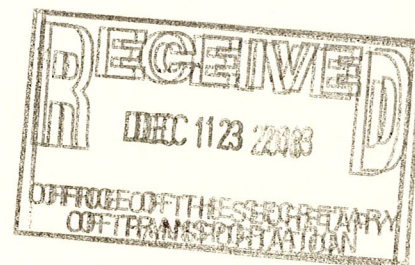


Town of Plainfield
149 Main Street
P.O. Box 217
Plainfield, VT 05667



December 10, 2018

Secretary Joe Flynn
Vermont Agency of Transportation
One National Life Drive
Montpelier, VT 05633-5001

Dear Secretary Flynn.

Residents of the town of Plainfield have labored for many years to find a solution to the problematic and dangerous 'blinking light' intersection of U.S. Route 2 and Main Street, which is the gateway to our downtown. This intersection is on the priority list of the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission and members of your team have been exploring different alternatives for how to fix it. We are writing to urge you to make this a fix for the long-term.

For quick background, Route 2 curves and slopes at this intersection. Main Street, leading from our village, intersects in the arc of that curve. A guardrail, curbing, a utility pole and deteriorating concrete steps are in a small island at the intersection. Sightlines are already challenging at the intersection and the island makes it much worse.

One of the preferred alternatives that your team has identified to representatives of the town proposes to remove the guardrail, curbing and pole and simply pave it over, at what appears to be a fairly steep grade. In our view, this does not address the central problem with the intersection. Another alternative calls for the grade of Route 2 to be modified and for traffic control signals to be installed at the intersection. We understand the challenges with a project of that scale, including the potential need to detour Route 2 traffic. But given the issues at the intersection, a much more robust solution such as that set out in "Alternative 2B" (attached) would seem to be the only fix to a problem that is not only dangerous for the traveling public but also a hindrance to commerce and business in our village center.

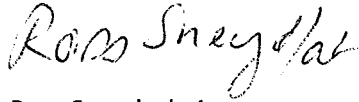
Plainfield has done a lot to be a good partner with the state and to demonstrate our own commitment to improving pedestrian and traffic flow. We installed sidewalks in the lower village and we are in the process of extending that sidewalk network across a bridge over the Winooski River to Route 2. The sidewalk will lead to a crosswalk on Route 2 to our vibrant Town Hall Opera House, home to an increasing number of performances and events. The increasing popularity of the Opera House makes work on the intersection even more necessary. But these and other work we have undertaken as a town will only truly make a difference unless we can also address the intersection.

We know that the state must set priorities with limited resources, just as we must do at the local level. But it is time to move this intersection up that list. Route 2 is a vital artery between Burlington and Bangor. It has been improved along nearly all of its length in Vermont. Except in Plainfield. The

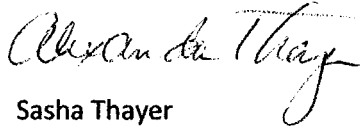
pavement is in poor condition and the intersection is a huge problem. Our residents look at the work that has been done in East Montpelier, Danville and other communities and ask when it will be our turn. Our answer is that it is time for the state to work with Plainfield and do a complete job, not a temporary fix that will not address the well-documented issues at the intersection.

Thank you for taking time to hear us out. We would be happy to meet at your convenience.

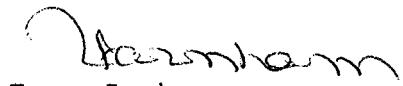
Sincerely,



Ross Sneyd, chair
Plainfield Select Board



Sasha Thayer



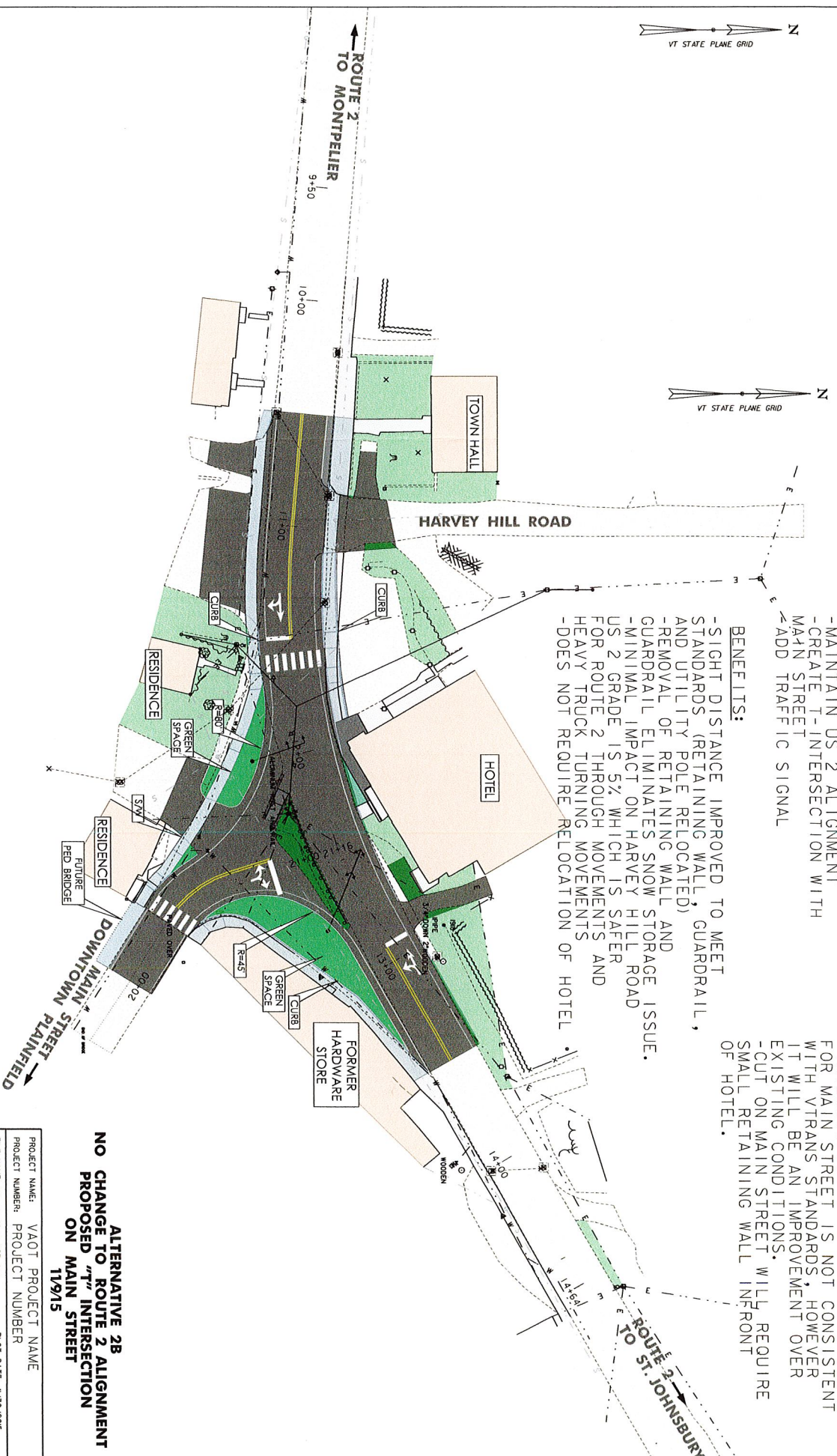
Tammy Farnham

Attachment: Alternative 2B

CC: Gov. Phil Scott
Sen. Ann Cummings
Sen. Anthony Pollina
Sen.-elect Andrew Perchlik
Rep. Janet Ancel
Bram Towbin, Plainfield road commissioner
David Strong, Plainfield advisory committee
Dan Currier, Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission
Rob White, Vermont Transportation Agency
Jesse Devlin, Vermont Transportation Agency
Erin Parizo, Vermont Transportation Agency



1/23/06
3/4" = 1' @ 2'



- ALT. #2B:**
- MAINTAIN US 2 ALIGNMENT
 - CREATE T-INTERSECTION WITH MAIN STREET
 - ADD TRAFFIC SIGNAL

- BENEFITS:**
- SIGHT DISTANCE IMPROVED TO MEET STANDARDS (RETAINING WALL, GUARDRAIL, AND UTILITY POLE RELOCATED)
 - REMOVAL OF RETAINING WALL AND GUARDRAIL ELIMINATES SNOW STORAGE ISSUE.
 - MINIMAL IMPACT ON HARVEY HILL ROAD
 - US 2 GRADE IS 5% WHICH IS SAFER FOR ROUTE 2 THROUGH MOVEMENTS AND HEAVY TRUCK TURNING MOVEMENTS
 - DOES NOT REQUIRE RELOCATION OF HOTEL

- CONSIDERATIONS:**
- INTERSECTION SIDE ROAD GRADE FOR MAIN STREET IS NOT CONSISTENT WITH VTRANS STANDARDS, HOWEVER IT WILL BE AN IMPROVEMENT OVER EXISTING CONDITIONS.
 - CUT ON MAIN STREET WILL REQUIRE SMALL RETAINING WALL IN FRONT OF HOTEL.



**ALTERNATIVE 2B
NO CHANGE TO ROUTE 2 ALIGNMENT
ON PROPOSED "T" INTERSECTION
ON MAIN STREET
11/9/15**

PROJECT NAME:	VAOT PROJECT NAME
PROJECT NUMBER:	PROJECT NUMBER
FILE NAME:	Alternative #2B.dgn
PROJECT LEADER:	
DESIGNED BY:	
PLOT DATE:	11/30/2015
DRAWN BY:	
CHECKED BY:	
SHEET:	5 OF 8