



SBBA - Statement of Support for Exit 12B

The South Burlington Business Association has reviewed the I-89 2050 Study as presented to the City Council on February 16, 2021. The SBBA has been engaged in the I-89 Corridor Study from its commencement and attaches a great deal of importance to its outcomes. After reviewing the Study, the SBBA strongly recommends support of the Exit 12B option for the following reasons:

Economic vitality / Strategic growth / Sustainability

- Job Access: more efficient access to employment centers.
- Growth targeted at existing business parks, the land surrounding and adjacent to Exit 12B is already zoned and proposed for growth and development and so it *will* occur, it is just a matter of absorption timing and having those tax revenues and employment growth sooner rather than later.
- Operational efficiency for businesses - more efficient travel routes for both employees and materials.
- Efficient use of existing public infrastructure.
- Increases in tax revenues by adding to the commercial grand list.
- Alternate interstate access to / from City Center thereby helping its absorption rate and payback of City financed TIF bonds.

More efficient use of city streets

- Alternate access to employment centers and the airport - a new exchange can provide an opportunity to re-route traffic from over utilized city streets such as Williston Road and Dorset Street, ultimately making them more pedestrian and bike friendly.
- Direct freight access (Fedex, UPS, freight) to businesses centers.
- A new interstate exchange at 12B will not create new traffic but rather distribute traffic more efficiently.

Economic Engine

- South Burlington is the regional hub for economic activity with multiple employment centers, a regional airport, and several travel thoroughfares. It is imperative that we maximize efficiency of our transportation infrastructure to maintain our economic vitality. A vibrant economy provides the economics to support our educational, environmental, and public services objectives.
- More direct access to the airport for travelers.

Affordability

- Shortening commute distances for employment opportunities and sustaining economic vitality will help grow the grand list and make South Burlington more affordable.
- As entry level home buyers are forced to live in surrounding communities because of price points, more direct access to employment centers will make the commute more affordable and reduce carbon footprints.



Our local municipal and regional plan has identified areas where they want to encourage economic and residential growth. We have made most of the investments needed to provide utility and road infrastructure to support that growth. The I-89 2050 Study provides guidance on where we need to improve or add new infrastructure. The South Burlington Business Association feels strongly that construction of Exit 12B is fully aligned with the “Current I-89 Visions and Goals” statement.

Growth in this area has been planned for decades. We want growth that is necessary to support the region and the State to occur in this compact area. Doing so is both economically and environmentally advantageous. Exit 12B is critical for that growth to occur.

Submitted on behalf of the SBBA Board.