

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Crews work through the night to repair I-89 sinkhole near Sharon

July 4, 2017 / Montpelier, VT – Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) maintenance crews worked through the night after a sinkhole was discovered yesterday evening on I-89 northbound between Hartford, Exit 1, and Sharon, Exit 2. The interstate was shut down from approximately 6:30 pm Monday evening until 4:00 am this morning, when it was reopened to traffic. The right lane remains closed until it can be repaved.

The sinkhole developed at mile marker 7.5, which is approximately one mile south of the Sharon Rest Area on I-89 northbound. Measuring several feet in diameter, the sinkhole appeared to be caused by failure of a collar that held two sections of pipe together. VTrans maintenance crews had to bring in an excavator for the emergency installation of a new collar. The pipe itself appeared to be in good shape and was not attributed to the failure.

Vermont State Police troopers initially responded to reports of the sinkhole, and worked together with VTrans crews to divert traffic off the interstate at Exit 1, and back on at Exit 2, via Route 14. Automated message boards were utilized in Vermont and New Hampshire to alert motorists heading northbound of the detour.

VTrans expects the interstate to be fully operational again by the end of the day Wednesday, after the excavated area can be repaved. Asphalt plants are closed today due to the holiday.

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