

ACRPC TAC updates  
November 2021

### **Vergennes PELS Study**

- Meetings with Selectboards have been completed
- Public meeting took place on 11/4. Approximately 40 people attended in person and an additional 75 or so on-line. Meeting materials are available at the [project website](#) and notes from the public comment will soon be posted in the same area.
- Interviews with two focus groups have been completed: Mobility and Equity. Two more focus groups are scheduled for later this week: Economic Development and Environment.
- The Purpose and Needs statement is anticipated in early December.
- Once VTrans has had a chance to review the Purpose and Needs statement, they will schedule meetings with the Technical and Policy Committees to get concurrence. Meetings are expected in early January.

### **VT 125 in Addison**

- Heavy rains on 10/30 and 10/31 caused bank failure on 400-500 feet of VT 125 in Addison along Lake Champlain. The road in the area was subject to a VTrans emergency project even before the bank failure. Project Design for the current situation is under development in hopes of having an agreed upon approach by the week of 11/22. Subsequent formal plan development would follow including constructability review, estimation and awarding of a contract. VTrans has discussed accelerating construction in hopes of having the road reopened by January/February, but nothing is definitive until they have an approved design.



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*Photo from VTrans*

### **Triangle Bike Loop**

- Members of the Walk/Bike Council of Addison County met with the Middlebury Planning Commission on 11/4 seeking endorsement of a route through Middlebury. The Planning Commission declined to provide endorsement and requested more coordination with other committees in town. The Council is optimistic that issues can be resolved.
- Letters have gone out to other towns along the bike route (New Haven, Vergennes, Bristol, Ferrisburgh, Waltham, and Weybridge) informing them of the intention to seek funding for signs to designate the route and offering to meet with Selectboards or others to discuss sign placement and funding.

### **New VTrans Planning Coordinator**

- VTrans has had to shuffle some of their planning coordinators as a result of staffing changes. As a result ACRPC will be working with a new Coordinator. Katharine Otto, who has been a regular at TAC meetings since starting with VTrans about two years ago has been re-assigned. Katharine will continue working with us on the Vergennes PELS Study and the Walk Bike Council. Jacqui Dement will be the principal contact with ACRPC moving forward. ACRPC thanks Katharine for her dedication and enthusiasm, and we look forward to working with Jacqui.

### **TAC Study Grants**

- Ripton - Old Town Road - the RFP has been released. Proposals are due December 8
- Bristol - Airport Drive sidewalk - the RFP has been released. Proposals are due December 15
- Middlebury - Boardman St. intersection - the RFP is still in development. ACRPC is in consultation with Middlebury planning staff to identify a project that best fits Middlebury's needs. We received guidance from VTrans to focus on elements beside the intersection itself as that will be the subject of scope refinement from VTrans.

### **New Haven Train Station**

- The planned path for moving the structure to a new location involves going through Jiffy Mart parking lot, heading north on VT17 for about a mile to a field driveway, then heading then heading through fields to North Street.
- Out of six telecom companies, only 2 will be impacted, Waitsfield Telecom and Comcast; VT Telephone is still unknown. The new path greatly reduced impacts to others by avoiding the intersection of VT7 and VT17.
- Jeff Levesque and his crew were hired to salvage flooring, wainscot, window sashes, and board them up. This work was completed by 10/29/21.
- Newton Masonry was hired to cut beam pockets in masonry, salvage stone veneer water table and remove both chimneys.
- Tom Kennedy of Mt. Ascutney Regional Commission (MARC) was hired to facilitate Northern Borders (NB) grant requirements. MARC is the local representative for NB grants.
- Additional environmental study is required by NB. At this point, the extent is unknown, but a meeting has been scheduled to review the requirements.