

## **Notes on 1<sup>st</sup> Advisory Committee Meeting**

Wednesday November 10, 2010 11:00am

### **Participants:**

- Paul Bierman – University of Vermont – Geology Dept.
- Christine Massey – University of Vermont – Geology Dept.
- Jamie Russell – University of Vermont – Geology Dept.
- Robert McCullough – University of Vermont – Historic Preservation Dept.
- Frank Bryan – University of Vermont – Political Science Dept.
- Brent Bjorkman – The Vermont Folklife Center - Director
- Peter Gilbert – Vermont Humanities Council - Director

### **Scanning**

- Look into 35mm interstate slides at the archive. We will attempt to scan these as soon as possible.
- Images
  - We will scan every 3<sup>rd</sup> Drawer so as to get representative coverage of the images over space and time and so as to cause as little disruption to archive as possible
  - The goal is to scan all 36,000 images if we can gather the resources!!

### **Town Selection**

- Examine and select on the following criteria (non random)
  - North/ South distribution
  - Time of build out, time when the section was built
  - Regional distribution
  - Adjacency – paired towns such as Newbury and Bradford where the impact and interstate proximity seem to be linked
  - Degree of change resulting from the interstate (get gradient)
  - Fates of secondary roads (eg, Route 5)
  - Visual component was the building of the interstate sensitive to the landscape or not?
  - Exit vs. no exit in town
  - Size of town, large vs small
  - Also talk to neighboring towns (fuzzy edges to towns)
  - Differing visual landscape sensitivity of design – Waterbury vs ?
  - Consider degree of town dissection and engineering difficulty

### **Spreading the word**

- Postcards
  - Who, what, where, why, when all on the front
  - NEH logo and NSF logo should be included
  - Larger size
  - Hand-out in person
  - “we want to talk to you...”
- Local contacts

- \*Tony Ferrill\* of Norwich had his town split in two by the interstate and now has an underpass type thing to get to all his fields.
- Charles Fish – photographer and author (in good hands), good local resource
- Don Weidenmeyer, photographer of many of the images – 802-223-5961
- Lola Aiken
- Newspapers
  - Before grad students go into the field, talk to local papers and put an article out **with a picture and blurb** about what they are doing in as many of the towns we are working in as possible
- VPR commentary
  - Peter will do a VPR commentary once we know the towns
- Local Contacts (find and notify for each town on Interstate)
  - Town Clerk
  - Town meeting moderator (get announcement on docket for March)
  - Historical society president
  - Town librarian
- VHC 1<sup>st</sup> Wed talks
  - Towns we might be interested in...
    - Burlington
    - Brattleboro
    - Norwich
    - St. Johnsbury
    - Montpelier
    - Newport
  - November 2011 – May 2012
  - Speakers (need variety)
    - Flashy national figure
      - Seeley? – get from Bob
    - Greg
    - Paul
    - Frank
  - Special initiative on the interstate with up to 6 speakers

### MISC...

- Get a better idea of the construction timeline
- Built around large towns then connected them (couldn't have gone S to N, would have never finished)
- Highway route was established in the late 40's
- The league of Historical Societies meets each year, around Oct/Nov, make sure to go next year
- Find a parallel subject to use as a segue into this topic when trying to advertise – the Interstate, 50 years later.
  - 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary

- “It has been 50 years since beginning construction on the interstate highway system, it’s time to start thinking about it...”
- Bjorkman training series for graduate students
  - Jan – April teaches all aspects of conducting the interviews
- Book at the end
  - Consider VHS to publish the book at the end of the project

**Graduate Student interviews**

- Types of people for students to interview
  - The photographers if they are still alive
  - Machine operators who did the work
  - Surveyors
  - Highway engineers
  - townspeople