

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

14 Seminary Street

Middlebury, VT 05753

www.acrpc.org

Phone: 802.388.3141

Fax: 802.388.0038

Addison County Regional Planning Commission Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) FY 2020 TRANSPORTATION PLANNING STUDY REQUEST FORM

The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) is preparing to submit its FY 2021 (Oct. 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021) Transportation Planning Initiative (TPI) Workplan and Budget. The TPI is designed to foster greater involvement in the transportation planning process by local citizens and officials. Each year, the ACRPC sets aside a portion of the annual TPI funding received to hire consultants to perform various transportation studies in the county on behalf of our member municipalities, a consortium of municipalities, or a regional organization. Grant awards are contingent on ACRPC receiving funding from VTrans.

Do you have a transportation or traffic-related problem affecting your community? The TAC is requesting a list of transportation planning studies to fund in Addison County. (Note: these funds **cannot** be used for construction projects.) The TAC will evaluate all requests at their meeting to be held on September 16, 2020. Please be prepared, at the TAC's request, to have a representative make a short presentation at that TAC meeting. Thank you for taking the time to help us develop our priorities for future transportation studies and projects.

Description of Problem: Crossing busy Route 7 safely is a challenge in Downtown Middlebury. The objective of this study is to improve safety at the intersection of Route 7 & Elm Street/Stewart Lane. We propose to do this by realigning the approach of Stewart Lane where it meets Route 7, and adding proper pedestrian crossing signalization at this intersection.

Description of Planning Study: We propose to hire a traffic engineer to perform an intersection study for realigning the Stewart Lane approach, as well as adding pedestrian signalization at Route 7. The consultant will provide final conceptual plans and estimates. These deliverables will prepare us to apply for implementation funds to produce final plans and bid and construct improvements in a future and final phase of the project. This is a basic intersection study, and as proposed does not involve the development of design alternatives or an extensive public input process. This study will utilize town, state and regional staff to develop a concept design to be vetted by the appropriate town committees as presented at 1-2 advertised public meetings. The project will be managed by the Director of Public Works Planning, with project administration and support from the Town Planner.

Scope of work:

1. Project Kickoff
2. Existing Conditions Assessment
 - Base plan development (analyze orthophotos, topographic survey and ROW delineation)
 - Signal system inventory
 - Inventory of existing signal controller hardware, detectors, signals, signal timings, etc.
3. Develop Draft Intersection/Signal Conceptual Plan & Cost Estimate
 - Concept Plan would include the following elements:
 - Re-aligned Stewart Lane approach (roadway, curbing, drainage, sidewalk)
 - Signal layout with new mast arms and pedestrian signals & actuation
 - Signal timing and phasing plan with new pedestrian phase

Addison	Bridport	Bristol	Cornwall	Ferrisburgh	Goshen	Leicester
Lincoln	Middlebury	Monkton	New Haven	Orwell	Panton	Ripton
Salisbury	Shoreham	Starksboro	Vergennes	Waltham	Weybridge	Whiting



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- Conceptual Cost Estimate
- 4. Develop Final Intersection/Signal Conceptual Plan
 - Update conceptual plans and cost estimate based on comments from Town, ACRPC, and VTrans

Expected Benefits of Planning Study: This study will enable us to use an experienced traffic engineer to design needed safety improvements for bicycles and pedestrians using this busy intersection at the Route 7 gateway into Downtown. There are bike-ped safety benefits from this study, as the bike-ped community identified this as an unsafe intersection during our DT master planning process. There will also be vehicular safety benefits, as realignment of the intersection will improve sight distance for vehicles turning out onto Route 7. There are connectivity benefits that will improve our bike-ped transportation network as a whole, as this is a critical intersection for connecting the east and west sides of Downtown. Stewart Lane functions as on-road section of the Trail Around Middlebury (TAM) between Chipman Hill and Wright Park, and it brings guests from the Swift House Inn into Downtown. This intersection is the Rte 7 crossing closest to both the future multimodal path (and beverage trail) along Exchange Street *and* the future Amtrak platform (2021). With new bike and foot traffic generated by these amenities, we anticipate that bicycle/pedestrian use of this intersection will significantly increase in the next few years, and we would like our Downtown walking/biking maps to send people to a safe crossing at this intersection. There are planning benefits to this study, as it is an implementation item from our recently completed Downtown Master Plan. The DT Master Plan calls for additional work to study bike/ped safety improvements at several known “problem” intersections throughout the Downtown area, including this one. Because the study follows the master planning process, we be in a very good position to apply for implementation funding for this project- as the Downtown Transportation Fund (DTF) provides extra points to projects originating from a Downtown Master Plan. There are efficiency benefits to be gained from this study. Because the study will be taking into account the VTrans Class 1 paving project next year, we can plan to take immediate advantage of some new improvements to Rte 7 in that area (e.g. new signal controller and replacement of in-ground loop detectors with new aerial radar detection units).

(Use additional blank sheets if necessary)

Amount Requested: \$20,000 (Note: We have \$40,000 available and usually fund 2-3 projects)

Please sign & return this Request Form by **Friday, September 11, 2021** to your TAC delegate or to:

Mike Winslow
Transportation Planner
Addison County Regional Planning Commission
14 Seminary St.
Middlebury, Vermont 05753
mwinslow@acrpc.org

Below are some examples of transportation planning studies that have recently been funded:

- 2020 – Lincoln realignment of South Lincoln Road
- 2020 – Bristol evaluating options to improve pedestrian access from Lovers Land to Airport Dr.
- 2020 – Salisbury evaluating traffic control option at the intersection of Rt. 53 and Upper Plains Rd.

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- 2019 - Ripton repair/replacement options for Old Town Rd Bridge
- 2019 - Monkton intersection alternatives for Monkton Ridge Rd. & States Prison Hollow Rd.
- 2018 - Vergennes Rt22A truck traffic reduction study
- 2018 - Middlebury rail platform siting study
- 2017 - Salisbury village lighting & sidewalk study
- 2017 - Lincoln Gap Road winter access study
- 2016 - Middlebury Creek Road erosion stability study
- 2016 - Addison County Regional Transportation Plan update
- 2016 - ACTR transit hub relocation configuration alternatives study
- 2015 - Middlebury traffic calming study
- 2014 - Ripton - Old Center Turnpike right of way research
- 2014 - Ripton - Baker Bridge safety functional assessment
- 2013 - Ferrisburgh Old Hollow Road traffic calming study
- 2013 - Monkton Ridge Village realignment study
- 2013 - Ripton Peddlers' Bridge culvert resilience assessment

****NOTE: A Feasibility Study or Conceptual Alignment Analysis (CAA) for a town bicycle path, multi-use path, recreational path or sidewalk will qualify as a transportation planning study**

Town of Middlebury (Municipality of / Agency / Organization, etc.) is interested in applying for funding under the Addison County Regional Planning Commission TAC grant program.

Kathleen Ramsey

Signature of Agency, Organizational, or Municipal Official

per September 8, 2020 Approval of Selectboard

Town Manager

September 10, 2020

Position / Title

Date

802-458-8000

Contact Information (Telephone / E-Mail)

In the case that a municipality is applying for this grant, or the proposal lies entirely within one municipality, the applicant hereby represents that the Selectboard of the Town or City of Middlebury supports this proposal.

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