



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

Region 1
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Maine
Massachusetts
New Hampshire
Rhode Island
Vermont

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December 23, 2008

Jeanne Johnson
Vermont Governor's Highway Safety Program
5 Park Row
Waterbury, VT 05671-2101

Dear Ms. Johnson:

We have reviewed your December 19, 2008 correspondence requesting approval of the expenditure of federal traffic safety funds for Crash Reconstruction Equipment, License Plate Readers and a Gas Chromatograph. Thank you for the thoughtful and thorough response which you have made to our request for information.

My response is as follows by equipment item:

Crash Reconstruction Equipment (up to \$100,000 federal share, Section 402): **Approved** with the following condition. The statute and regulation for Section 410 do not permit the expenditure of these federal incentive funds for this purpose. You may use Section 402 federal highway safety funds for this purchase. We are mindful of your concerns about meeting federal matching funds requirements. You may wish to consider having the state police document and report the various expenditures of time, training and services which they provide to support and use this accident reconstruction equipment.

Gas Chromatograph (up to 50 percent federal share, not to exceed \$15,000, Section 410): **Approved**. Your arguments that this equipment will support the prosecution and adjudication of alcohol and drug impaired drivers are compelling. This is especially so when one realizes that in support of the DEC program alone this equipment purchase will save the total amount expended in one to two years (at the current drug specimen test cost of \$1,200 to \$1,500 each).

License Plate Readers (LPR; not to exceed \$50,000 and less than 100 percent federal share, Section 402): **Approved** for 2 units with the following condition. The federal highway safety share shall be proportional to the documented use of the LPR for highway safety activities and the LPR shall be used in support of both traffic and criminal enforcement efforts. This proportion should be documented and the grantee



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should maintain records on the use of the device(s). As in the purchase of any equipment with federal funds, records shall be maintained with sufficient detail to allow an auditor to determine that the device(s) were used in a manner consistent with the terms of the grant.

If there is any thing else which we can do to assist you in carrying out the Vermont Highway Safety Plan please call us. Any questions about the terms of this equipment approval please call Jim Ryan at (617) 494-2681.

Sincerely,

Philip J. Weiser
Regional Administrator



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