

**STATE OF VERMONT****AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

Department of Environmental Conservation

Water Quality Division

5 Perry Street, Suite 80

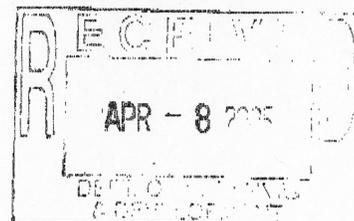
Barre, VT 05641

Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation  
Department of Environmental Conservation

FAX 802-476-0131

TEL 802-476-2679

April 6, 2005

Valerie J. Capels  
Department of Planning and Community Development  
City of Montpelier  
Montpelier, Vermont 05602

Re: Proposed Montpelier Multi-Modal Transit &amp; Welcome Center

We reviewed your letter dated March 10, 2005; which explains the proposed project. A site visit was conducted to determine the existing riparian corridor condition. According to the aerial photo and project footprint outlined; it does not appear that there will be any construction activity that will affect the riverbanks. If this is the case, the project will not require a Stream Alteration Permit per Title 10 V.S.A. Chapter 41.

However, during the site visit, it was noted that the stream banks along the Winooski River and North Branch are heavily vegetated with grass, shrubs and trees. This riparian vegetation provides many functions and values to include: erosion prevention, sediment and pollution control, riverbank stabilization, improved water quality and aesthetic values. For all the above reasons we want to stress the importance of maintaining and enhancing this, already stressed, urban riparian corridor. Also, if any tree trimming is necessary along the corridor we recommend this be done selectively.

To enhance the corridor we recommend the proposed greenway along the rivers include plantings of native shrubs and trees with adequate root structure to stabilize the crest of the embankment. We also recommend discouraging foot traffic on the riverbanks.

As a final point, given the history of ice jams, high water and debris along the Winooski River any fencing or barriers that may be planned for the perimeter of the project (if at all) or adjacent to the rivers should be set back away from the top of banks as far as possible.

Should the project footprint change in such a way as to impact the riverbanks; these impacts will need to be reviewed at that time.

Sincerely,

Patrick Ross  
Stream Alteration Engineer