Agency about these improvements is referring to any type of plan or vision that helps outline how the improvement will respond to community needs.
 - Please note that the Agency has a Demonstration Project program, that allows municipalities to install temporary improvements in the State ROW to test their viability; this approach might be advantageous if the Town is considering multiple options for improvement(s) at a specific location but desires to test the option(s) before making a more permanent improvement.
 - If there is any plan or vision that you are seeking to implement, please feel free to share it, as it would be helpful contextual information that would help VTrans figure out potential paths forward for the Town.
- Under a Class 1 TH designation, the Town would be responsible for general maintenance (debris removal, dealing with beavers, etc) of the large culvert you mentioned. For larger projects, there are Federal and State grant programs available for Towns maintaining assets in Class 1 TH designation. I'm also happy to check in on the status of that culvert to determine if a project exists for its replacement and the timeline of that project, as it may help guide the timeline for a Class 1 TH takeover process for the Town.
- In terms of your question regarding sidewalk maintenance, I'm still doing some internal research to determine how this question has been handled elsewhere. I will report back with any additional findings. Any additional information from the Town about how maintenance might have changed throughout the years or previous correspondence concerning this issue would be greatly helpful if you have any.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions – thank you!

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