

Scenic Evaluation of Interchange Views

Submitted to the **State of Vermont Department of Housing and Community Affairs**
by **Julie Campoli, Terra Firma Urban Design** and **Kathleen Ryan, Landscape Architecture**
as part of the **Design Guidelines for Interstate Interchanges Project**

Background

This document is one of a series of products submitted to the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Affairs as part of its *Design Guidelines for Interstate Interchanges* Project. It includes a scenic evaluation of views at the Vermont interchanges of Interstates 89, 91, and 93 as well as photographs of the top scoring views. This document supplements the previously submitted *Scenic Inventory (9/02)* which included a complete survey of aerial and ground photographs of each interchange.

Method

Our intent was to identify the most scenic views within a 1 mile radius of each interchange. The *Inventory* provided a range of 3-12 images for each site. We selected the two most appealing images from each, representing a northbound and a southbound view. We then used the Vermont State Agency of Natural Resources' evaluation system to assess the scenic qualities of the views. This structure, based on Act 250 Criterion 8, consists of ranking the view within 6 categories of scenic quality. They are: contrast, order, layering, focal point, uniqueness, and intactness. (Descriptions of each criterion are featured on the evaluation forms included). Views are scored from 1 to 3 for each quality, with a 1 being the best value and a 3 being the least appealing. For example in the category of contrast, a view that offers a high degree of clearly discernible and differing landscape elements existing side-by-side would earn a 1. A view with homogenous elements or little contrast would earn a 3. The system is somewhat counterintuitive because it awards a low score the highest value. The possible score ranges from 6 (most scenic) to 18 (least scenic). This document contains 2 sections: the

evaluation forms and the top-rated views. Each page of the evaluation includes, from left to right, the interchange number, its location, the photograph number (corresponding to the Scenic Inventory), the scores for each category, and the total score for the view. The second section contains images of the views that earned a score of 6-11, with the best scoring images in the first pages.

Limitations of this Study

This scenic evaluation is limited by the constraints of still photography and the project budget. Although we visited each of the sites, our field analysis was limited by our inability to stop safely for more than a few minutes on the interstate shoulder. We were able to shoot panoramas to provide a more extensive view, but ultimately, our evaluation of each site was limited to one still photograph taken at only one point in time.

It was very difficult to capture every scenic view along a one-way, limited-access high speed corridor. Some views were passed too quickly to capture, others were left unphotographed because there was no place to pull off the road to stop and shoot. As a result, there are probably some scenic views that are not represented here.

This evaluation does, however, provide a starting point for the protection of views along Vermont's interstate interchanges. It identifies areas that make a significant contribution to the scenic quality of the highways and enables the State to direct its efforts more specifically.

-Julie Campoli, Terra Firma Urban Design, November, 2002

I- 89 Exits									
		CONTRAST		ORDER	LAYERING	FOCAL POINT	UNIQUENESS	INTACTNESS	
<i>Interchange Number</i>	<i>Town</i>	<i>Photo Number</i>	<i>Clearly discernable and differing landscape elements existing side by side</i>	<i>Natural and/or cultural features form patterns that make sense in the landscape</i>	<i>Succession of landscape elements receding into the distance that provides a sense of depth to the landscape</i>	<i>Point to which the eye is inevitably drawn which enlivens the landscape by its dominance.</i>	<i>Distinctive features that are unique to or symbolic of the region</i>	<i>Distinctive natural or cultural attributes have remained largely unaltered over the past century</i>	SCORE
			1. High degree 2. Moderate degree 3. Homogeneous	1. Strong 2. Moderate 3. Weak	1. Many element creating the appearance of layers 2. Few elements 3. No elements or major obstructions in the foreground	1. Distinct and visually pleasing 2. No distinct focal points 3. Displeasing focal points	1. Unique or exemplary 2. Interesting but not unique 3. Common landscape	1. Unique landscape 2. Moderately intact 3. Dominated by incongruous development	
1	Hartford	1.2n	2.5	1.5	1.5	2	3	2	12.5
		1.3s	2.5	2.5	1.5	2	3	2	13.5
2	Sharon	2.1n	2.5	3	2	1.5	3	2	14
		2.1s	2.5	3	2	1.5	3	2	14
3	Roylton	3.1n	2.5	2.5	2	2	2	2	13
		3.1s	1.5	1	1.5	1.5	2	1.5	9
4	Randolph	4.1n	2	1	1	1.5	1.5	1	8
		4.2s	2	2	1.5	2	2	2	11.5
5	Williamstown	5.2n	2.5	3	2.5	1.5	3	2	14.5
		5.2s	2.5	3	2.5	1.5	3	2	14.5
6	Berlin	6.5n	2	2	1	1.5	1	1	8.5
		6.4s	3	3	2	2	3	2	15
7	Berlin	7.5n	2	1	1	1	1	1	7
		7.4s	2	2	2	2.5	3	2	13.5

			CONTRAST	ORDER	LAYERING	FOCAL POINT	UNIQUENESS	INTACTNESS	
Interchange Number	Town	Photo Number	<i>Clearly discernable and differing landscape elements existing side by side</i>	<i>Natural and/or cultural features form patterns that make sense in the landscape</i>	<i>Succession of landscape elements receding into the distance that provides a sense of depth to the landscape</i>	<i>Point to which the eye is inevitably drawn which enlivens the landscape by its dominance.</i>	<i>Distinctive features that are unique to or symbolic of the region</i>	<i>Distinctive natural or cultural attributes have remained largely unaltered over the past century</i>	SCORE
			1. High degree 2. Moderate degree 3. Homogeneous	1. Strong 2. Moderate 3. Weak	1. Many element creating the appearance of layers 2. Few elements 3. No elements or major obstructions in the foreground	1. Distinct and visually pleasing 2. No distinct focal points 3. Displeasing focal points	1. Unique or exemplary 2. Interesting but not unique 3. Common landscape	1. Unique landscape 2. Moderately intact 3. Dominated by incongruous development	
8	Montpelier								
		8.4n	1	1.5	1	1	1	1	6.5
		8.3s	2	2	2	1.5	2	2	11.5
9	Middlese								
		9.2n	2	3	1.5	1	1.5	2	11
		9.2s	2	2.5	2	1.5	2	2	12
10	Waterbury								
		10.4n	2	2.5	2	2	2.5	2	13
		10.5s	2	2	2	2	3	2	13
11	Richmon								
		11.1n	1	1.5	1	1	1	1	6.5
		11.3s	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
12	Williston								
		12.5n	3	3	2	3	3	3	17
		12.3s	1.5	2	1	1	1	2.5	9
13	S. Burl.								
		13.1n	3	3	3	2	3	2.5	16.5
		13.1s	3	3	3	2	3	2.5	16.5
14	S. Burl.								
		14.1n	1.5	2	3	2	2	2.5	13
		14.2s	3	3	3	3	3	2.5	17.5

		CONTRAST	ORDER	LAYERING	FOCAL POINT	UNIQUENESS	INTACTNESS	SCORE	
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			1. High degree 2. Moderate degree 3. Homogeneous	1. Strong 2. Moderate 3. Weak	1. Many element creating the appearance of layers 2. Few elements 3. No elements or major obstructions in the foreground	1. Distinct and visually pleasing 2. No distinct focal points 3. Displeasing focal points	1. Unique or exemplary 2. Interesting but not unique 3. Common landscape	1. Unique landscape 2. Moderately intact 3. Dominated by incongruous development	
15	Winooski		no ground photos possible because of lack of stopping areas along this portion of the highway						
16	Colchstr								
		16.4n	3	3	3	3	3	3	18
		16.2s	3	3	2	1	3	2.5	14.5
17	Colchstr/M								
		17.1n	2.5	2	2.5	2	3	2	14
		17.1s	2.5	2.5	3	2	3	2	15
18	Georgia								
		18.1n	2.5	2	2	1.5	2	2	12
		18.2s	2.5	2	2	1.5	2	2	12
19	St. Albans								
			no ground photos possible because of lack of stopping areas along this portion of the highway						
		19.1s	1.5	1.5	1.5	2	1	1.5	9
20	St Albans								
		20.1n	3	3	3	2	3	2	16
		20.2s	2.5	3	3	2	3	2	15.5
21	Swanton								
		21.3n	2.5	3	3	2	3	2	15.5
		21.3s	2.5	2.5	2.5	2	3	2	14.5
22	Highgate								
		22.2n	2.5	3	3	2	3	2	15.5
		22.2s	2.5	3	3	2	3	2	15.5

I- 91 Exits									
			CONTRAST	ORDER	LAYERING	FOCAL POINT	UNIQUENESS	INTACTNESS	
<i>Interchange Number</i>	<i>Town</i>	<i>Photo Number</i>	<i>Clearly discernable and differing landscape elements existing side by side</i>	<i>Natural and/or cultural features form patterns that make sense in the landscape</i>	<i>Succession of landscape elements receding into the distance that provides a sense of depth to the landscape</i>	<i>Point to which the eye is inevitably drawn which enlivens the landscape by its dominance.</i>	<i>Distinctive features that are unique to or symbolic of the region</i>	<i>Distinctive natural or cultural attributes have remained largely unaltered over the past century</i>	SCORE
			1. High degree 2. Moderate degree 3. Homogeneous	1. Strong 2. Moderate 3. Weak	1. Many element creating the appearance of layers 2. Few elements 3. No elements or major obstructions in the foreground	1. Distinct and visually pleasing 2. No distinct focal points 3. Displeasing focal points	1. Unique or exemplary 2. Interesting but not unique 3. Common landscape	1. Unique landscape 2. Moderately intact 3. Dominated by incongruous development	
1	Brattleboro								
		1.1n	2	2	2	1.5	2	2	11.5
		1.1s	2	2	2.5	1.5	3	2	13
2	Brattleboro								
		2.1s	2.5	2	2	1.5	2.5	2	12.5
3	Brattleboro								
		3.3n	1	2	1	3	2	3	12
		3.2s	2	3	2	3	3	3	16
4	Putney								
		4.6n	3	2	2	1	2	2	12
		4.3s	3	3	2	3	3	2	16
5	Westminster								
		5.2n	3	2	2	2	3	2	12
		5.2s	2	1.5	2	1.5	2.5	1.5	11
6	Rockingham								
		6.3n	2	2	1.5	1.5	2	2	11
		6.3s	2	2	2	1.5	2	2	11.5
7	Springfield								
		7.4n	2.5	2.5	2	1.5	3	2	13.5
		7.4s	2.5	2	2	1.5	3	2	13

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			1. High degree 2. Moderate degree 3. Homogeneous	1. Strong 2. Moderate 3. Weak	1. Many element creating the appearance of layers 2. Few elements 3. No elements or major obstructions in the foreground	1. Distinct and visually pleasing 2. No distinct focal points 3. Displeasing focal points	1. Unique or exemplary 2. Interesting but not unique 3. Common landscape	1. Unique landscape 2. Moderately intact 3. Dominated by incongruous development	
8	Weathsfld								
		8.1n	1.5	2	2	1	1	1.5	9
		8.1s	2.5	2.5	2.5	1.5	3	2	14
9	Hartland								
		9.4n	2	1.5	2	2	2.5	1.5	11.5
		9.2s	2	1.5	1.5	1	1.5	1.5	9
10	Hartford								
		10.1n	2.5	3	2.5	1.5	2	2	11.5
		10.1s	2	3	1	1	1.5	3	11.5
11	WRJ								
		11.1n	2.5	3	3	2	3	2	15.5
		11.1s	2.5	2.5	3	2	3	2	15
12	Wilder								
		12.2n	2	2	1.5	2	2	2	11.5
		12.3s	1.5	2	2	2	2	2	11.5
13	Norwich								
		13.3n	2	2	2.5	2	2	2	12.5
		13.1s	1.5	2	1.5	1	2	2	10
14	Thetford								
		14.6n	2	2.5	2	2	3	2	13.5
		14.2s	2	2.5	2	1.5	3	2	13

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			1. High degree 2. Moderate degree 3. Homogeneous	1. Strong 2. Moderate 3. Weak	1. Many element creating the appearance of layers 2. Few elements 3. No elements or major obstructions in the foreground	1. Distinct and visually pleasing 2. No distinct focal points 3. Displeasing focal points	1. Unique or exemplary 2. Interesting but not unique 3. Common landscape		1. Unique landscape 2. Moderately intact 3. Dominated by incongruous development
15	Fairlee								
		15.1n	1	1.5	1	1.5	1.5	1.5	8
		15.2s	2	2	2	1.5	2	2	11.5
16	Bradford								
		16.3n	2	3	1	2	1.5	2	11.5
		16.4s	1	1	1	1	1.5	2.5	8
17	Wells River								
		17.3n	1	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	2	9
		17.3s	2.5	2	2.5	2	2	2	13
18	Barnet								
		18.3n	1.5	1	1	1	1.5	1.5	7.5
		18.5s	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
19	St. Johnsbury								
		19.2n	1.5	2	1.5	2	1.5	2	10.5
20	St. Johnsbury								
		20.1n	2	2	2	2.5	3	2	13.5
		20.3s	2	2	2	3	3	3	15
21	St. Johnsbury								
		21.1n	2	2	1	1	2	2	2
		21.2s	2	2	2	1	2	2	11
22	St. Johnsbury								
		22.1n	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
		22.3s	2	2	1.5	1.5	2	2	11
23	Lyndonville								
		23.2n	2	3	1.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
		23.3s	2	2.5	2.5	2	2	2	13

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			1. High degree 2. Moderate degree 3. Homogeneous	1. Strong 2. Moderate 3. Weak	1. Many element creating the appearance of layers 2. Few elements 3. No elements or major obstructions in the foreground	1. Distinct and visually pleasing 2. No distinct focal points 3. Displeasing focal points	1. Unique or exemplary 2. Interesting but not unique 3. Common landscape	1. Unique landscape 2. Moderately intact 3. Dominated by incongruous development	
24	Lyndon	24.1n	2.5	3	2.5	2	3	2	15
		24.2s	1	2	2	1.5	1.5	2	10
25	Barton	25.5n	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
		25.3s	1.5	1	1.5	1.5	1	1	7.5
26	Orleans	26.2n	2	2	1.5	1.5	2	2.5	11.5
		26.4s	1.5	1	1	1.5	1	1	7
27	Derby	27.1n	3	2	3	2	3	2	15
		27.1s	2	2	1.5	2	2	2	11.5
28	Derby Ctr	28.2n	2	2	2	2	2	2.5	12.5
		28.3s	2	2	2	2	2.5	2	12.5
29	Derby Line	29.2n	2.5	2.5	2	2	3	2	14
		29.1s	3	2	2	2	3	2	14
I- 93 Exit									
1	Waterford	1.2n	1.5	1	1	1.5	1.5	2	8.5
		1.3s	1	1	1	1	1	1	6



Score: 6 Location: I-89, Exit 11s, Richmond



Score: 6 Location: I-93, Exit 1s, Waterford



Score: 6 Location: I-91, Exit 18s, Barnet



Score: 6 Location: I-91, Exit 25n, Barton



Score: 6.5 Location: I-89, Exit 11n, Richmond



Score: 6.5 Location: I-89, Exit 8n, Montpelier



Score: 7 Location: I-89, Exit 7n, Berlin



Score: 7 Location: I-91, Exit 26s, Orleans



Score: 7.5 Location: I-91, Exit 25s, Barton



Score: 7.5 Location: I-91, Exit 18n, Barnet



Score: 8 Location: I-91, Exit 15n, Fairlee



Score: 8 Location: I-91, Exit 16s, Bradford



Score: 8 Location: I-89, Exit 4n, Randolph



Score: 8.5 Location: I-89, Exit 6n, Berlin



Score: 8.5 Location: I-93, Exit 1n, Waterford



Score: 9 Location: I-89, Exit 12s, Williston



Score: 9 Location: I-91, Exit 9s, Hartland



Score: 9 Location: I-89, Exit 19s, St. Albans



Score: 9 Location: I-91, Exit 8n, Weathersfield



Score: 9 Location: I-91, Exit 22s, St. Johnsbury



Score: 9 Location: I-91, Exit 17n, Wells River



Score: 9 Location: I-89, Exit 3s, Bethel



Score: 10 Location: I-91, Exit 21n, St. Johnsbury



Score: 10 Location: I-91, Exit 13s, Norwich



Score: 10 Location: I-91, Exit 24s, Lyndon



Score: 10.5 Location: I-91, Exit 19n, St. Johnsbury



Score: 11 Location: I-89, Exit 9n, Middlesex



Score: 11 Location: I-91, Exit 21s, St. Johnsbury



Score: 11 Location: I-91, Exit 5s, Westminster



Score: 11 Location: I-91, Exit 6n, Rockingham