



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

Region 1
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Maine
Massachusetts
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Rhode Island
Vermont

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August 14, 2009

Jeanne Johnson, Coordinator
Vermont Governor's Highway Safety Program
5 Park Row
Waterbury, Vermont 05671-3201

Dear Ms. Johnson:

We were pleased to review your July 20, 2009 correspondence requesting approval of the expenditure of federal highway safety funds for purchase of Variable Message Boards and License Plate Readers to be used in conjunction with Vermont's existing BATMobiles to further reduce impaired driving. The described strategies and activities to improve public awareness of the consequences for impaired driving, enhance public perception of risk for impaired driving and increase use of sobriety checkpoints are promising approaches known to be effective when fully implemented based on analysis of impaired driving crash and arrest data.

As was indicated in our December 23, 2008 approval to purchase License Plate Readers (LPR), a request for this equipment must justify the need and identify that portion of the amount funded from NHTSA funds based on the documented highway safety program benefit. Enclosed is a NHTSA developed paper on Automatic License Plate Readers that provides a further description on guidance for funding determination. I ask that you address each of the items listed under the Guidance for Funding Determination, and specifically address proportional funding that identifies the basis for determining the NHTSA funding share and that share to be funded by other sources applicable to criminal enforcement.

Approval is granted for purchase of the eight Variable Message Boards at 100 percent federal share using Section 164 transfer funds, with the condition that the use of these message boards would be strictly limited to use in providing impaired driving prevention and enforcement messages and those messages directly related to traffic control for a sobriety checkpoint. Depending on the intended use of these message boards, the State may use other highway safety funds on a proportional basis in order to allow for use in displaying other highway safety messages, such as seat belt use and speed compliance. In addition, the State would need to use non-federal funds on a proportional basis if the intended use includes displaying non-highway safety messages.



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If you require any further information or assistance in this or any other matter involving the Vermont highway safety program, please call Jim Ryan at 617-494-2681 or Mario Damiata at 617-494-2606.

Sincerely,

Philip J. Weiser
Regional Administrator

Enclosure



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