2026 Walk-Bike Council of Addison County (WBCAC) Meeting Notes

December 2026 Meeting Information:

Monday, December 14th at 6:00 p.m.

ONLINE ONLY

For virtual meetings, Log-in information as follows:
Microsoft Teams Need help?
Join the meeting now
Meeting ID: 224 066 038 659 94
Passcode: Us3ig7bR

Dial in by phone
+1 347-991-8960,,708806765# United States, New York
Find a local number
Phone conference ID: 708 806 765#

Helpful Links & Resources:

Walk-Bike Council of Addison County
Instagram – Walk-Bike Council's page
Facebook – Walk-Bike Council's page
Local Motion
E-Bike Information
State of Vermont Safe Routes to School
VT Dept of Health-Middlebury Office

2026-11-09 Walk Bike Council Meeting

Present in Person: Laura Asermily, Susan Shashok, Larry Buck, Doug McCain, Jef Bratspis, Erik Remsen, Nate Burt, Tim Clark, Danelle Birong (ACRPC); Online: Taylor Murray (VDH), Jack Evans (Local Motion), David Pistilli

Erik began the meeting at 6:01 p.m.

Erik opened the conversation to updates from the group.

- Halloween - Erik shared that for Halloween, the town of Middlebury restricted cars in Buttolph Acres for trick or treating. Great success. Parents at Mary Hogan helped initiate it. Doug chimed in and agreed it worked well. Larry noted that Bristol does the same thing. Trunk or Treats also offer a safe alternative to avoid car traffic.
- Munger Street, New Haven–Doug and his wife have noticed increased walking and biking on Munger Street. Doug's wife worked with the town of New Haven to add "Share the Roads" signs (that Doug and wife paid for) and the town will be installing soon.
- Website/Triangle Bike loop – Nate has been updating the website, particularly Triangle Loop information, to link to sub-pages of the hub towns, photos added, etc. Continues to be a work in progress.
- Exchange Street, Middlebury project – Jef shared that this project has commenced and is going well. Also, Middlebury's Infrastructure Committee will begin reviewing the roundabout that is proposed for Exchange Street / Rt 7. More information is on the Town's website regarding plans, timeline, etc.
- Middlebury Cross Walk Safety flags – Laura continues to distribute/replenish them as necessary at Elm Street. Jef noted the safety issues on Elm Street; Laura noted the path from Amtrak through the Marblework needs work and to the college needs attention.
- Middlebury Amtrak Station - Laura maintains the transportation information/messaging.
- Triangle Bike Loop Flyers – Laura also maintains the stock at the Middlebury Rec Center. Laura's inventory is diminishing, so it may be time for another update/ reprint. Danelle asked about the latest batch – was printed in 2026. Laura also stocks them at the ACEDC / BMP new informational space. And Frog Hollow has a lot. Laura doesn't need more going into winter. Danelle asked if there were stocks in the other hub towns? Tim will check the Vergennes Amtrak station, but he hasn't in a while. Danelle also noted checking the Vergennes info booth at the park. Laura said that since we do not have a Bristol Representative, they are likely lacking there. Danelle offered to keep the extra stock at the ACRPC office so anyone can pick up, as Laura currently has all the triangle bike loop flyer stock.

- TAC reps – Laura shared she is on this committee as the Middlebury rep and she always advocates for improved road design, bike lanes, shoulder maintenance and design. "They" seem agreeable. Laura also talked about Middlebury Road Sweeping – now that the leaves have fallen.
- South Street, Middlebury – David shared the South Street received its 2nd temporary service coat and that program is out of money but may have other federal funds to tap in to.

At about 6:20, Erik then changed the focus to the 2nd phase of our exercise that began the month before. As a reminder, the top subject matters from the October meeting were "Infrastructure" and "Culture Shift & Marketing". Erik explained the background, shared how he "categorized" the different topics under those 2 subject matters, and the group's next steps in this exercise. Conversation ensued how best to tackle the groupings and priorities of the lists. Erik asked attendees to break into groups, condense the list(s), and decide if items are achievable and/or impactful.

Each group then reported their synopsis, although all took different approaches:

<u>Jef and Susan</u>
"Partnerships" for Infrastructure:
- Priority: Propose Walk Bike Improvements and find Funding Sources
- Low Hanging Fruit: Familiarize yourself with the Regional Plans comes before the Priority item above.

"Partnerships" for Marketing"
- Priority – Market what this group can do in all the Addison Regional towns – we can promote our group
- Low Hanging Fruit - Promoting Tri-Valley in each town – they can ultimately promote themselves

<u>Nate, Tim, Larry</u>
Nate added: Audits, gather data, review plans, conversations with road crews. We have wisdom, but we are also individuals with relationships in towns.

Tim would like to see: the group looking at plans, to make things happen in these towns, we need to see what the towns are thinking about. Get towns to rank their goals, 1-2 things per town. Danelle reminded the group that each town has their own municipal plan, and each has a transportation chapter, with their own goals and actions. If general, encourage toe towns to be more specific.

<u>Laura and Doug</u>
Governance versus Action. What comes first.
Most interested in working with Road Crews. How can the Walk Bike Council get in front of road foremans. GO where they gather. Ask for time on their meeting agendas. Give them a demo-ride on an ebike!
Doug also noted the importance of reading the various transportation plans (for each town) for low-hanging fruit.

<u>Online Group – Jack, Taylor, David</u>
- Engage the community through social events and consistent communication
- Provide education to the general public about safe walking/biking practices

Next steps: Erik will connect with Danelle and Taylor to plan for the next meeting as to how best to proceed. Danelle mentioned using a survey tool to share information.

Next Meeting: Discussion ensued about meeting details. Group will likely meet through the winter or at least in December to wrap up this project. December 14th meeting scheduled as remote-only.

2026-10-12 Walk Bike Council Meeting

Present in Person: Laura Asermily, Susan Shashok, Larry Buck, Doug McCain, Jef Bratspis, Erik Remsen, Nate Burt, Tim Clark, Danelle Birong (ACRPC); Online: Taylor Murray (VDH), Kathy Rossier, David Pistilli

Erik began the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

The Marketing Committee / Working Group presented their update from a committee meeting in September

- Susan shared an outline of what she / the group has been working on.
    - David Pistilli is loading Google calendar – new submissions can be sent to him
    - Susan set up a google drive with photos of events and rides for use on social media / website
    - Susan has been doing Instagram, and it is bit too much work. Susan would like to share this responsibility or hand it over to someone else. She is open to ideas
- Nate presented a mock-up of potential improvements of the Triangle Bike Loop webpage(s)
    - Highlighting transportation, parking, bike shops, route information, etc.
    - Links to RideWithGPSmap and TCX files
    - In need of good photos of each town and general information
    - Susan noted how this potential new page setup allows everything one needs in a holistic look at transportation between towns.
    - Discussion ensued as to how this would be presented to the public. It was noted that this proposal simply changes the look and contents of the current WBCAC Triangle Bike Loop pages.
    - Ultimately, it will be on the Local Motion sponsored site (Nation Builder), so there are limits to what can be included.
        - Erik later asked if we can see who is accessing our site/pages. The group is not sure this information exists.
        - Erik also wanted to better understand the audience. Locals? Out-of-town/state cyclists?
    - Laura shared that her correspondence with Bike Tours is that people want to know where the Bike shop is, water, coffee, bathroom, water. Tim chimed in later that knowing what else is in the town / where to eat, etc. is important to him as a recreational cyclist.
    - Danelle shared that ACRPC has stockpile of town photos that she can share with Nate / Susan
    - Erik stated that the group seems to be on board with these edits, and hopefully Local Motion can help pull stats to see who is utilizing the website which can then inform the group's decision moving forward.
    - Susan noted that David Pistilli previously mentioned that maybe the group can recruit someone who has higher level of website knowledge. Laura thought Local Motion can possibly provide a referral. Tim mentioned a possible intern?
    - Local Motion does not bill us for domain name or hosting of the website.
    - Laura noted that when you google biking in VT, Local motion comes up first. But Addison County did not come up.
- Danelle asked in the Champlain Bikeway is mentioned on the website. It was thought it was in the "other resources" section. Doug noted that it was discussed previously that there are a lot of rides outside of the Triangle Bike loop towns in Addison County that can also be promoted. Laura stated that this group does not have to promote other rides, such as the Champlain Bikeway, as it's on the statewide Local Motion site, and the Triangle Bike loop is included on that.
- The group will discuss website/marketing again at following meetings.

Erik kicked off a group exercise to help the Council re-focus on what is important to this group, and what should the group focus on moving forward. It was hosted in person and via a Canva activity online.

Council members were presented the 4 existing Working Groups – Citizen and School Engagement; Culture Shift and Marketing; Municipal and Agency Outreach; and, Infrastructure and Project Review. The attendees where each allowed 2 "dots" to place on the subject matter(s) that were most important to them. After in person and online tallies were conducted, each item received 8 dots. Each person was then allotted another "dot" which allowed the group to narrow down to 2 topics. Those 2 topics were: "Culture Shift and Marketing" and "Infrastructure and Project Review".

The next step was to write/brainstorm some specific strategies to help the group achieve the goal on “post-it notes” under the 2 categories.

As the meeting came to an end, it was determined to conduct the next step of this activity at the November meeting. Danelle gathered all of the post-its from in-person and online attendees and will share the details with Erik and Taylor. Erik will sort them for the next meeting and send them out to attendees prior to the next meeting.

The “end product” of this activity is that the group produces a few goals that are achievable and impactful, so the group knows where to focus their attention. Taylor reminded us to focus on the easy wins too, so do not avoid low-hanging fruit.

Davis Pistilli reminded the group the importance of reviewing, interweaving, and implementing goals within the Regional Plan. Everything this group should be tied back to the Regional Plan. This will help the group have standing and better linkage between ACRPC and WBCAC. David recommended that the goals of the group circle back to the Regional Plan. Susan agreed.

Erik thanked the group for their engagement.

The next meeting shall be Monday, November 9th, same time, same format (hybrid).

2026-09-14 Walk Bike Council Meeting

Present: Laura Asermily(Chair), Susan Shashok, Larry Buck, Doug McCain, Jef Bratspis, Erik Remsen, David Pistilli, Nate Burt, Tim Clark, Carl Robinson, Lauren Ogden, Jack Evans (Local Motion), Craig Stevens (VDH), Danelle Birong (ACRPC)

Laura started the meeting with a recap of recent Middlebury events including the Block Party which was funded by a Local Motion grant and the upcoming Kelly Brush Ride. She also reviewed the WBCAC marketing materials for display at various events, including the Block Party which was funded by a Local Motion grant. Later in the meeting, Laura provided a walkthrough of the website.

As this was Laura’s last meeting as the Chairperson, the group thanked her for her leadership. Susan presented her with fresh flowers. It was also noted that Erik Remsen will be the new chairperson. Thank you, Erik.

Introductions of the attendees followed.

Trucking associations – Larry Buck was wondering how to connect with these groups.

Danelle shared that it is great time to re-assess the group’s goals as we transition leadership. She noted that she met with Mike Winslow, Taylor Murray (VDH), and separately with Laura to discuss next steps. So much of last year’s discussion focused on health / well-being/ recreation, not as focused on Transportation. As we continue, ACRPC’s interests focus on implementing the Regional Plan Transportation Chapter components (once approved by the state) as the WBCAC is mentioned within. Danelle directed the group that the Regional Plan components are posted on ACRPC.org.

Danelle planned to host a SWOT activity at the meeting, but the group ran out of time. This activity was meant to focus on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to better understand what is working and where there is room for improvement. Brainstorming as to how best to move forward with the energy of the group, and how to best impact the entire county.

Tim asked about plans around the Amtrak stations, and Danelle noted that there are Transit-oriented downtown

development plans (TODs) and are being finalized. The focus areas of these were 1 in Middlebury, 1 in Vergennes/Ferrisburgh, and 1 for Ferrisburgh. More details to follow once final.

Susan wants time to focus on the Sub-Committee report for her group. She requested time to discuss at next meeting.

Next meeting – Erik discussed next meeting schedule for Monday, October 12th. Danelle noted it is Indigenous People's Day, and the group decided to meet as school is in session. Adjusting the meeting night was touched upon – but it will likely stay the same night due to other commitments of the group, and Taylor (VDH) will be available Monday evenings starting in January.

Next Meeting details discussed. **Meetings will remain the 2nd Monday at 6:00pm. October 12th will be hybrid with a preference for in-person**, as it best to do SWOTactivities (or some other style) in person. Craig suggested doing the SWOT activity for each "subgroup". Danelle noted that the subgroups may change based on focus.

Erik, Danelle, and VDH shall meet before next meeting to discuss how best to move forward/ brainstorming.

2026-06-08 Walk Bike Council Meeting

Present: Laura Asermily, Susan Shashok, Danelle Birong (ACRPC); Online: Doug McCain, David Pistilli, Nate Burt, Jef Bratspis, Erik Remson, Jack Evans (Local Motion), Craig Stevens (DoH), Larry Buck, Tim Clark

Laura kicked off the meeting with a conversation regarding Communications. **As a reminder, if you have an event, you can email Google Group email** walkbikeacvt@googlegroups.com. If you have an event that you want promoted, share yourself via the email address. And/or send information to Susan for posting to Instagram and can add to Event calendar. Google group glitch discussion ensued with Jack and remedied. If there are future issues, discuss with /send screenshot to Jack. Nate suggested to check your personal settings.

Infrastructure and Project Review:

- **Middlebury**
  - **South Street Storm and Wastewater Project** - David Pistilli noted that the will not be happening this year – so that paving and traffice calming measures envisioned will continue to be on hold.
  - **Washington Street Extension** – Laura noted that the Colonial Drive to 5 Corners is not in good shape
  - Laura also noted line striping stopped. David shared there is a lack of resources at DPW.

Municipal and Agency Outreach:

- **Local Motion updates**
  - Jack provided an update about the differences between e-bikes/ e-motos:
    - Ebikes versus e-motos.
    - Emoto resources
    - Local Motion hosted an E-Moto Convo online session for distinctions between both and legislative updates. Laws exist, but it comes down to education and local enforcement.
  - 2026 Legislative Session Recap

Culture Shift and Marketing:

- **RideGPS**
  - Danelle and Susan met and determined that the cost ($60/year) is not warranted as that membership would not allow the Council to gather the information of interest/feedback for Vtrans the feedback we were hoping to get. Users would not be able to add information about areas of concerns. Need proof of concept – and maybe a Group Account can be considered in the future.
  - Susan is meeting with Nate Burt and Tim Clark to discuss promoting the **Triangle Bike Loop** with tools on hand (personal RideGPS accounts) to come up with simple plan this season and then

possibly expand over the winter. Susan is grateful for the additional assistance from these council members.
    - **Triangle Loop Detours** – Doug discussed options: Rt 17 (not ideal), Sawyer Road. Nate added warning on RideGPS about that section which is posted to the website.
- **Social Media**
    - Send photo and a quick blurb of text to Susan and she can post on **Instagram.**
    - Tim and Susan will be meeting to cross-promote **Facebook** and Instagram content.
    - Danelle reminded the group to gather info from other communities and **promote the County.** Maybe a series of messages walk/bike messages to feel more county-wide versus town specific.
- **Tri-Valley Transit Cross-Promotion**
    - Larry Buck is on the TVT Board, and it was discussed at the last meeting to share promotional materials / literature. TVT wants to communicate to riders at bus stops about where they can park bikes, etc. Danelle and Laura volunteered to assist with transfer of information – Larry to connect us. Danelle to follow up with Adam Lougee as he is the chair.
    - Laura noted that TVT information and its programs are listed on our website.
- **Department of Health -** Craig shared that he and Jack made a connection after the last meeting. Craig shared the following initiatives:
    - "Askable Adult" – 2 hour training research shows meaningful connections with committed adults in one of most important factiors in building resilent relationships
    - Medical Go Bags with AgeWell
    - Craig would like to know what activities are coming up – as he has learned to go where the people are. He would like to have something more structured – let him know the audience, key players, etc – and DoH can see how they fit in.
    - Possibly in the works – Children's bike helmets for $9
    - Halloween downtown events – good opportunity for reflector programs

Citizen and School Engagement:

- **Middlebury (Mary Hogan) -** Eric Remson shared that Middlebury wrapped up the last Walk and Roll day (Safe Routes to School). 50 bikes on the racks on the last day. Walkers get counted in the fall and the spring. Instead of little prizes, the students had punch cards this year and they could qualify for a "Treat Card" from Shiretown for a free creemee.140 students qualified. Punch cards have proven to be a good system.
- Laura reminded the team that she and Eric can assist with sharing what Middlebury does with **other towns/schools.**
- Kathy reported (via email) that 19 women completed the **Wellness Revolution** program.
- **Slow Roller** rides from Middlebury are consistent and really fun.
- **Walking groups**? Not yet but hoping some can be formed.

Upcoming Events:

- **Robust Events Page** – now on Walk-Bike website.
- **Saturday, June 13th** – Addison County Eco and Energy Event - Laura and Tim to be on site.

Future/Re-Occurring Grant Opportunities:

- No New Information

Please keep in mind these 4 above highlighted topics/ working groups.

- Citizen and School Engagement
- Infrastructure and Project Review
- Culture Shift and Marketing
  Municipal and Agency Outreach

If a topic stands out to you and you have a project in mind, the WBCAC welcomes it.

Regional Plan

Danelle reminded the group about the soon-to-be finalized Regional Plan. 2nd public hearing on June 10th. 3rd public hearing on July 8th. It's important that the WBCAC engages in the implementation. Tasks are itemized within the Plan, and the group already does a few of these. Danelle volunteered to meet with folks at the office to go thgrough it. Regional Plan webpage.

As of June 9, here's the latest version:
Transportation Chapter - Chapter 3

- Page 22 - Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities section begins
- Page 24 - Walk-Bike Council information
- Page 27 - Goal 3, Objectives 1 and 2

Transportation Appendix

- Page 4 outlines Recommended Actions for pedestrian and bicycle facilities

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2026-05-11 Walk Bike Council Meeting

Present: Laura Asermily, Susan Shashok, Samuel Robertson (Midd College Senior), Katie Langrock, Danelle Birong (ACRPC); Online: Tim Clark, Doug McCain, Kathy Rossier, David Pistilli, Nate, Erik Remson, Jack Evans (Local Motion), Craig Stevens (DoH)

Meeting was kicked off with a round of Introductions for new faces. Katie Langrock has served on the board of Local Motion for many years and assisted with hiring of the most recent Executive Director. Samuel Robertson, a graduating senior of Middlebury College, joined as he recently presented his senior thesis "Middlebury's Unplanned Pedestrian Paths" at the 2026 Walk Bike Summit.

Walk Bike Summit participants provided overview of their experience and sessions they attended. Mark Fenton was the inspiring Keynote speaker.

Infrastructure and Project Review:

- **Countywide** - Bike racks and bike parking improvements needed throughout the county.
- **Middlebury -** Review Samuel's thesis for information regarding connecting the campus to adjacent neighborhoods regarding unplanned pedestrian paths.
- **Middlebury -** Transit-Oriented Development (TODs) grant – working with ARCPC / CCRPC - focusing on area near the Amtrak Station. Last week, the contractors presented their final project sketch for what they suggest for that area and will soon be sharing language to add to the Zoning regulations for that area for Middlebury to considered once the Town Plan has been updated.
- **Ferrisburgh-Vergennes** - Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) grant – Danelle shared this grant/ project also existed for the area around the Amtrack Station.
- **Walking Audits** – More information – Important to include town leadership in these walks. Laura attended one with Mark Fenton, the keynote speaker noted above.
- **Quick Build Infrastructure**– more affordable and often temporary infrastructure that helps test designs, gather public feedback, constructed quickly with low-cost durable materials (paint, planters, etc) instead of heavy construction. Local Motion has also worked on some of these style projects.

Municipal and Agency Outreach:

- **E-bikes vs e-moto education**- It was suggested to educate municipalities and schools on e-bikes vs e-moto. Local Motion is working on something for schools, and they also have the following info on their website – click here.

Culture Shift and Marketing:

- **Website** – Susan has spent time re-organizing information and added more pertinent information. Val at Local Motion will assist with getting rid of footer (links to them, not us)
- **Google group** – Susan removed all "pending "emails from the system as they tecnically declined to join.

- **Instagram** –See link at top of page to view the new Instagram page.
- **MyGps app** – Infrastructure and safety changes on the Triangle Bike Loop will be noted. Danelle is still working on getting Vtrans blessing.

Citizen and School Engagement:

- A lot going on this month (May) with Bike Month (and also Walk Month too).
- **E-bikes vs e-moto education**- It was suggested to educate municipalities and schools on e-bikes vs e-moto. Local Motion is working on something for schools, and they also have the following info on their website – click here. *(Duplicated from Municipal and Agency Outreach)*
- **Increasing Engagement Brainstorming–** Laura has written letters to the Addison Independent and Eric gets info in the Addy Indy for specific events, but these are not necessarily connected to the WBCAC and often Middlebury-focused. What else can we do???
    - **Collab with Dept of Health** - Craig reported that the DoH recently offered 1 event with a school (Addison County NW) and they did a video and panel speaking on truancy, but the root was isolation and loneliness for rural young men. 50-60 individuals attended. 2 or so weeks ago, they hosted a movie "Ramen Day" and panel regarding food insecurity at the Middlebury Marquis. **Maybe VDH can partner with WBCAC to bring folks together that are interested in a new topic.**
    - Create a traveling pop-up station (like what Laura currently does) that can be shared with all communities.
    - Craig also shared the following **key films and projects regarding walking/biking in Vermont** include: (maybe use these are promotion items to get conversations going?)
        - Best Day Ever (2025): Focuses on adaptive mountain biking and community in the Green Mountains.
        - There From Here (2024): A documentary chronicling a 640-mile bike route through rural Vermont.
        - From Rails to Trails (2025): Features the Island Line Trail and the movement to convert abandoned railways into walking/cycling paths.
        - Ritual Mountain Bike Film Tour: Screened in Burlington, highlighting trail riding in Vermont.

Upcoming Events:

- Robust Events Page – now on Walk-Bike website.

Future/Re-Occurring Grant Opportunities:

- **AARP grant** – maybe for e-bikes for other communities? Jack (Local Motion) can help if needed. Typically announced in January; deadline is likely beginning of March.

2026-04-13 Walk Bike Council Meeting

Present: Laura Asermily, Susan Shashok, Jef Bratspis, Tim Clark, Doug McCain, Carl Robinson, Danelle Birong (ACRPC); Online: Kathy Rossier, Erik Remsen, David Pistilli, Nate Burt, Jack Evans (Local Motion)

Infrastructure and Project Review:

- **Middlebury** – Danelle mentioned she met with Middlebury Public Works Engineer, Emmalee Cherrington, for another reason, but asked a few questions about infrastructure concerns raised previously. (See March notes below). Good news, the Exchange Street multi-use path went out to bid last week. She is aware of other areas of concern noted.
- **Transportation Advisory Council (TAC)** - Laura noted to the team that she is a Midd rep on the ACRPC TAC where she speaks on behalf of Walk-Bike concerns.
- **Triangle Bike Route** –
    - Doug noted that a bridge will be closed on Plank Road in August. Ride with GPS is "supposed to" update when there are closed roads. When we know more, adding something to website will be wise.

- Plank Road – Kathy has concerns about promoting the Triangle Bike loop due to the fact it needs to be regraded for road bikes. Will it be re-graded? Laura suggested adding a note about this in Ride GPS.
- Does the route need to be re-visited? Rt 17? But is that a good option?

Municipal and Agency Outreach:

- No new updates, except **connecting with Rec Groups** in other towns to become part of this group.

Culture Shift and Marketing:

- **Instagram-** The group now has an instagram page thanks to Susan. @walkbikecounciladdisoncounty
- **Website-** It has been updated with so much information (but still a work in progress) and now has a **calendar of events** that can be shared. https://www.walkbikeaddison.org/events which includes all events previously shared via email by Laura. Susan also reported that she found the google calendar account/access with the help of Local Motion. List of council members may be outdated. Laura will work with Susan to update. She also walked us through new/ updated content. Regarding **MyRidewithGPS app,** to include rides on the website, Danelle reported that she is still waiting to hear if VTrans (new contact at the state) allows the $60/year fee.
- **Email Distribution list** – discussion ensued regarding old/pending email addresses, and it was determined (via Jack) they were likely outdated / softly unsubscribing so delete them. Jack previously followed up with these.
- **Addison Independent -** Column? Still an idea…
- **Front Porch Forum** - ACRPC can and will include a Walk Bike communication the week of April 13th to every town promoting the Council and Walk Bike Summit in Bennington on May 8th.
- **New events** - Communicate with Susan if you have an event to add via info@walkbikeaddison.org.
- **Google email list** - walkbikeacvt@google groups.com. Anyone can use this list to email, reply, etc.

Citizen and School Engagement:

- **Bike School Training at Mary Hogan:** Laura gave update regarding Bike School Training at Mary Hogan. She provided little swag bags for students. One day there were 40 bikes (typical of walk and ride to school), then 60, then 80 bikes. Phenomenal numbers. Efforts to mobilize kids to bike makes a great difference.
- **Swag** - Laura also has a bunch of **marketing materials and swag for MIddlebury**. If anyone is looking to do outreach event, coordinate with Laura.
- **E-Bikes** - Kathy inquired about getting **Ebikes in Vergennes and Bristol**, to extend this outreach outside of Middlebury. Eric provided history which was a Local Motion Grant, and Middlebury was chosen as a grant recipient which paid for the e-bikes. Then partnership was set up between Frog Hollow (store. Maintain, train) and the Ilsley Library (check in and out). The maintenance of bikes is paid for from funds from Middlebury-specific Walk-Bike fundraising. Jack chimed in regarding grant opportunities such as **AARP grant**, and Local Motion is happy to help. There may be road blocks, but Kathy thinks they can be overcome. Kathy also mentioned that she is talking with Tim from Little City Cycles to bring similar events (e.g. bike swap) to Vergennes.
- **Swag for Vergennes and Bristol** – Need funds. Middlebury Safe Routes had some remaining money from Bike Swaps and e-bike program which fund the Middlebury swag.
- **In-school advocate** – Laura suggested this for Vergennes, Ferrisburgh, Bristol. Tim suggested getting someone from the schools to join our meetings. Kathy will also connect with Robin Newton, Vergennes, as she brings the Local Motion bikes to school, etc. **Laura volunteered to go to Vergennes** to get the word out, assist with event, etc. Tim is happy to assist with E-bikes if/when we get them in via a grant.
- **ACRPC E-bikes** – Unfortunately, they are only available for staff due to insurance.

Upcoming Events:

- **May is National Bike Month and National Walk Month.**
- In **Middlebury, Bike Month kicks off with the Bike Swap on May 2nd**. PR in place, Carl will connect with volunteers from past years. Rain or shine event. Conversation ensued re: RAD (Adaptive Bikes) and Carl will follow up with them. Laura would like to do E-Bike demos from library. It requires 2 volunteers, and needs a

safe path to test ride. Laura discussed the need and access to helmets, and the team discussed with a Hold harmless Waiver for signature. Laura said there is a model form available.One discussed route is: down Mill Street and come back on Weybridge Street. Or maybe a guided ride?

- **Cool Motion, Bristol** is also holding a Bike Swap. **Saturday, April 25th**
- **New online events webpage** - All events have been posted to https://www.walkbikeaddison.org/events. Communicate with Susan **if you have an event to add.**
- **Vermont Walk Bike Summit** – ACRPC offered funds to cover registration for Summit in Bennington, May 8th. Kathy and Laura showed interest.
- **Cinco de Mayo ride** - Kathy will likely plan a ride. She is in touch with Ryan Denecker to be able to park in lot on corner of Rt 7/Monkton rd.
- **Mountain Bike Club** – trail maintenance starting in Bristol.
- **Wellness Revolution** –Kathy said 6-8 spaces remaining as of 4/13.
- **Slow Roller rides -** in Middlebury start at end of April.

Future/Re-Occurring Grant Opportunities:

- **AARP grants** – maybe for e-bikes for other communities? Jack (Local Motion) can help if needed. Typically announced in January; deadline is likely beginning of March.

2026-03-09 Walk-Bike Council Meeting

Present: Laura Asermily, Kathy Rossier, Susan Shashok, Jef Bratspis, Jack Evans (Local Motion), Danelle Birong (ACRPC)

As noted previously via email, minutes/meeting notes will now be broken into categories based on "Working Group" topics: Infrastructure and Project Review; Municipal and Agency Outreach; Culture Shift and Marketing; and, Citizen and School Engagement. This also includes specific comments/items from the February meeting. At the end, a list of events with dates are also included along with re-occurring grant opportunities to keep in mind each year.

Infrastructure and Project Review

- Power of group voice! Advocate at critical meetings; need champions.
- **Middlebury** areas of concern:
    - Corner of N. Pleasant, Stewart Lane, Elm Street – difficult for pedestrians
    - Crossing at Mary Hogan at light. Access to the section of sidewalk for the button to trigger crosswalk light is often not plowed. Goal: To have the button moved for 4 season access. Other side is often a "vernal pool". (Primary access to school)
    - Greg's Meat Market to High Street – need safer connectivity.
    - Exchange Street Multi-use path
- **Vergennes** areas of concern:
- **Bristol** areas of concern:

Municipal and Agency Outreach

Municipal Recreation Committees:

- Kathy is presenting the Walk Bike Council information to Vergennes Recreation at upcoming meeting. She is trying to recruit someone from the City to join the council.
- Should try and get all Rec committees on board as members. Bristol? Other Communities?
- Bristol has new Bike Pedestrian Group kicked off in January 2026.

Culture Shift and Marketing

Website:

- Susan is working with Local Motion on the website and google calendar. She needs access to the google account. What happens with RSVP when someone clicks on it? Jack was looking into this. He will also add Susan as Admin to google group. Jack and Susan will touch base before next meeting.

Local Motion signs:

- ACRPC has 7 yard signs remaining. 1 "pass with care" (one-sided); 4 "give them 4 feet" (two-sided), 3 "slow down" (one-sided). Available for the taking! Let Danelle know you would like one.

Public Trainings/Demos:

- Laura mentioned another ebike demo. Maybe at Bike Swap or Car Show?
- Adaptive bikes / Rad Innovations.
- Electric adaptive ebikes and trikes.
- Rikert – Fat Trike Program

Other Marketing/Promotion Platforms:

- Front Porch Forum
- Addison Independent: Maybe regular column? Ads? Seasonal Activities Guides?
- Facebook Page: Tim Clark currently manages it

Citizen and School Engagement

Wellness Revolution of Addison County:

- Kathy Rossier updated the group on this. Sponsored by BCBSVT and Terry Bicylcles. This free activity is for those identifying as female. The goal is to become more confident cyclists.
- Wednesdays and Saturdays for 3 weeks starting Wednesday, May 6th. Ends with a "graduation".
- 25 people max; each person receives a free bike helmet & $75 gift certificate to Terry's Bicylces.
- First come first serve – will be promoted to communities via Front Porch Forum.

Walk and Roll to School / Safe Routes to School: Local Motion Resources State Website

- Middlebury – managed by Eric Remson
- Vergennes
- Bristol
- New Haven
- Ferrisburgh

Ride with GPS Account:

- Susan shared it is $60 year for membership. Then, she can create rides, like the Triangle Bike Loop) that others can access on the app.
  Danelle is checking to see if ACRPC via VTrans can support this annual cost. *(UPDATE post meeting – The group will need to present a proposal for VTrans. How does the subscription help with transportation planning?*

Vermont Walk Bike Summitt:

- *ACRPC is a break-out sponsor. Danelle offered 1 ticket to Laura, the group's leader.*

Upcoming Events

- April – Bike trailer to Middlebury School
- May – Bike trailer to Vergennes School
- May 2nd – Middlebury Bike Swap. Laura may try and attach an eBike training to this event.
- May 6th – Vergennes Wellness Revolution kicks off
- May 6th - National Walk & Roll to School Day
- May 8th – Vermont Walk Bike Summit, Bennington

- June 13th – Regional Addison County Energy Fair, Vergennes

Summer – Middlebury Slow Rollers; Vergennes Slow Riders
Fall – Middlebury Car Show; Vergennes walking group
Winter – Fat Bike /Trike Riding at Rikert; February Winter Walk to School Month

Future/Re-Occurring Grant Opportunities

- AARP offers a small grant every year. Information

2026-02-09 Walk-Bike Council Mtg

Present: Laura Asermily, Sally Burrell, Kathy Rossier, Doug McKain, David Pistilli, Susan Shashok Lauren Ogden, Nate Burt, Tim Clark, Adam Franco, Erik Remsen, Larry Buck, Jack Evans (Local Motion), Danelle Birong (ACRPC)

Laura greeted the group and welcomed everyone back for 2026. The focus of this meeting was to focus on how things are going, what the groups wishes may be for this new year, and a recap as to how the group began. The group then introduced themselves and shared their history, why they are on the council, and/or what is important to them.

Laura was a founding member, along with some others on the meeting call. Previously very Middlebury-centric as that was the origination of a larger group, but the intent is it to be county-wide. Laura is also a member of the Transportation Advisory Council (TAC) with the ACRPC focusing on infrastructure and project review. Laura walked the group through the website, www.walkbikeaddison.org, the mission statement; various pages of information including the four “Working Groups” created at inception. 1) Infrastructure and Project Review, 2) Municipal Outreach and Advocacy, 3) Culture Shift and Marketing, 4) Citizen and School Engagement; and Triangle Bike Loop map.

Round Robin of attendees– What has been going on, and what are you are hoping for in 2026.

Sally – **Bristol Bike Pedestrian group** met a few weeks ago and there is new energy in the group. She is excited to get this Bristol group going again!

Nate – Thanks Adam and Laura for all that they do! Looking forward to Bike training at Mary Hogan in the spring. There may be additional spaces if others wish to volunteer. Grateful for the new sidewalk near the Pulp Mill Covered Bridge.

Susan – Has served on many different groups and committees in Middlebury - Infrastructure, Select Board, Parks and Rec – and has worked on lots of projects including the sidewalk Nate mentioned. Very experienced cyclist. Her first Walk Bike meeting was September and is excited to join this group. Susan stated she has experience with websites, working on projects, and happy to offer assistance when needed.

Kathy – Joined the Council last year when she was involved with the Vergennes Rec Committee. She is very interested in getting people on bikes, be more confident on bikes, urban biking. For 4 years she has led a women’s wellness 3-week bike group via BCBS/Terry Bikes. She works closely with Tim Mathewson, Little City Cycles. She also tried to get Ferrisburgh Central School to start doing their own Walk and Roll.

Vergennes Elementary has a Bike Trailer that comes in May to get new riders on bikes. Kathy also inquired about the "status" of this group as she noticed **the Donate Button** on the website. Jack confirmed that the funds would go through Local Motion but is earmarked for Walk Bike Council of Addison County**. Jack will get back to the group with the balance in that account.**

Doug- considers himself a recreational cyclist. His main focus for the last couple of years was getting the triangle bike loop put together. He still gets outside in the winter – primarily walking.

Tim – has been on the council for a long time. Ge tries to maintain the groups **Facebook page**, and worked on getting photos of rides to post. He rides a lot, especially the part of the triangle loop towards Vergennes and Waltham. Kathy and Tim started out strong last year to get rides going, but he is realizing it's difficult to be the driving force behind projects, prefers to be part of a team due to time constraints. Tim has a mailing list that can be used – maybe Vergennes specific. Tim mentioned forming a **Vergennes version of the Bristol Group.** The rides that Kathy and Tim have spearheaded have been more focused near the lake, versus Maple and Green which can be difficult.

Lauren – This is her first meeting! She hosts **Wednesday night Slow Rollers bike rides** in the nice weather. Social bike club, go up to 15 miles. She led 95% of rides last year, and others are looking to lead rides well. They have had 6-22 people – lots of interest, including people from outside of Middlebury – Vergennes, Bristol, etc. They also try to pair with a business to stop in. For example, Lincoln Peak Vineyard stayed open later for them. Open to doing rides in Vergennes as well. Based on Poultney's model, sponsored by Analog Cycles. https://poultneypub.com/music-events/slow-rollers-social-ride They got permission to use the name. All promoted via Instagram. Also, an avid Middlebury walker with her children and is grateful for flags, painted lines, etc – but also realizes a lot of work needs to be done noting the intersections nearest Greg's Meat Market.

David – Recreational biker. A "systems guy" - motivated by wanting to improve systemically what we do. So much effort into so many different causes – biking and pedestrian safety being one of them – Recognizes how important it is to build in improvements into our transportation system so that they are realized. He is interested in making things happen!

Adam - one of the founding members of the Walk Bike Council in 2015 and chaired it for 6-8 years. He joined the meeting to see how things are going and to assist with any historical context.

Eric – He's been with the Walk Bike Council for 5-6 years. He coordinates Middlebury safe routes and the walk and roll days that are held every month at Mary Hogan, sits on the Middlebury infrastructure committee, and currently is the chair of the town's Planning Commission. These are a few of the ways he is working to improve and increase walking and biking in the area.

Larry – he worked on the Triangle Bike Look with Doug McCain. No longer riding on asphalt due to being clipped by a car. He started up a program **at Rikert Ski Center- fat trike program.** Would love to have more improvements made to Triangle Bike loop, but state funds are likely not available. His energy really is in that the **adaptive bike program** – good for those that are losing their balance and can't ride a 2-wheel bike anymore – great to get outside in the winter. He advocates for two wheeled fat bikes or three wheeled adaptive trikes, and to try it out in a safe area such as Rikert.

Danelle (ACRPC) – Recapped that she took on the ACRPC role at the beginning of 2025. She brought up the TAC again, reminding folks how important is for all communities to be part of this so that they can have their

voices (and potential projects) heard. Perfect example for Larry's concerns with the Triangle Loop. She also shared the Draft Regional Plan and noted the Transportation Chapter about Walk Bike Council. There are also associated goals and actions. The first of two public hearings on the Draft Regional Plan is in April. https://acrpc.org/regional-plan-2026/ We welcome all comments and hearing from our community. Transportation Section and Appendix include action items. Larry asked that she send out the link in an email, which she agreed to do. The goal, and my task from ACRPC, is to focus on implementing items in the plan once approved. She is available to discuss in more detail.

Jack (Local Motion) – Local Motion's role is to allow this group to do for the people here to do the work without having to run into as much headache/ Lowering barriers, helping get research, and technical assistance.

Laura addressed the group and is very excited for as much walking and biking as possible. She also mentioned our Partner in Tri-Valley Transit – and more than just busses. She has been in touch with Mary Claire, their community Manager, started Social Bus rides. Similar to Slow Rollers but on a bus.

Maybe there would be greater impact if names of programs were aligned– ex: using Slow Rollers which could also include busses. Good way to promote alternatives to single occupant cars.

So much great information available. Connectingcommunters.com. All resources on Local Motion's website.

Also Laura plans to focus on **e-bike education**. Maybe an event at the Middlebury Bike Swap. Or Middlebury Car show again. **Adaptive bikes** are also important – maybe a workshop for adults. Middlebury will have a trailer in April and maybe there is an opportunity to do something around education for adults with bikes at that time. She also always pays attention crosswalks and intersections, and the languishing Exchange St. multi-use path. Larry also encouraged Laura to connect **Rad innovations** down in Cornwall for **electric bikes and electric adapter bikes,** and they could bring their van to your gatherings in Middlebury and show people what electric bikes are and electric trikes are.

Lauren mentioned if any other towns or any other groups are interested in starting slow rollers chapters. **Reach out to James at Analog Cycles** and he has a whole blog with all information about how to start your own chapter. Larry mentioned being sure Bristol Rec committee is aware.

Danelle noted that there were so many dates and events that are upcoming. Maybe we can put together a list or calendar that can be posted. Danelle would be happy to create that list if all communities shared upcoming information. Erik currently maintains the event page – but may be limiting or may be a long scroll to get to the date. Discussion ensued how to best present information. Laura shared that Susan and Eric are working on the website – and Danelle volunteered to assist if needed. Larry brought up the Addy Indy and discussion ensued about how to get important events in the paper, such as the Activity Guide.

If folks want events included in the **Summer Activity guide**, send to Erik. Deadline has passed for Spring Activity guide.

Maybe we can get a regular column or a diary page (blog?). Or small ads. And Tim mentioned posting on FPF as well as an important source of information.

Laura suggested a publicity team. Laura volunteered for such and others. Connect directly with Addy Indy for an article/story. Similar to Larry's experience with the Rikert program.

Great energy. Let’s keep it up!

NEXT MEETING, Monday March 9th at 6:00pm.

Microsoft Teams Need help?
Join the meeting now
Meeting ID: 224 066 038 659 94
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