

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

14 Seminary Street

Middlebury, VT 05753

www.acrpc.org

Phone: 802.388.3141

Addison County Regional Planning Commission Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) **FY 2022 TRANSPORTATION PLANNING STUDY REQUEST FORM**

The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) is preparing to submit its FY 2022 (Oct. 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022) 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 October 20, 2021. 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. To apply, please provide the following information. Use extra sheets as necessary.

Description of Problem: The Town of Middlebury appreciates your consideration of the following request to the TAC Grant program for grant funding to perform a Scoping Study for improvements to the Boardman Street/US Route 7 intersection. This intersection has existing safety and level of service issues, and future growth in this area will only worsen these existing issues. This intersection is located in a busy commercial gateway adjacent to the Hannaford Commercial Plaza and has been identified by the Planning Commission as an important area for future growth. Over time the intersection has seen more traffic but remains unsignalized with no turn lanes either onto or off Route 7 and no crosswalks or connecting bike-ped infrastructure.

Description of Planning Study: We propose to hire a transportation engineer to work with Town land use and public works planning staff and committees to identify intersection operational improvements and multimodal enhancements (e.g. sidewalks and crosswalks) at the intersection. Their analysis would utilize traffic data recently collected by ACRPC and other available traffic and crash data to examine existing conditions, assess whether current volumes meet turn lane and/or traffic signal warrants (or how much additional traffic is needed to trigger the warrants), and evaluate intersection alternatives (i.e. turn lanes, traffic signal, roundabout). We would develop a preferred alternative, concept plan and estimate that would allow us to pursue implementation funding right away.

Expected Benefits of Planning Study:

- 1) This scoping study will resolve some **existing** safety and level of service issues



Addison County Regional Planning Commission

14 Seminary Street

Middlebury, VT 05753

www.acrpc.org

Phone: 802 289 2144

Fax: 802 289 0020

- Boardman Street has no traffic signal or turn lanes either onto or off of Route 7. This is no longer adequate for the amount of traffic this intersection handles. As anyone trying to run an errand in this area can attest, during peak hours it can be a very long time before it is safe to pull out from Boardman Street onto Route 7. Users report chronic issues with the speed and spacing of oncoming traffic.

This intersection serves several local businesses: Humane Society of Addison County, Middlebury Tennis, Middlebury Fitness Center, Rouse Tire, G. Stone Ford, American Legion, HOPE (food shelf, offices, thrift shop), Rouse Tire, Desabrais Glass, and O'Reilly Auto Parts. The last three businesses have delivery trucks running every day. This study would improve trip efficiency and safety for their employees and customers.

- Pedestrian and bicycle traffic is being generated in this location, but we're behind on planning how to cross them safely over US Route 7. There is a subdivision (Stonegate) on Boardman St. that lacks connectivity to the Hannaford Plaza. Those traveling on foot, by bike or using mobility devices need a safe way to access the food shelf and services at HOPE. There are two subsidized affordable housing projects near this intersection- one 0.25 miles away and one 0.5 miles away. The Trail Around Middlebury (TAM) connects from the trailhead in the Sabourin field across from Middlebury (formerly Denecker) Chevrolet to the trailhead beside Drop-In Brewery by travelling parallel Route 7 without a safe, formal crossing at Boardman Street. A scoping study would propose an appropriate Rte 7 crossing and a sidewalk alignment along Boardman.

2) This scoping study would **look ahead** to plan for future development in this area

Middlebury is home to many of the services and businesses that support the economy of Addison County, and we anticipate the need to expand beyond Downtown and the Hannaford Plaza to find places for housing and businesses in the future. Given its proximity to the Hannaford Plaza, Boardman Street is an important node for future growth. This scoping study would help us design an upgraded intersection meeting projected future needs. A couple of specific examples follow:

- The Town is completing preliminary engineering studies for locating a new Public Works Garage on Boardman Street, which will increase the trips per day at this intersection. This study will help us to determine in advance what intersection upgrades that development will trigger, specifically if we are close to tripping the warrant for traffic turning off Route 7.
- The Planning Commission worked this summer with a Middlebury College intern to develop concept plans for additional 40-50 units of affordable/workforce housing on college-owned property accessed from Boardman Street. These plans are only preliminary, but discussions are taking place with the College to move the concept forward. This scoping study would help us



Addison County Regional Planning Commission

14 Seminary Street

Middlebury, VT 05753

www.acrpc.org

plan ahead for what infrastructure/ intersection upgrades would be necessary to support this urgently needed housing project (see attached).

Amount Requested: \$15,000 (Note: We have \$40,000 available and usually fund 2-3 projects)

Please sign & return this Request Form by **Monday September 3, 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:
(removed for space)

****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

Town Manager
Position / Title

9-1-21
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.