



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Agency of Transportation Receives \$24.8 Million Federal Grant to Replace Main Street Bridge Connecting Burlington and Winooski

Barre, Vt. – The Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT) today announced that it has been awarded a \$24.8 million grant by the U.S. Department of Transportation through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program. This award will fund the replacement of the Main Street Bridge that carries US Routes 2 and 7 over the Winooski River between the cities of Winooski and Burlington, VT.

“The Main Street bridge is the only crossing over the Winooski River that connects two of Vermont’s most densely populated communities,” said Transportation Secretary Joe Flynn. “This new funding will allow for the much-needed improvements to this critical but outdated piece of infrastructure. We are thankful to Vermont’s congressional delegation and our federal partners for this award. “

With more than 25,000 vehicle crossings per day, the 93-year-old existing structure has narrow vehicle travel lanes, no shoulders, and narrow sidewalks. There is currently no buffer separating vehicular traffic from pedestrians and bicyclists, creating unsafe conditions for travelers.

As planned, the new bridge will feature wider travel lanes and dedicated bicycle and pedestrian paths on both sides of the bridge. These changes will improve mobility, connectivity, and safety for all travelers as part of a vibrant, modern, multi-modal transportation system.

This RAISE grant will provide 80% of the total funding needed to design and construct the new bridge, with additional funding provided by the State of Vermont and local municipalities. Preliminary engineering and design will take place over the next several years, with construction anticipated to begin in 2027 and final completion in 2030.

RAISE is the first discretionary funding program to accept applications as directed by President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The \$1.5 billion in available funding for the 2022 cycle represents a 50 percent increase in available funds compared to last year.

The program uses a rigorous merit-based process to select projects with exceptional benefits that explore ways to deliver projects faster and save on construction costs, while making needed investments in our Nation's infrastructure.

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