

# ESSEX & JERICHO SCENIC ASSESSMENT PROJECT

## VOLUNTEER INSTRUCTIONS

*Thank you for helping Smart Growth Vermont and the towns of Essex and Jericho assess their scenic roads! Volunteers are absolutely essential to the success of this project. This flyer explains everything you'll need to know when you're out doing the assessment.*

### **STEP 1: FIND THE FIRST POINT ON THE MAP AND GO THERE**

All the scenic assessment work is being done from predetermined points spaced about 500 feet apart along selected roads. The points are labeled on your map with codes that end in letters (from A to T, or sometimes fewer). Locate the point whose code ends in "A," use the aerial photo to figure out where it is on the landscape, and position yourselves there.

### **STEP 2: TAKE A 180 DEGREE PANORAMA OF PHOTOS**

Your job is not to take pictures of any particular features, but rather to document each assessment point as objectively as possible. Volunteer #1 stands with his back to the road, then turns 90 degrees to the left so he is looking back along the road. Volunteer #2 then holds up a piece of paper with the entire code for that assessment point written on it (for example, SK-03-A), and Volunteer #1 takes a picture of the left-hand-most frame of the panorama with the paper in clear view. (This is to help us label the images properly later.) Then Volunteer #2 steps back, at which point Volunteer #1 re-snaps the same picture without the paper and then snaps the entire panorama. *NOTE: Ignore the direction of the arrow on the map – it has no particular significance.*

### **STEP 3: SCORE WHAT YOU SEE**

Turn over your map. There is a scoring sheet on the other side. Each row corresponds with one assessment point, and the rows are pre-labeled with the letters of the assessment points. Using the questions on the other side of this sheet as a guide, give the view a score for each of the criteria. (The two volunteers should confer to make sure they are in agreement, and if not, they should try to come to consensus.) Don't think about it too much — once you both have a good sense of what the criteria are about, just go with your gut.

### **STEP 4: GO TO THE NEXT ASSESSMENT POINT**

Start over at the next point. Be sure to do the points in order! The sequence zig-zags up the road, which means you are doing both sides concurrently.

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## ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

### GENERAL INFORMATION

#### Relationship to previous point

*Is the view from this assessment point essentially the same view as the previous one on the same side of the road, or is it a different view? The view is considered "different" if you have gone over a rise, around a corner, or otherwise shifted to a new perspective.*

(Y or N)

### OVERALL LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

#### Criterion 1: Extent of view

*How "big" is the view from this location?*

- 1 = Sweeping, long-distance view
- 2 = Moderately open view
- 3 = Totally obstructed/enclosed view

#### Criterion 2: Sense of depth

*Are there layers that recede into the distance?*

- 1 = Many layers, from fields to mountains
- 2 = Some layers
- 3 = Few or no layers

#### Criterion 3: Traditional landscape patterns

*Are traditional rural patterns of land use still dominant?*

- 1 = Barns, farmhouses, fields, woods
- 2 = Some suburban development
- 3 = Subdivisions and strip development

#### Criterion 4: Focal points

*Is there a pleasing dominant feature that draws the eye?*

- 1 = Single pleasing dominant feature
- 2 = Multiple competing (but pleasing) features
- 3 = Displeasing or no dominant feature

#### Criterion 5: Quality of NATURAL landscape elements

- 1 = Outstanding/exemplary
- 2 = Moderately interesting
- 3 = Unremarkable or absent

#### Criterion 6: Quality of BUILT landscape elements

- 1 = Outstanding/exemplary
- 2 = Moderately interesting
- 3 = Unremarkable or absent

### SPECIFIC SCENIC FEATURES

#### Criterion 7: Mt. Mansfield

*Is Mt. Mansfield visible from this assessment point?*

(Y or N)

#### Criterion 8: Camel's Hump

*Is Camel's Hump visible from this assessment point?*

(Y or N)

#### Criterion 9: Other significant NATURAL features

*Are there any other major natural features visible from this point, such as ridgelines, waterways, or the like? If yes, please identify in Notes section.*

(Y or N)

#### Criterion 10: Significant BUILT features

*Are there any important BUILT features visible from this point, such as historic barns, a town green, or the like? If yes, please identify in Notes section.*

(Y or N)

#### Notes

*Add any explanatory information required to fill out your answers to the questions above.*