



Colchester
VERMONT

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The Town of Colchester will be replacing the Morehouse Brook Culvert which crosses Mallets Bay Avenue at the Winooski and Colchester town line. The culvert is badly in need of repair, during several severe rain events sink holes have developed just outside of the roadway. Unfortunately, the size of this project will require closure of Mallets Bay Ave to through traffic. We expect construction to begin around the end of June to early July. Our best estimate at this time is a one to two month closure. We are hopeful however that the closure will be shorter than this and will be taking every step possible to keep the closure as short as possible.

We fully understand the significance of the closure and the inconvenience it will have on the traveling public. Closing a Town roadway is always our last resort when repairs are needed. For this project there are several factors that make the closure necessary.

- Foremost, the culvert is very deep with the bottom of the proposed culvert at about 18 feet below the surface of Mallets Bay Avenue. As a result, very large machinery will be required which will take up the entire width of the roadway. In addition to the depth of the excavation, the work area will be very large with large quantities of materials that must be stored all within a very small area. The area is bordered by a deep ravine on one side and a steep embankment on the other.
- The culvert is also crossed by several other utilities such as gas, water, and power lines all within this small area. Unfortunately, the area required for even a temporary bypass road, or even a single lane is just not sufficient to ensure the safety of the public and the contractor.
- The existing culvert itself is a very large structure. It is approximately 150' long and five feet in diameter. Each eight foot piece will weigh several tons and will need to be placed by a large piece of machinery set up in and around the roadway.

We plan to incorporate language into the contract for one lane of traffic to be open as soon as it can be safely permitted. The town has also made arrangements to use the Whitcomb quarry as a bypass road for emergency vehicles only. We appreciate the public's patience and understanding and we are committed to completing this project quickly and with as little inconvenience to the public as possible. We will continue our



public education and outreach efforts via Front Porch Forum, the town website, newspaper postings, CCRPC traffic alerts, individual letters and roadway signage.

In the meantime, if you should have any further questions about this project, please do not hesitate to contact the Department of Public Works at 802-264-5620 or rparry@colchestervt.gov.