Meeting with you tonight

- Wayne Symonds, PE, Structures Program Manager, VTrans
- Joel Perrigo, Project Manager, VTrans
- Aaron Guyette, PE, Design Project Manager, VHB
- Jeff Nelson, Environmental Services Director, VHB
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

- Federal Law that requires federal agencies to assess the environmental impacts of their proposed actions prior to undertaking major federal actions

- Levels of NEPA environmental review
  - Categorical Exclusion (CE)
  - Environmental Assessment (EA)
  - Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
Project Environmental Permitting

- Separate from NEPA Process
- Permits/Resource coordination underway
  - US Army Corps of Engineers
  - US Fish & Wildlife Service
  - Vermont ANR/DEC
- Timeline is partially concurrent with EA process
Changes to NEPA Environmental Review

- Original NEPA review was a CE
- Requirement to re-evaluate the NEPA document
- Elevate the review to an EA
- EA evaluations are currently underway by resource professionals
Environmental Assessment Process

- Purpose and need
- Alternatives considered
- Resource evaluations
- FHWA determination options
  - Finding of no significant impact
  - Significant impact
Environmental Assessment Steps

- Draft EA
- 30-day public review and comment period
- Public hearing
- Response to comments
- Final draft EA
- FHWA determination
Purpose and Need

- Replace bridges on Main Street and Merchants Row
- Reconstruct rail through the project area
- Address existing drainage concerns of the rail line
Resource Evaluation

- Land use
- Traffic
- Wetlands
- Surface waters
- Groundwater and drinking water resources
- Floodplains and floodways
- Wildlife
- Threatened and endangered species
- Air quality
- Noise and vibration
- Parks, recreation, and conservation land
- Historic resources
- Archeological resources
- Acquisitions (ROW)
- Soil quality
- Social and economic concerns
- Cumulative impacts
- Section 4(f) resources
Environmental Assessment Milestones

- Complete draft environmental assessment document: April 2017
- 30-day public review and comment period: May 2017
- Public hearing: May 2017
- Response to comments: June 2017
- Final draft environmental assessment document: June 2017
- FHWA determination: August 2017
Bridge Maintenance Issues

- Safety concerns for both Main Street and Merchants Row
- Temporary patching on both bridges
- Debris on railroad tracks
- Evaluating further actions
Current Project Cost Estimate

- Preliminary Engineering $4,875,000
- Right-of-Way $400,000
- Construction
  - Contract 1 (drainage) - $2,500,000
  - Contract 2 (bridge replacement) - $37,500,000
Independent Cost Estimating

- Estimate may be adjusted
  - Independent cost estimate is in progress
  - Look for cost savings due to accelerated bridge construction

- CMGC process will look for efficiency and cost savings

- Preliminary work by independent cost estimator validates the $40 million construction
Railroad Detour Costs

- Very preliminary estimate $12,000,000
  - Extended work windows in year 2 and year 3
  - 10 week train detour
- Capital track and facility improvements
- Reimbursement for RR costs incurred
- ICE estimates without RR accommodations construction cost would be $82,000,000
Project Timeline Update

- Schedule was previously presented as 2017–2020
- Current schedule dependent on NEPA process outcome
- Revised target schedule 2018–2021
Questions?