VERMONT
AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION

# FACT SHEET

## 2017 Research Symposium & STIC Annual Meeting

# SHRP 2 R15B Identifying and Managing Utility Conflicts

**STIC PROJECT TITLE**
*SHRP 2 R15B Identifying and Managing Utility Conflicts*

**STUDY TIMELINE**
November 2016 – September 2018

**PRINCIPAL CHAMPION**
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**MORE INFORMATION**
*https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/goshrp2/Solutions/Renewal/R15B/Identifying_and_Managing_Utility_Conflicts*

This fact sheet was prepared for the 2017 VTrans Research Symposium & STIC Annual Meeting held **on September 28, 2017** at National Life in Montpelier, VT. 8:00 am– 12:00 pm.

Fact sheets can be found for additional projects featured at the 2017 Symposium at http://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/research/2017symposium

Additional information about the **VTrans Research Program** can be found at http://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/research

Additional information about the **VTrans STIC Program** can be found at http://vtrans.vermont.gov/boards-councils/stic

## Introduction to the Proposal.

R15B provides a utility conflict matrix (UCM) designed to help agencies and utility companies manage conflicts effectively during project development, design, and construction. Use of the UCM-based approach results in identifying utility conflict issues early in design, provides a common platform for communicating utility conflicts between agency and utility company stakeholders, and greatly simplifies utility management processes.

Key implementation expectations for R15B include:

- Develop and incorporate Excel, MS Access and/or enterprise-based UCM within existing utility management program.
- Update utility business processes and supporting documentation within the agency to accommodate the use of the matrix throughout project design and construction.

## Methodology or What was done?

Vtrans hosted a one-day training in Late May, which brought together Vtrans staff, consultant designers and utility personnel. This training focused on the implementation and processes associated with the R15B products. Vtrans plans to have these products incorporated into the selected trial project, Burlington HES 5000(18) and Lyndon STP 0113(65), by the beginning of next year.

## Conclusion or What are the next steps?

Once the R15B projects are implemented into the trial projects, we will begin to analyze the utility coordination process with VTrans staff and utility personnel to identify the potential improvements that could benefit both

VTrans and utility owners.

## What are potential impacts? What is the benefit to VTrans?

The immediate benefits of the UCM process include proactive identification of both utility conflicts and alternative design solutions to minimize costs and foster greater communication among affected parties. Together, these improvements lead to more cost-effective processes with reduced risks. Ultimately the benefits of using a UCM on roadway and bridge construction projects include:

- Fewer contractor change orders and delay claims
- Reduced costs from construction delays
- Improved project development procedures based on anticipating and resolving utility conflicts early in the process
- Better communication among transportation agencies and utilities
- Reduced impacts on the public from construction-related delays
- Reduced impacts on the public from utility disruptions
- Improved worker and public safety from construction-related hazards