

Vermont – Implementation Strategies/Infrastructure fixes



Chris Slesar VTrans Environmental Resources Coordinator

RESOLUTION 40-3

RESOLUTION ON ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY, ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE, AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

WHEREAS, the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers have shown international leadership through their collective action to address environmental protection and climate change, especially through work to expand use and production of renewable energy and other efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, the region's economy, culture, and identity are closely tied to and dependent upon its forests and water resources; and

WHEREAS, the region's cities and towns, infrastructure, and natural ecosystems are vulnerable to adverse impacts from climate change. Jurisdictions region-wide are taking steps to adapt to a changing climate, by making communities, infrastructure, and public investments more resilient; and

WHEREAS, the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers recognize the inherent connection between the region's forested landscape and its forest products economy, and the important role that private forest landowners play in the health and condition of its forests; and

WHEREAS, the Northern Appalachian-Acadian forest is globally significant as the most intact, contiguous temperate broadleaf forest in the world. The Northeastern coastal forest, including the coastal plain, and the Gulf of Saint Lawrence lowland forest provide a vital link for neotropical migrants of global significance. Boreal forests are globally important for millions of resident and migratory birds, including songbirds which depend on Boreal forests during different stages of their lifecycles. Together, these forests span portions of all six New England states and five eastern Canadian provinces. Global climate change is a prominent threat to the long-term health of these vital ecosystems. The spread of invasive species and wildlife disease, often exacerbated by global climate change, is another key threat; and

WHEREAS, indigenous people historically have a strong connection to the land, and in the present day continue to recognize the traditional importance of a healthy environment to the social well-being and economic prosperity for future generations; and

WHEREAS, maintaining and restoring ecological connectivity is an important strategy for boosting the resilience of the region's native ecosystems and biodiversity, as well as its economy and human communities. Connected habitats provide the natural pathways necessary for fish, wildlife, and plants to move to meet their life needs and to find suitable habitat as climate conditions change. Intact

MEMORANDUM
AGENCY OF
AGENCY OF
FISH AND WILDLIFE
TRANSPORTATION
FISH AND WILDLIFE

THIS MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT was made on this 19 day of SEPTEMBER, 2008, at the Department of Fish and Wildlife Department ("VF&W"), and

WHEREAS, the parties desire to address the impacts of transportation infrastructure on fish and wildlife movement around and through fragmented landscapes resulting from the presence of

WHEREAS, the parties desire to address the impacts of transportation infrastructure through improved transportation infrastructure;

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties agree as follows:

1. **Inter-agency Committee.** The parties agree to establish an Inter-agency Committee, chaired by the Secretary of Transportation designee(s). The Committee will include representatives from the VTrans Program Development and the VTrans Program Development quarterly or as needed to oversee the activities of the Committee.

2. **Identification of Transportation Impacts.** The parties will identify the impacts of highway construction and maintenance not limited to: (a) wildlife mortality from vehicles; (b) fragmentation of habitat; (c) reducing wildlife and aquatic organism passage; and (d) impacts on human health.

3. **Minimization of Transportation Impacts.** The parties agree to address the issues identified in Paragraph 2 of this Memorandum of Agreement through transportation impacts on fish and wildlife.

(a) Investigating use of underground culverts, modifications and associated fencing and guide wildlife movement across

techniques to help predict wildlife

to plan, predict problems, and evaluate the risks of conflicts regarding specific species, regulatory and environmental review

at the bioregional level when feasible and consistent with the overall ecological benefit, with the

regarding culvert installation

to address air quality and its effect

national developments, by sharing information from governmental and non-governmental, and international conferences.

and workshops among the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers between transportation planning and

in effect for an indeterminate period of time, with notice to the other party.

AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

TRANSPORTATION

AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

[Signature]

[Signature]

Sum Dintz

Deb Markovitz
Secretary

TO FORM:

DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE

12/19/2014

[Signature]

Louis Porter
Commissioner

AGENCY GENERAL

International Conference On

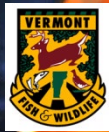
Ecology & Transportation

Burlington, VT

2023 Conference

June 4th - 8th, 2023





Highways & Habitats Staff Trainings

Moose - Wood Turtles – Central Vermont



Photo courtesy of The Orianna Society



Reconnecting VT's last two rattlesnake populations

Wildlife Crossing Pilot Program - \$1.62 million



Thank You!

