

Route 9 Corridor Management Plan Stakeholder Meeting

Tuesday, July 13, 2021 at 4pm

Online meeting, with satellite locations at WRC and BCRC offices

Today's presentation and additional materials are available at

<https://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/projects-programs/corridor-management/vt9-Bennington-Brattleboro>

Welcome and Agenda

- Introductions and roll call
- Background
- Goals for the project and this meeting
- Upcoming Paving Project
- Corridor Management Plan
- Next Steps

Study Area for Vermont Route 9 Corridor Management Plan in 2020



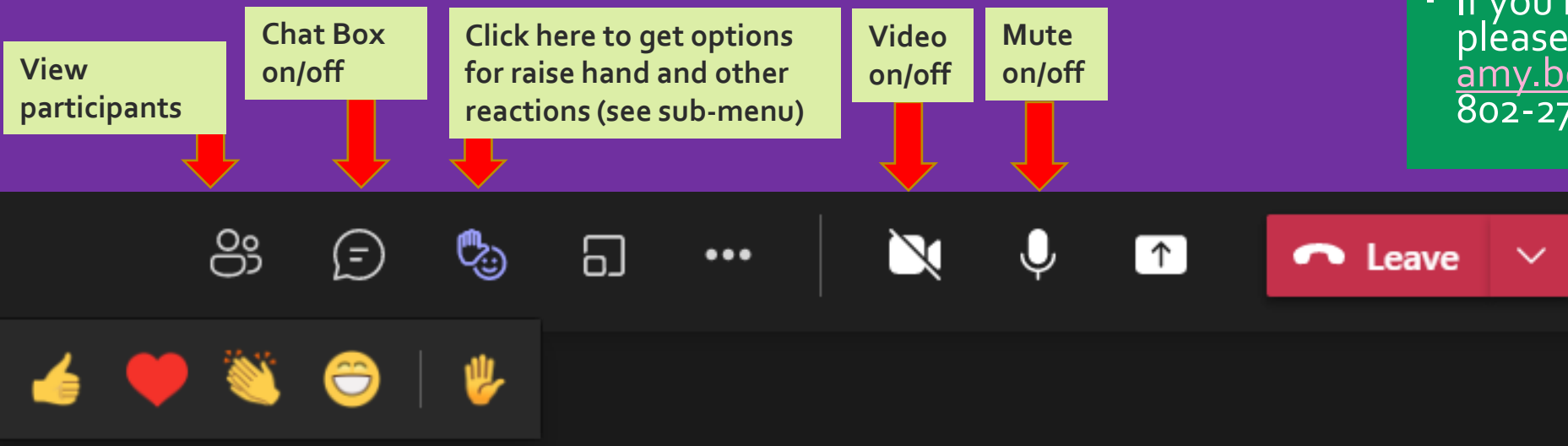
Meeting Housekeeping

- Please keep yourself muted when others are speaking
- Please keep your video turned off until after the presentation
- Submit questions and comments at any time using the chat box, but most will be held until designated times in the agenda
- If you can, please use the “raise hand” function to indicate you wish to speak

Today's meeting is being recorded

Technical difficulties

- If you are having audio issues, try connecting to the sound by phone rather than computer.
- If you have any technical issues, please contact Amy Bell – amy.bell@vermont.gov or 802-279-0783



Introductions

VTrans staff presenting today

- Project lead - Katharine Otto - Planning Coordinator
- Joe Segale - Policy, Planning and Research Bureau Director
- Kevin Marshia – Budget and Programming

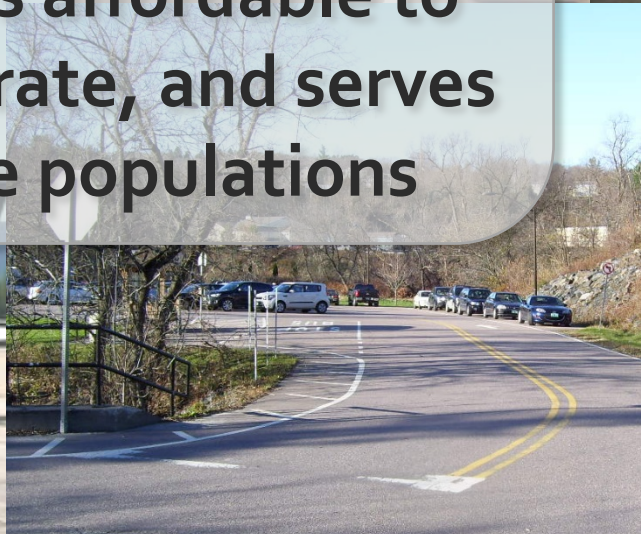
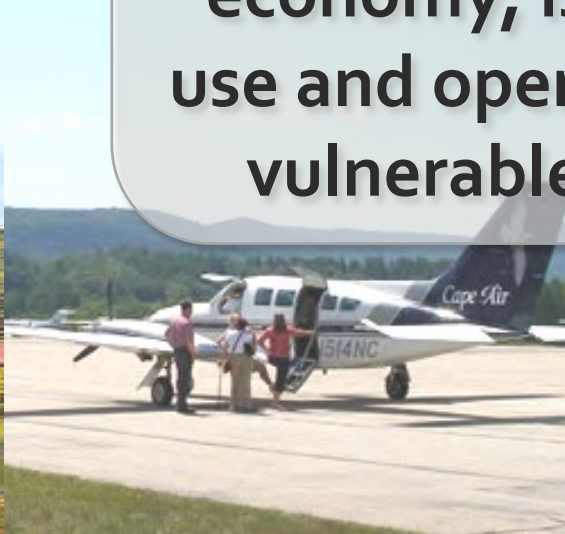
Roll Call and Technical Support – Amy Bell

Background

What are we trying to achieve?



A safe, reliable and multimodal transportation system that grows the economy, is affordable to use and operate, and serves vulnerable populations



Corridor Management Objectives

- Incorporate local needs in a focused and effective way
- Coordinate & Leverage Asset Management Investments
- Identify practical, short term projects
- Identify longer term needs
- Integrate into maintenance, projects and permitting
- Annual Status Meetings to monitor progress and changes



Three types of input

1. VTrans data and staff

2. **Partners** – other state agency, town, RPC or other similar entity which can help us to identify issues along the corridor, and may also be a *partner* is helping to address some of the issues

- ANR, VEM and others
- Southeast Vermont Transit and GMCN
- BCRC and WRC
- Towns on the corridor
- Green Mountain National Forest

3. **Stakeholders** – people who use the corridor

- Towns near the corridor who use it often
- Businesses near and along the corridor
- Residents near and along the corridor
- Advocacy groups near and along the corridor
- Members of the WRC and BCRC Transportation Advisory Committees (TACs)

Nearly 200 people have been involved as of June 2020!

Goals

Project Goal

- Identify practical recommendations that are possible to implement in the short-term in combination with asset management investments such as paving and bridge projects
- Identify longer-term needs that may be addressed through other AOT and municipal programs.

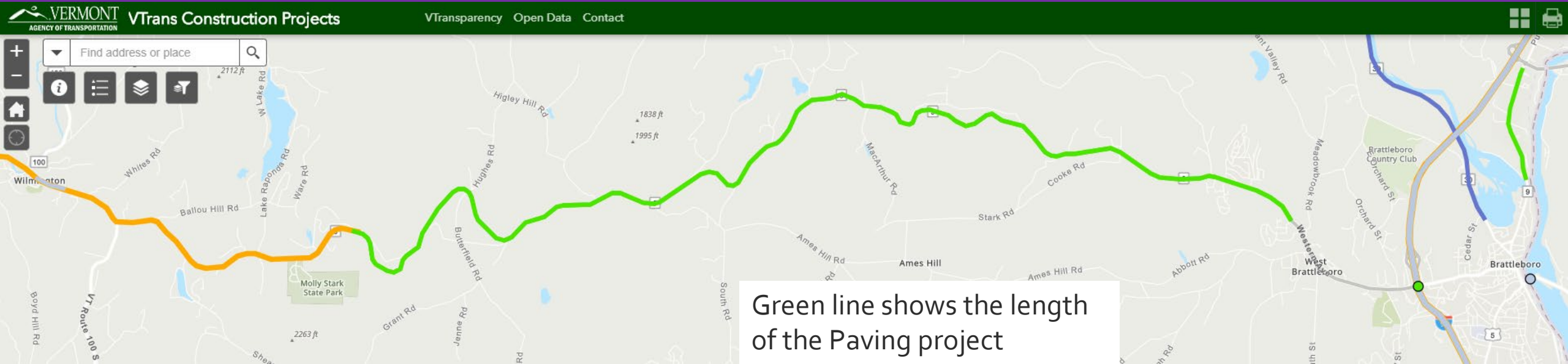
Goal for Today's Meeting

- Explain how the Corridor Management Plan was developed
- Share brief overview of improvements included in the 2021-2022 Paving Project
- Share final Corridor Management Plan

Paving Project

Paving project (Wilmington to Brattleboro)

- Bid in Winter 2021
- Construction over 2 seasons:
 - Drainage and ancillary work in 2021
 - Reclaim paving in 2022
- For information on the project visit <https://resources.vtrans.vermont.gov/factsheet/default.aspx?pin=16V105>
- For interactive map and information about other construction projects visit <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/vtransparency>



What is included in the project?



- Road being reclaimed (grind up the pavement and some of the subbase, then rebuild the pavement on top)
- Working on drainage for all but the last mile of the project in Brattleboro
- Shoulders being addressed where possible
- Road slant (banking) issue will be dealt with along most of the paving project
- Specific upgrades in some locations (see later in this presentation)

Route 9 Corridor Management Plan 2021

Route 9 Corridor Management Plan 2021

Over 130 needs and concerns identified!

View the plan in the StoryMap – link on the [project webpage](#).

Additional information added since December

- Additional needs/ concerns added from feedback
- Next steps for needs/ concerns
- New maps highlight areas with the same general goals – eg improve safety of roadway section
- Memo about oversized loads on Route 9

Where can I view the plan? How is it organized?



Project website and StoryMap has various interactive maps and descriptions



4 digit ID (3001, 3012, etc) can help you to cross reference between items



Local name – We tried to include them where we knew them!

Timeline for implementation

- Short term
- Medium term
- Long term
- Await harmonization opportunity

Other useful information

- Lead Implementer – not just VTrans!
- Collaboration opportunities

One plan

Corridor Management Plan



Several key themes

Safety and crashes

Traffic and congestion

Natural resources



Many shared goals for next steps

Improve roadway safety (section or intersection)

Evaluate signage and/or road markings

Improve safety near recreation area

Develop a Roadway Master Plan for road section

Trucks

Develop a

Consider accommodating wildlife when rehabilitating or replacing structure

Improve roadway resilience to flooding and extreme weather

Improve drainage and/or stormwater infrastructure



Individual next steps

Over 130 individual needs and concerns with assigned individual next steps

Some examples from the Plan

3121 – Corridorwide (Trucks)

Need/ Concern

Study truck usage along the corridor, particularly oversized loads. Truck traffic appears to be heavy, with too many wide loads, many trucks speeding and creating notable noise by Jake brake usage

Next steps

Study truck usage along the corridor, particularly oversized loads.

Timeframe for implementation

Short term (1-5 years)

Lead Implementer

VTrans (Planning, DMV, Safety)

Recent action taken

- VTrans and DMV staff met to discuss the issues
- DMV tracked mobile home oversized permits issued for Route 9 between February and May 2021 – looking at their origins and destinations.
- Results were analyzed and additional next steps were identified.
- Check out the Oversized Truck Memo within the StoryMap for more information.

3073 – Pull offs near townline, east of Furnace Road (Woodford)

Need/ Concern

The pull offs near a swimming hole and hiking trails are becoming a safety issue

Next steps

Coordinate with ANR (FPR) to look for solutions to the emerging parking and safety issues. Evaluate need for signage warning about pedestrians in the roadway. Coordinate with 3002, 3006 and 3072?

Timeframe for implementation

Short term (1-5 years)

Lead Implementer

BCRC

Opportunities for collaboration

ANR (Forest, Parks and Recreation), BCRC, WRC, VTrans (District, Traffic Operations, Planning)

Sound familiar? This issue is not unique!

- Several areas along Route 9 where recreation needs interact with the roadway – including Molly Stark State Park (3006), Woodford State Park (3002), Appalachian Trail crossing (3072)

3093 – Searsburg

Need/ Concern

Wildlife crossing area

Next steps

Coordinate with VTrans Environmental Section (Biologist) when work is done in this area. Evaluate need for wildlife crossing area and feasibility of upgrading structures when harmonization opportunity arises.

Timeframe for implementation

Await harmonization opportunity

Lead Implementer

VTrans (Asset Management Bureau, Structures, Environmental)

Opportunities for collaboration

ANR

Sound familiar? This issue is not unique!

- Several areas along Route 9 have notable wildlife crossing areas and are identified in the plan. This includes 3020 which is a bridge project where VTrans has been working with ANR to upsize the structure, with construction due in 2024.

3003 – Route 100N intersection and Beaver St (Wilmington)

Need/ Concern

The Route 100 North intersection has various issues, including congestion and geometry issues. The proximity of the narrow bridge (traffic width and stream width) adds complexity to the area

Next steps

Complete a Master Plan for downtown Wilmington that examines the issues and presents next steps.

Timeframe for implementation

Short term (1-5 years)

Lead Implementer

VTrans (Traffic Operations, Planning, Permitting and others)

Opportunities for collaboration

Town of Wilmington, RPC

3007 – Hogback Mountain (Marlboro)

Need/Concern

Safety concerns around the Hogback Mountain curve with numerous recorded crashes and near misses. Overlook on the curve contributes parking vehicles and pedestrians into the roadway.

Next steps

Complete a Master Plan that examines issues and presents next steps. Consider studying drainage issues in 3037 in the same study. Consider submitting as a VPSP2 Regionally Driven Potential Project (Traffic and Safety Program).

Timeframe for implementation

Short term (1-5 years)

Lead Implementer

WRC or VTrans (Planning)

Opportunities for collaboration

Town of Marlboro, WRC, VTrans (Traffic Operations, Planning, Permitting, AMB and others), Local Businesses

3010 – South Road Intersection (Marlboro)

Need/ Concern

The South Road curve and intersection is an area of concern for safety.

Next steps

Programmed paving project due to address some issues in this area, including installation of a left turn lane, in 2021 and 2022

Timeframe for implementation

Short term (1-5 years)

Lead Implementer

VTrans Paving

2021-2022 Paving Project next steps

VTrans staff heard feedback last year and incorporated changes into the Project:

- Install left turn lane

For more information about the Paving project, visit the [VTransparency Project Factsheet](#)

2011 – Marlboro Elementary School (Marlboro)

Need/Concern

The roadway near the Marlboro Elementary School with the climbing lane has safety concerns.

Next steps

Programmed paving project due to address some issues in this area in 2021 and 2022. Truck climbing lane options were evaluated. Partner with town to further improve sight distances

Timeframe for implementation

Short term (1-5 years)

Lead Implementer – VTrans Paving

Opportunities for Collaboration – Town

2021-2022 Paving Project next steps

VTrans staff heard feedback last year and incorporated changes into the Project:

- Truck climbing lane length evaluated
- Better signage
- Remove sight distance issues in state ROW
- Recommendations for sight distance improvements outside state ROW

For more information about the Paving project, visit the [VTransparency Project Factsheet](#)

3009 – Turners Corner near Hamilton Rd (Marlboro)

Need/Concern

Turners Corner is a safety concern, particularly with the lack of sight distance near the Hamilton Road intersection

Next steps

Programmed paving project due to address some issues in this area in 2021 and 2022. Partner with town to further improve sight distances.

Timeframe for implementation

Short term (1-5 years)

Lead Implementer – VTrans Paving

Opportunities for Collaboration – Town of Marlboro

2021-2022 Paving Project next steps

VTrans staff heard feedback last year and incorporated changes into the Project:

- Road slant (banking) issue addressed
- New signs installed
- Tree clearance and minor slope work where possible

For more information about the Paving project, visit the [VTransparency Project Factsheet](#)

3069 – West Brattleboro (Sunset Lake Rd to Edward Heights Rd)

Need/ Concern

Area has various issues, including many turn vehicles, lack of sidewalks and minimal lighting.

Next steps

Develop Roadway Master Plan for this section, with drainage issues in 3017. Evaluating whether roadway should become Class 1 Town Highway in future may be useful. Consider submitting as a VPSP₂ Regionally Driven Potential Project (Roadway Program).

Timeframe for implementation

Short term (1-5 years)

Lead Implementer

WRC or VTrans (Planning)

Opportunities for Collaboration

Town of Brattleboro, WRC, VTrans (Traffic Operations, Planning, Permitting and others)

2021-2022 Paving Project next steps

VTrans staff heard feedback last year and incorporated changes into the Project:

- Speed limit change (40 – 35mph) approved by VTrans Traffic Committee
- Bike lanes will be marked
- Crosswalk to be installed near Winding Hill Rd
- Evaluated crosswalk near Cumberland Farms/ Dunkin Donuts but not being installed
- Flashing beacon (RRFB) proposed near Edward Heights

For more information about the Paving project, visit the [VTransparency Project Factsheet](#)

Next steps

What comes next?

Visit website and explore the CMP

- Interactive maps
- More info about themes
- Reports and memos

Already happening

- VTrans and partners start to implement plan

2022

- Update to Truck Memo
- Email update to Partners and Stakeholders

2023

- Check in with VTrans staff and local partners for updates on progress
- Email update to Partners and Stakeholders

Updates, comments or questions? Email Katharine.otto@vermont.gov

Go to StoryMap

A link to this StoryMap can be found at

<https://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/projects-programs/corridor-management/vt9-Bennington-Brattleboro>