



State of Vermont  
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Department of Public Safety

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December 16, 2008

Mr. Philip J. Weiser, Regional Administrator  
NHTSA Region I  
Transportation Systems Center  
Kendall Square, 55 Broadway  
Cambridge, MA 02142

RE: Vermont Equipment Purchase Request

Dear Mr. Weiser:

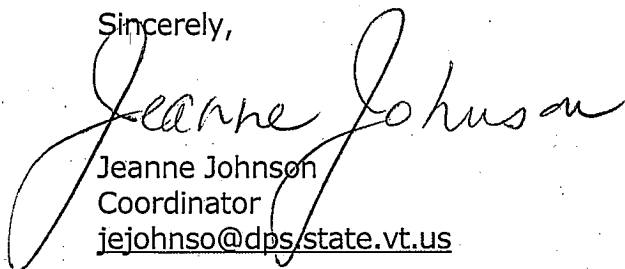
Your approval is requested for the purchase of the following equipment, which was not included in the FFY 2009 Highway Safety Plan because plans and negotiations were still under development at the time the Plan was submitted:

Crash Reconstruction Equipment	Up to \$100,000, 40% §410, 60% §402 funds
License Plate Readers	Up to \$50,000 §402 funds
Gas Chromatograph	Cost Share - 50% of \$20,000 cost - §410 funds

Justification for each type of equipment is attached for your review. Your consideration of this request will be very much appreciated, and we feel each item will contribute to the goals and objectives contained in our Highway Safety Plan for FFY 2009.

With gratitude to you and your staff for all the support provided throughout the year, we wish you and yours a very happy holiday season.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Johnson  
Coordinator  
[jejohnso@dps.state.vt.us](mailto:jejohnso@dps.state.vt.us)

 VERMONT

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## **Vermont State Police** **Crash Reconstruction Team Equipment**

Total Cost: Up to \$100,000  
GHSP Share: 100%  
Funding Source: 40% §410 funds  
60% §402 funds

Purpose: The Vermont State Police currently has twelve certified crash reconstructionists that bring hundreds of hours of specialized training and experience to deal with serious motor vehicle crashes in the State of Vermont. These specialists have assisted federal, state, county and local agencies in crash investigations.

This team has no specialized equipment for crash investigation other than a tape measure and some software that individuals have purchased on their own. Technological advances in equipment will help this team investigate crashes (serious injury/fatal) more effectively, thoroughly and efficiently, keep traffic moving on our highways, and improve the quality, quantity and speed of crash data collection.

The Vermont State Police investigate the vast majority of serious injury and fatal crashes within the state and make members of this team available to aid any agency that requests assistance in these types of investigations. The equipment requested would provide service for the entire state.

Approximately 33% of our fatal and serious injury crashes each year involve impaired operators. In fact, in 2005, according to FARS, 55 operators were killed in motor vehicle crashes on Vermont highways. Of these, thirty (55%) operators had detectable levels of alcohol and or drugs in their blood. For that reason, we plan to use §410 funds for a portion of the cost.

Equipment requested consists of:

- 4 Total Stations – Mapping (laser measuring devices) (1 set per troop command area)
- 4 Accelerometers (1 per troop command area)
- 2 Crash Data Retrieval System and software
- Diagramming software

Cost of equipment and initial training on this equipment is estimated at approximately \$90-100,000.

## **License Plate Readers for Vermont DDACTS Project**

Total Cost: \$20,000 to 25,000 per unit for two units  
GHSP Share: To be determined  
Funding Source: §402 funds  
Purpose: The project managers of the St. Albans Data Driven Approach to Crime and Traffic Safety Pilot Project have requested two license plate readers to maximize productivity of their team operations. Utilizing two borrowed devices from New York state, they compiled the following statistics during one November night:

- ◇ 2,672 license plates read
- ◇ 96 alarms on license plates of suspended drivers
- ◇ 4 citations issued for civilly suspended operators
- ◇ 2 arrests for criminally-suspended operators
- ◇ 1 arrest for a criminal operator who was suspended for DUI and was also DUI at the time of the stop, and the results of the breath test were 0.123% BAC. Operator/Suspect has not held a valid license since 2000.
- ◇ The results showed 1 out of every 27 vehicles in the St. Albans area was possibly being operated by a suspended driver.

The DDACTS project managers noted that it was a rainy, damp, dark night which routinely would not present much in the way of law enforcement activity. In most cases, officers could not even tell if the operator was male or female. Without the aid of the LPRs, they could not even clearly see the license plate numbers from any distance at all. Officers were not able to develop reasonable suspicion for motor vehicle stops for each alarmed case, but successful and actionable law enforcement activity dramatically improved. Local enforcement was surprised at the number of potential DLS operators on the highways.

Expired license plates, suspended operators, insurance, points and moving violations, DUI offenders, wants and warrants for traffic tickets are among the data programmed to trigger an alarm. Vermont DMV provides a list of dui-suspended operators and their associated registration numbers, which is programmed into the devices, making them highly effective in highway safety and impaired driving operations.

One license plate reader would be assigned to Vermont State Police-St. Albans, and the other to St. Albans Police Department.

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## **Vermont Department Of Health** **Gas Chromatograph**

Total Cost: \$20,000

GHSP Share: \$10,000

Funding Source: §410 Funds

Purpose: The Vermont Department of Health Toxicology Program has requested funding for a gas chromatograph equipped with nitrogen-phosphorous specific and flame ionization detectors, to increase capability and capacity for support of DUI and DUID cases. This system would be used primarily for screening blood and urine specimens for presence of illicit drugs of abuse and commonly abused therapeutic drugs. The work will be performed in support of local, county and state law enforcement agencies, particularly for investigations of DUI-drugs. Additionally, it is expected that the system will also be used for toxicological investigations of post-mortem specimens, which would support the collection of data for FARS. This equipment will be used to replace and improve on analytical equipment currently in use which will no longer be available after December of this year because the equipment and reagents are being discontinued by the manufacturer.

The estimated cost of the system is \$20,000. Since the equipment will not be used exclusively for DUID investigations, the Department of Health is requesting partial funding of approximately \$10-15,000.