

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBMITTED BY: FRANCINE PERKINS, PUBLIC OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Construction to Start on Replacing Route 2 Bridge-Middlesex

July 22, 2016 – The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) will be moving forward with replacing Bridge 55 located on US 2 in Middlesex. Bridge 55, located approximately 1.9 miles east of the intersection of US 2/VT 100B, spans over Interstate 89 and the New England Central Railroad (NECR) line. This is a multi-year project with construction starting in 2016 and completion scheduled for 2018.

Construction is scheduled to start in August to replace the nine span, two lane structure. Built in 1960, this aging structure is in poor condition with multiple areas of spalling and chipping on the fascias and underside of the concrete bridge deck. The pier caps and bearing seats are also in poor condition. After consideration of several alternatives for replacement of the structure and given the poor condition of the superstructure and substructure components, a full bridge replacement was selected.

The new bridge will be similar to the existing bridge with a paved concrete deck and steel girders. However, the new structure will be a three span structure. In comparison with the old bridge, which is 660 feet long and 35 feet wide, the new bridge will be 512 feet long and 40 feet wide with two 12-foot travel lanes and 6-foot shoulders. In an effort to extend the life of the new structure, non-corrosive reinforcing will be incorporated into the new deck.

Due to the complexity of the bridge and it being located over both Interstate 89 and the NECR rail line, the new bridge will be constructed on a new alignment next to the old bridge. Traffic will be maintained over the old bridge through construction of the new bridge in 2017. The old bridge will be removed and the site restored during the 2018 season.

US 2 traffic can expect brief periods of alternating one-way traffic most days throughout the duration of the project. I-89 traffic may experience northbound and southbound lane closures while crews work over the interstate.

VTrans launched a new website for the US 2 Middlesex project. Project information, construction updates and photos can be found on the website. For more information or to sign up to receive weekly construction updates, visit the website at <http://www.us2middlesex.vtransprojects.vermont.gov/> .

Francine Perkins of FRP Enterprises, LLC has been assigned as Project Outreach Coordinator for the project. Contact Francine with questions at 802-479-6994.