

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Emergency repairs underway on US Route 5 in Hartford**

November 9, 2018 / Hartford, Vt. – The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) reports that U.S. Route 5 at the intersection of Neal Road in Hartford is anticipated to remain closed for several weeks due to a culvert blockage causing water levels that are affecting the integrity of the road and threatening an adjacent residence.

VTrans crews worked diligently on Thursday and Friday to install a temporary culvert allowing a local detour along Rustic Road and Neal Road, which are accessible from Route 5 directly adjacent the failed culvert. This local detour is not suitable for trucks; crews have deployed variable electronic message boards to aid in communication and are working on installing official signage details for a suitable truck detour along Interstate 91.

Current high water levels make it difficult to assess the failure point, but VTrans has pumped water away from the affected area for stabilization that will allow for more permanent repairs and to reduce risks to nearby property and homes. Route 5 will remain closed until a permanent solution is implemented, which is expected to take several weeks.

VTrans has declared this an emergency and will be directing all necessary resources to expedite temporary and permanent repairs. The affected culvert is approximately 35 feet deep and includes a dry laid stone box culvert that connects to a concrete box culvert.

Motorists are urged to expect delays and avoid the area while crews work to repair the roadway.

*Pictured: Agency of Transportation crews work to clear a blocked culvert on U.S. Route 5 in Hartford. The depth of the water made emergency repairs difficult and were threatening the integrity of the road, necessitating the closure of the road for more permanent repairs to be made.*



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