

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS STATE OF VERMONT

January 2, 2025
City of Vergennes, Ron Redmond
Vergennes

120 Main St., Vergennes, VT 05491 | 802-877-3637

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Vergennes.

Request for Release of Funds

On or about January 17, 2025 the City of Vergennes will submit a request to the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development (the Agency) to release the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (PL 93-383), the National Affordable Housing Act, as amended, to undertake a project known as the All Access Project at the Vergennes Opera House for the purpose of building an elevator tower and other accessibility modifications. The project is located at 120 Main St in Vergennes. The total estimated cost of the project is \$1,689,428: approximately \$500,000 of Congressionally Directed Spending from the National Park Service; \$300,000 from the Northern Border Regional Commission; \$223,787 from the Vermont Community Recovery and Revitalization Program; \$30,000 from the Vermont Arts Council; \$15,000 from Preservation Trust of VT; \$10,000 from the Vermont Community Foundation- Walter Cerf Grants; \$460,641 from donations; and \$150,000 in CDBG funding.

Finding of No Significant Impact

The City of Vergennes has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the municipal office of the City of Vergennes at 120 Main St Vergennes and may be examined or copied on Monday-Thursday from 8:00AM to 4:30PM.

Public Comments

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of Vergennes, Attn: Ron Redmond, City Manager at 120 Main St. All comments received by January 17, 2025 will be considered by the City of Vergennes prior to authorizing the submission of a request for release of funds. Comments must specify which Notice they are addressing the Finding of No Significant Impact or the Request for the Release of Funds.

Environmental Certification

The City of Vergennes is certifying to the Agency that Ron Redmond in their official capacity as City Manager, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The Agency's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of Vergennes to use the CDBG funds.

Objections to Release of Funds

The Agency will accept objections to its release of funds and the City of Vergennes' certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer, Ron Redmond; (b) the Town has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by the Agency; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to the Attn: Grace Vinson, Environmental Officer, Agency of Commerce and Community Development, One National Life Drive, Davis Building, 6th Floor, Montpelier, Vermont 05620. Potential objectors should contact the Agency to verify the actual last date of the objection period.