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Section Two – TRANSPORTATION

Roads and other Facilities:

A good transportation network is vital to the forest industry and landowners in our area. Large, heavy equipment and trucks need to move effectively and efficiently to and from logging sites on both public and private roads. Assuming careful consideration of environmental impacts, the Commission generally supports the development of private roads for the logging industry. However, due to the long term implications of new and existing roads in a sometimes harsh climate, the Commission is very concerned about the general design, use, and maintenance of both private and public roads. From a safety standpoint, this is especially true given that these roads are used by increasing numbers of people accessing their properties or for recreation. At present, the only town roads in the UTG area are located in Averill (Cottage Rd, Forest Lake Rd., and Canaan Hill Rd. - Total 6.65 miles of Class 3 roads). Nevertheless, we would like the total number of roads kept to a minimum and consideration of environmental quality given priority when roads are developed and maintained. Also, given the long term maintenance costs for roads, the Board of Governors should carefully consider requests to take on or develop any new roads and do so only after they were built to State of Vermont standards.

The Commission is also interested in maintaining a good and comprehensive transportation system for residents, landowners, and visitors on the existing public roads. In general, we also encourage expanded opportunities for snowmobiles and bicycles on all public roads and lands. We also accept ATVs on roads for which this use has been permitted by the Board of Governors. Designation of scenic roads will be done on a case by case basis and should only be initiated at the local level.

The John Boylan State Airport in Brighton provides an opportunity for aircraft operations, which currently adequately meets the needs of the UTG.

Recommended Actions for Transportation:

1. Make state transportation officials and policy makers at all levels aware of local opinion on issues affecting transportation in our local area.
2. Clearly identify the policies governing the use and maintenance of public and private roads in the UTG (i.e. roads other than town-owned roads).

Transportation Maps can be found at the end of this document.