

## A Message from Secretary Neale Lunderville

Dear taxpayers and travelers,



The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) in 2006 continued its aggressive agenda to become a leader among the nation's transportation agencies. VTrans' leadership team advanced its effort to embrace asset management and develop a scientific prioritization system that will guide the maintenance and preservation of Vermont's transportation infrastructure well into the future.

To keep the Agency focused, we established four new goals for the organization – SAFETY, EXCELLENCE, PLANNING, and PRESERVATION – that reflect our desire to provide all travelers with a safe and reliable transportation network in every part of Vermont.

To help achieve these goals, VTrans put more money to work – \$436 million – in 2006 than during any other year in its history. Thanks to passage of the most recent six-year federal transportation reauthorization bill (SAFETEA-LU), Vermont received an annual increase of more than \$60 million in federal aid and was able to expand its efforts in several critical areas.

This additional funding enabled VTrans in 2006 to significantly enhance its core operations by **increasing** our:

- Paving budget by 38 percent.
- Roadway budget by 37 percent.
- Structures (bridges and culverts) budget by 36 percent.
- Public transit budget by 18 percent.

Other important programs also received a significant revenue influx as the Agency's bicycle and pedestrian program increased by 153 percent, highway safety and traffic operations program rose by 125 percent, and its rail program increased by 110 percent.

Every opportunity, however, has its challenges. This influx in federal funds came at a time when state transportation revenues – which are fueled primarily by gas taxes and vehicle purchase and use taxes – did not meet anticipated revenue forecasts. To meet state match requirements, Vermont increased motor vehicle fees by \$13 million.

Overcoming challenges was possible due to the unwavering support of the Governor, the Legislature and our many partners throughout the state. Their efforts allowed our staff, our consultants and the construction community to advance one of the most aggressive transportation programs Vermont has seen in some time.

Many of those efforts are outlined in this report, which provides an in-depth view of our 2006 accomplishments organized around the Agency's four new goals.