



## **CITY OF MONTPELIER, VERMONT**

**- THE SMALLEST CAPITAL CITY IN THE UNITED STATES -**

Mayor Mary S. Hooper

City Council:

Harold Garabedian  
Tom Golonka  
Andy Hooper  
Jim Sheridan  
Nancy Sherman  
Nancy Wasserman

William Fraser,  
City Manager  
[wfraser@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:wfraser@montpelier-vt.org)

Beverlee Pembroke Hill  
Assistant City Manager  
[bhill@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:bhill@montpelier-vt.org)

August 26, 2010

Mr. Allan R. Carr  
P.O. Box 173  
Grand Isle, Vermont 05458

Dear Allan,

I am writing to update you on matters relating to your property in Montpelier. On July 28, 2010 the City Council authorized me to take action to utilize Federal Highway Funds to complete downtown improvements including the bike path, open space, parking, a pedestrian bridge and other improvements. This may also include the Transit Center if the FEMA floodway issue is successfully resolved. However the Council directed me to pursue the other improvements regardless of the FEMA decision.

The following actions have occurred:

- The city filed an appeal with FEMA which involved generating a great deal of technical data about the river flow. A decision is expected in the very future.
- We have filed amendments with Federal Highway for approval to proceed with the downtown improvements (non Transit Center) project elements. This includes acquisition of your property and others.

Once FHWA approval is gained, the city will have to, again, conduct an appraisal following the federal guidelines. The appraisal will consider commercial value of the property but also consider the costs of mitigating environmental conditions and the retaining wall.

After FHWA approval of the appraisals, the city will be permitted to negotiate with you for purchase of the site. This is the same process that has been in place.

You may or may not be aware that Federal Transit had issued an approval for use of the property but then rescinded it once they became aware of the FEMA floodway issue. Therefore we are not presently authorized to discuss use of federal money to buy your land.

I have enclosed a copy of a memo that I provided the City Council on July 28<sup>th</sup>. Their authorization to me was to take actions consistent with those outlined in the memo.

I will keep you informed as information – such as the FEMA decision or FHWA approval – become known to the city. I am sure that this all sounds “the same” to you and I am sorry for that. When spending federal money we are limited by federal rules and processes, I wish it all moved faster.

Sincerely,

William J. Fraser  
City Manager

cc: Mayor Hooper & City Council Members