



Corridor Planning

VERMONT AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION

Executive Summary

Route 7 (Milton – Georgia) Corridor Plan 2022

In summer 2021 VTrans started the Route 7 Corridor Plan, in part to prepare for the future construction project in Milton and Georgia that involves removing concrete slabs under the road surface. Removing concrete slabs during a construction project is a big enough effort that also allows for other potential needs and concerns to be addressed at the same time.

In winter 2022, VTrans met with various potential partners about their perspectives on the corridor. In early summer 2022, VTrans gathered public feedback on the corridor via a survey and several meetings. The Corridor Plan was completed in August 2022.

Goals and objectives

Overall the Corridor Plan is intended to support the statewide vision for “a safe, reliable and multimodal transportation system that grows the economy, is affordable to use and operate, and serves vulnerable populations” along Route 7.

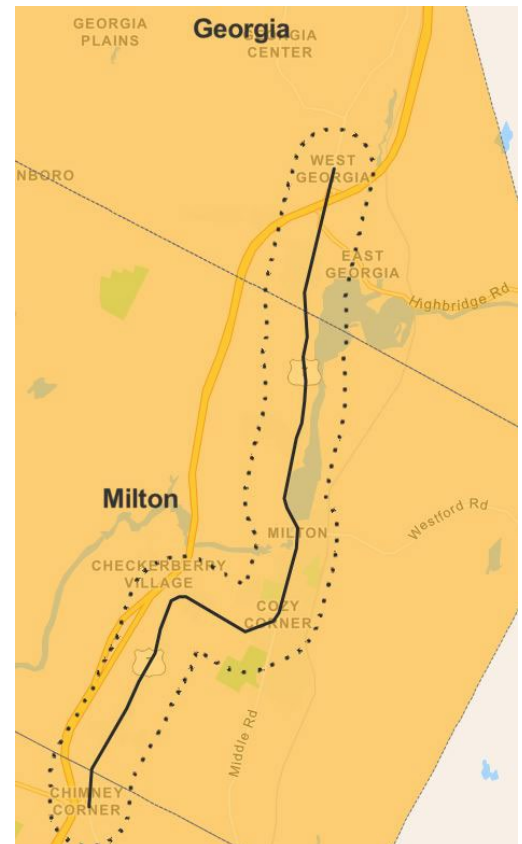
The goals for the Route 7 Corridor Plan were to:

- Gather feedback on local needs and concerns in a focused and effective way
- Identify next steps that can be implemented in the next few years while VTrans or other partners are already doing work along the roadway– for example as part of maintenance activities or existing paving or bridge projects.
- Identify longer-term needs where more background work is needed first – such as finding funding, developing partnerships, or doing more research to identify an appropriate solution

Corridor Area

For the purposes of this plan, VTrans focused on approximately 10 miles of the Route 7 corridor from the Route 2 intersection near I-89 Exit 17 in Colchester to just beyond I-89 Exit 18 in Georgia.

It focuses on the state roads and infrastructure, although some adjacent infrastructure is referenced if it interacts with the state road.



Where and who did we get information from?

The Corridor Plan built on information from four sources of information

- Existing Plans and Studies, particularly the
 - [US Route 7 Milton Corridor Study 2016](#)
 - [Georgia South Village Transportation Master Plan 2019](#)
- VTrans data and staff observations and experience with the corridor, including the [Traffic/ Congestion report](#) (2021)
- Partners – staff at other state agencies, towns, Regional Planning Commissions or other similar entities who can identify issues along the corridor, and may also be a partner in helping to address some of the issues. For Route 7 this included
 - Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR)
 - Green Mountain Transit (GMT)
 - Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) and Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC)
 - Towns on the corridor – Colchester, Milton and Georgia
 - Friends of Northern Lake Champlain
- General public – people who use the corridor whether in a car, truck, on foot or on a bicycle, whether they live, shop, do business or participate in recreation on the corridor.

Over the course of the project a contact list was developed from meeting attendees and others who expressed interest. As of August 2022, over 200 people are part of this email list including VTrans staff, partners and the general public.

How did we hear from people?

The Corridor Plan synthesizes comments from a variety of meetings and conversations between August 2021 and August 2022. In addition to smaller focused meetings, the following larger collaborative meetings were held or VTrans attended:

- Partners meetings – 1/11/2022, 8/22/2022
- Selectboard meetings – Milton (6/20/2022), Georgia (7/11/2022)
- Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) – Northwest Regional Planning Commission (7/14/2022)

The majority of input from the general public was provided during an online survey from May-June 2022. Feedback was received by over 200 people through the survey, direct emails and other public comment tools. A summary of the survey results can be found on the [project website](#).

Corridor Plan

Over 70 needs and concerns were identified as part of the Corridor Plan. Each need/ concern was considered and next steps assigned as appropriate.

There were 4 main themes for the plan:

- Creating a multi-modal network
- Traffic and congestion
- Safety
- Stormwater/ Drainage

The following are some general goals for next steps that were shared between several needs/ concerns:

- Consider intersection improvement
- Improve traffic flow and/or streetscape
- Improve drainage and/or slopes
- Consider transit needs in this area
- Improve pedestrian space (crosswalks, sidewalks, streetscape, etc)
- Evaluate signage and/or road markings
- Improve walking and bicycling space
- Intersection improvement project is being designed

Next steps are organized in three ways:

- Timeline for implementation
 - Short term - To be completed within the next 5 years. To be done through maintenance activities, incorporation within an existing project (most often a paving or bridge project), or is already included within a programmed project.
 - Medium term - To be completed within a 5 - 10 year range. Work on the action item would start soon, but implementing the action item may take time due to funding availability, complexities of scope, harmonization or other similar reasons.
 - Long term - Action item likely will not be implemented for at least 10 years, but work would start in the near term. Issues of funding, complexity of scope and project integration push the solution to this need out of the short term.
 - Await harmonization opportunity (i.e. to incorporate into another project) - Next step does not have its own timeline and instead should await opportunity to "harmonize" with other projects.
- Lead Implementer – VTrans, Towns, RPCs and others
- Collaboration opportunities – eg Towns, RPCs, other state agencies

Slab removal project

Many of the outcomes of the Corridor Plan channel towards the upcoming road construction project. To keep projects focused and moving, paving projects of this size:

- Stay within the existing ROW
- Try to avoid environmental impacts
- Avoid complex environmental permits

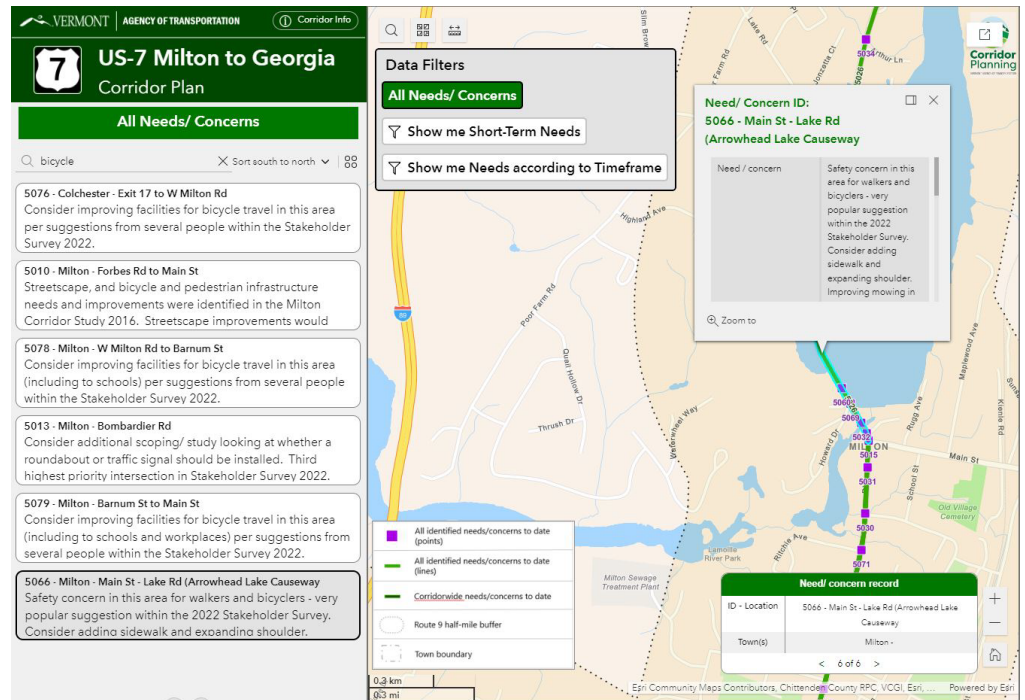
Note: this is a rehabilitation project not a reconstruction!

View the Plan!

Details of the plan, including individualized next steps, can be viewed in the StoryMap, linked from the [Corridor webpage](#). This site includes links to several memos and reports, as well as interactive maps.

A table version of the Needs/ Concerns and Next Steps is also on the [Project Website](#).

Figure 2: Snapshot of one of the interactive maps within the Route 7 StoryMap



Next Steps

After the Plan is finalized in late summer 2022, the plan will be used by many different parts of VTrans as well as local partners like RPCs and Towns.

To keep this plan relevant, we intend to:

- keep the background data up-to-date (e.g. project lists, asset conditions, etc)
- check in with VTrans staff and local partners on a regular basis for updates (next update likely in 2024)

Periodically, updates will be emailed to partners and other interested parties along the Corridor.



For future updates on this project, please visit

<https://vtrans.vermont.gov/corridor/us7-Milton-Georgia>

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