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*Agency of Transportation*

May 14, 2008

Mr. Keith E. Terry  
Plainfield Selectboard Chair  
P. O. Box 217  
Plainfield, VT 05667

MAY 15 2008

RE: Plainfield, US 2 Pedestrian Issues

Dear Mr. Terry:

I am responding to your April 9, 2008 letter requesting a meeting with VTrans to discuss pedestrian safety issues in Plainfield. As recently as 2005 our Traffic Operations unit denied a request for a crosswalk in the area you mentioned. The limited sight distance in this area does not provide sufficient reaction time for a motorist, thus giving a pedestrian a false sense of security. Our verbal recommendation at that time was that the town should seek to provide sidewalks westerly down the southern side of US Route 2 to a point where sufficient sight distance was available and a crosswalk could be installed. More recently, VTrans' Traffic Operations unit has installed new highly reflective fluorescent yellow signs warning motorists of the possible presence of pedestrians in this area.

A possible solution is to pursue the signalization project recommended in the June 16, 2005 Scoping Report prepared by Dubois & King, Inc. In that report, they recommended that the intersection be reconstructed and signalized which would allow for a pedestrian signal phase. Under this scenario, pedestrians could cross US Route 2 while all vehicular traffic is stopped. This project would also provide a permanent solution to the ongoing maintenance issues with the concrete steps and retaining wall. In order for such a project to commence, the Town would need to work with the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission to prioritize this work and seek to have it added to VTrans' list of priorities, where it would compete against other projects for available funding.

In regard to the current condition of the concrete steps, I contacted Doug Newton, District 6 Technician. He informed me that District 6 personnel had been in contact with town officials and that they made the necessary repairs to the steps and adjacent retaining wall on Friday, May 2.

Per your request, an agency representative is available to meet with the Selectboard. Please contact Bruce Nyquist at 828-2696 or at [bruce.nyquist@state.vt.us](mailto:bruce.nyquist@state.vt.us) to coordinate. Thank you for your concern with transportation safety issues.

Sincerely,

Neale F. Lunderville  
Secretary of Transportation

cc: Doug Newton, District 6 Technician  
Kevin Marshia, Program Manager  
Amy Gamble, Traffic Operations Engineer  
Mel Adams, Director of Policy & Planning

