

2023 VTrans Scoping Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Application

1. Project Title:

2. Applicant (Town, RPC, etc.):

3. Project Contact Info:

a. Name:

b. Mailing Address:

c. Town:

d. Zip Code:

e. Email Address:

f. Phone Number:

4. Fiscal Information:

a. Accounting System Automated Manual Combination

b. Unique Entity Identifier #

c. Fiscal Year End Month

5. RPC(s)

6. Primary Facility Type: Sidewalk Bike Lane Shared-use Path

Shoulder

Other (Please describe)

7. Project Description: Please give a brief description of the project (100 words or less.)

Detailed information should be submitted as part of addressing the selection criteria. Be sure to include identifying streets or landmarks that the proposed project links at either end (e.g. New concrete sidewalk with granite curbing on Main St. from Elm St. to Maple St.).

2023 VTrans Scoping Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Application

8. **Estimated Project Costs:**

Scoping Projects

Consultant Costs

Consultant Costs (to develop scoping report)

Admin Costs

Administration/Local Project Manager Costs

(Costs associated with oversight of the project, estimated at 10% of Scoping report development)

TOTAL SCOPING AMOUNT APPLIED FOR (including 20% local share)

2023 VTrans Scoping Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Application

1. Project Title: Featherbed Lane/Apple Island Resort Safety Concerns

2. Applicant (Town, RPC, etc.): Town of South Hero

3. Project Contact Info:
 - a. Name: Susan Arguin/Town Administrator
 - b. Mailing Address: PO Box 175
 - c. Town: South Hero
 - d. Zip Code: 05486
 - e. Email Address: townadmin@southherovt.org
 - f. Phone Number: (802) 372-5552

4. Fiscal Information:
 - a. Accounting System Automated Manual Combination
 - b. Unique Entity Identifier # F856GHM8WMH6
 - c. Fiscal Year End Month June

5. RPC(s) Northwest RPC

6. Primary Facility Type: Sidewalk Bike Lane Shared-use Path
 Shoulder
 Other (Please describe) Items that would keep both pedestrians/motc

7. Project Description: Please give a brief description of the project (100 words or less.)

Detailed information should be submitted as part of addressing the selection criteria. Be sure to include identifying streets or landmarks that the proposed project links at either end (e.g. New concrete sidewalk with granite curbing on Main St. from Elm St. to Maple St.).

This has been a study that started over a year ago focussing on the traffic flow and speed around the Featherbed Lane and Apple Island Resort Campground on Route 2 in South Hero. There is a concern about the speed and safety in that area. There is often (particularly in the summer/fall months) for an increase of traffic coming onto the island. Travelers are going to the Apple Island Campground, dock a boat, cross this busy, high speed road or folks coming & going from homes on Featherbed Lane.

A. Scoping Projects

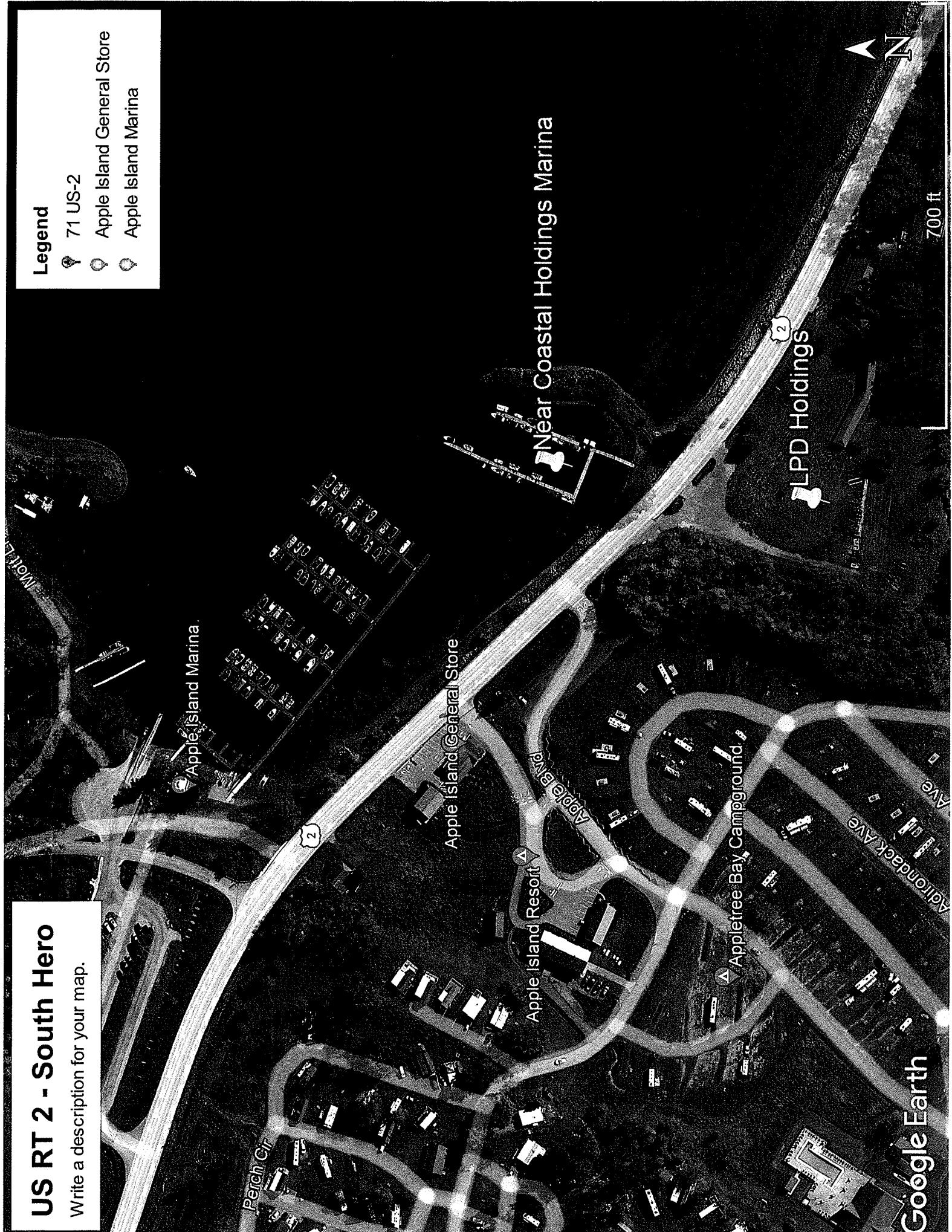
- 1. Community Need** – The scoping area includes 2 marinas, a recently approved development that will include a restaurant and 9 residential units, Apple Island Resort and General Store, VT Fish and Wildlife parking and Boat launch, and the intersection with Featherbed Lane. The Town of South Hero is currently completing its 2023 Town Plan, due for adoption in August 2023. As of now, the Town is still operating under the 2015 Town Plan. This Plan includes a section on Public Access to Lake Champlain, described as an important asset which enhances the recreational and scenic views of the Town as a whole, residents, seasonal homeowners, and visitors. The Guilmette Access area on Featherbed Lane is an important access to the Lake that is utilized by not only by Island communities, but by the entire region. This is the first boat launch for those entering the islands from the Sand Bar, with a large parking area and easily accessed boat launch, in addition to the Apple Island marina sharing the same waterfront. The Plan goes on to explain the dependance on the lake for fishing, boating, and other recreational pursuits, with tourist services including the fishing access (with accompanying parking) and 2 marinas. The 2015 Plan provides guidance for maintenance and necessary development of the roads..... that benefit commerce, *safety*, and leisure. While the road is shared by the users, there are no sidewalks or pedestrian lanes in the requested area, nor are there crosswalks to safely cross a very busy highway that includes accesses to existing and additional future businesses, residences, an intersection, and Fish and Wildlife parking and boat launch. Goals and Objectives of the Plan include maintaining roads with an emphasis on the safety of all users. Because RT 2 is the common denominator here, we are asking for a study to determine what steps the Town can take to improve safety not only for visitors to South Hero but also for the residents who travel RT 2 daily.

US RT 2 - South Hero

Write a description for your map.

Legend

- 71 US-2
- Apple Island General Store
- Apple Island Marina



TOWN OF SOUTH HERO, VERMONT SELECTBOARD

333 US RT 2/PO Box 175

South Hero VT 05486

802-372-5552

townadmin@southherovt.org

June 8, 2023

The South Hero Selectboard supports the application for a 2023 VTrans Bicycle/Pedestrian grant for a scoping study of RT 2 in the area encompassing Apple Island Resort, Featherbed Lane, VT Fish and Wildlife parking and boat launch, and the Sand Bar Inn development (53 through 90 US RT 2). The Selectboard is willing to provide the 20% matching funds for the grant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Carter', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Carter
South Hero Selectboard Chair

State of Vermont
Operations and Safety Bureau
2178 Airport Road
Barre, VT 05641
vtrans.vermont.gov

[phone] 802-371-8827
[fax] 802-828-2437
[ttd] 800-253-0191

Agency of Transportation

September 20, 2022

Town of South Hero Selectboard
c/o Martha Taylor Varney, Zoning Administrator
PO Box 18
Milton VT, 05468

Re: Safety-related requests, US-2

Dear Selectboard,

This letter is in response to your September 12, 2022, letter making several safety-related requests of the Agency of Transportation, specifically on the easterly end of the portion of US-2, from Landon Road to the South Hero-Milton Town line. Please note that the Towns of Colchester and South Hero have also submitted related requests, effectively extending the study area from Landon Road in South Hero on the westerly end, to the I-89 interchange on the easterly end.

The Town's request includes four specific request, which for clarity I have responded to separately below:

- 1. The loan of a temporary 'speed cart', discussed at the August 8, 2022 Selectboard meeting.** District Transportation Administrator Ernie Patnoe (cc'd) will work with the town to provide loan of these carts as discussed at the August 8, 2022 meeting. The Town will be required to apply for an 1111 permit as part of this process. Please contact Ernie directly to coordinate this.
- 2. Two solar powered radar speed signs, locations to be determined.** Radar Speed Feedback Signs (RSFS) are considered enforcement devices, and thus may be installed and maintained on State Highways by municipalities working under S.1111 permit. VTrans does not offer grant funding for the installation of these devices to municipalities; there may be the option to for an NHTSA Safety grant to the Grand Isle County Sheriff's department. Traffic Operations staff can work with the Town to recommend locations.
- 3. A crosswalk study for 2 crossings on RT2, locations shown on the attached aerial photo.** As indicated to the Town at the August 8, 2022 selectboard meeting, VTrans does not install marked crosswalks without ADA accessible pedestrian features on both sides of the proposed crossing. At this time, such features do not exist at either of the proposed crossing locations shown. Construction of accessible pedestrian facilities would be a municipal responsibility; it is our understanding that the Town recently chose not to expand the study area for a pedestrian scoping study grant to include the area noted here. If the Town wishes to pursue crossing improvements in this area, VTrans recommends that overall pedestrian activity and needs in the area are studied to understand where crossings are best located and how to connect them with sidewalks. VTrans has two different grant programs that could provide funding for such a study- the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Program. Contacts for these programs are Scott Robertson (scott.robertson@vermont.gov) for TAP and Peter Pochop (peter.pochop@vermont.gov) for Bicycle and Pedestrian Grants.



Town Administrator

From: Pochop, Peter <Peter.Pochop@vermont.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 1:20 PM
To: Town Administrator
Cc: Pochop, Peter
Subject: FW: South Hero Bicycle and Pedestrian grant application
Attachments: Class I Town Highways White Paper.pdf

fyi

Peter Pochop | Project Manager
Project Delivery Bureau - Municipal Assistance
219 North Main Street, Barre VT 05641
802-477-3123
<http://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/local-projects/>



From: Driscoll, Kristin <Kristin.Driscoll@vermont.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 2:49 PM
To: Degutis, Ian <Ian.Degutis@vermont.gov>; zoning@southherovt.org
Cc: Pierce, Ed <Ed.Pierce@vermont.gov>; Pochop, Peter <Peter.Pochop@vermont.gov>; Stanley, Steven K <Steven.K.Stanley@vermont.gov>; Patnoe, Ernie <Ernie.Patnoe@vermont.gov>; Taylor, Joshua <Joshua.E.Taylor@vermont.gov>; Lemieux, Steffanie <Steffanie.Lemieux@vermont.gov>; Woods, Bradley <Bradley.Woods@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: South Hero Bicycle and Pedestrian grant application

Hi Martha,

I am going to attempt to answer all your questions here with responses in blue below.
I know it's a lot to digest, so let us know if you have any other questions.

Thanks!

Kristin Driscoll
Traffic Operations Manager
Vermont Agency of Transportation
2178 Airport Road | Berlin, VT 05641
802-424-6338 kristin.driscoll@vermont.gov

From: Degutis, Ian <Ian.Degutis@vermont.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 5:33 PM
To: Driscoll, Kristin <Kristin.Driscoll@vermont.gov>; Lemieux, Steffanie <Steffanie.Lemieux@vermont.gov>; Woods, Bradley <Bradley.Woods@vermont.gov>
Cc: Taylor, Joshua <Joshua.E.Taylor@vermont.gov>
Subject: FW: South Hero Bicycle and Pedestrian grant application

From: Martha Taylor Varney <zoning@southherovt.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 11:50 AM
To: Degutis, Ian <Ian.Degutis@vermont.gov>
Subject: South Hero Bicycle and Pedestrian grant application

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Good morning, Ian. I received an email last August from Jon Kaplan after a public meeting at the South Hero Library about concerns on RT 2 around the Featherbed Lane /RT 2 intersection, Apple Island Resort, the related marinas, and the Fish and Wildlife parking and boat launch (August 12, 2022). The email outlined the highlights of the meeting and suggested follow-ups. South Hero is considering application for the 2023 Bicycle and Pedestrian grant for a scoping study of pedestrian needs here. We decided not to piggyback this study with the 2022 sidewalk scoping study the Town had received last summer because that study was specifically for sidewalks in the 2 villages in South Hero and the funds were limited. Before we complete the application for 2023, we have a few follow-up comments and questions.

1. We have received the speed cart from Ernie Patnoe and are going through the process of placing it in the appropriate location.
2. The “No Parking” signs between Featherbed Lane and the entrance to the Fish & Wildlife parking were installed (thank you).
3. The email from Jon referenced a review of signs in that area to improve safety that had been completed by the Traffic Investigator. Have there been any new signs or changes proposed for that area because of that study? In addition to the no parking signs, recreational assemblies were added to help delineate the boat launch entrance and parking area. There are existing pedestrian warning signs bracketing this area with ½ miles plaques (EB assembly has a beacon). These signs were installed on 12/09/2022
4. As I understand it, the grant request could cover a study of 2 requested crosswalks in that area, in addition to a connecting path from the crosswalks to other developments in the area. Also requested would be additional electronic speed signage, perhaps additional signage at the crosswalks themselves, and (of course) any other recommendations to help increase safety here. The Town has already researched the costs of the electronic signs and may include a request to review proposed locations in the South Hero Village area, if possible (perhaps this would be a separate request). The study will have to include ADA accessible pedestrian features on both sides of the proposed crossings that provide reasonable connections to pedestrian generators. More information for these grants/studies should be directed to Peter Pochop. I am unsure if Radar Speed Feedback Signs (RSFS) would be able to be included in such a grant, Pete should be able to answer that question. I have cc'd him on this email. The town could pursue RSFS separately from the scoping study (here or in the Village) if you wanted to pay for them with Town funds. This would be done through the 1111 permit process. The contact for that would be Ed Pierce, also cc's on this email.
5. We'll be interested to learn whether the current speed limit (40mph) will remain. We understand that the VT Traffic Committee would make the final decision on that. A few years ago, this committee allowed the 35mph speed zone in South Hero Village to be expanded eastward a few hundred yards. We accompanied that with an electronic speed sign and the resulting decrease in speed along that area was encouraging. At the October 25, 2022 Traffic Committee meeting, Traffic Operations presented an engineering study that recommended no change to the speed limits on US2 from Landry Rd in South Hero to Niquette Bay Rd in Colchester. This study included request from South Hero, Milton and Colchester together to review the US2 speed limits. South Hero's request covered from The Milton/South Hero Town line to Landon Rd in South Hero. After all testimony was presented by Traffic Operation and the Towns, the Committee voted to reduce the 55 mph zone to 50 mph in the Towns of Milton and Colchester with no change to the speed limit zones including the 40 mph zone you reference in South. Hero. Currently there are no open requests for speed studies in the Town of So. Hero. I'd also like to note that while it's hard to know what might get built as a result of a scoping study, unless there were significant changes to the roadway character our recommendation for this area would be unlikely to change.
6. Would a study of this area include any recommendation or pro's/cons of the Town assuming the responsibility for this part of a Class 1 Highway? The bicycle/pedestrian scoping study generally does not include a Class1 review. Jon did provided the Class 1 White Paper document that could help guide the town to make a decision (I have also attached a

copy here). I would also suggest that the Town reach out to Bethany Remmers with the Northwest Regional Planning Commission to help the Town explore this option. If there are specific questions about VTrans assets or maintenance history in the area you could reach out to VTrans District Project Manager, Steven Stanley at the District 8 Office.

Thanks for bearing with me. We will be completing the application in time to meet the June 9 deadline.

Martha Taylor-Varney
Zoning Administrator
Town of South Hero
P.O. Box 175
South Hero, VT 05486
802-372-4841

July 14, 2022

On June 28th, 2022 the South Hero Development Review Board approved a site plan by LPD Holdings, LLC to redevelop the Sand Bar Inn parcel at 59 US RT 2 for a restaurant, four 2-unit townhouses, and one single dwelling unit. The development includes 78 parking spaces – 18 for the dwelling units, 32 for the restaurant, and 14 spaces reserved for the marina directly across RT 2, owned by Near Coastal Holdings.

Additionally, Apple Island Resort (and its general store), Apple Island Marina, the intersection of RT 2 with Featherbed Lane, the VT Fish and Wildlife boat launch, and boat launch parking with separate access onto RT 2 are all within this very active area coming onto the Champlain Islands. Although the speed limit has been reduced to 40mph, and a flashing yellow light and pedestrian sign for east-bound traffic gives drivers a heads-up, pedestrians currently crossing from the Resort to the Marina, as well as from the Sand Bar lot to the Near Coastal Holdings marina and jetty, do so at their peril. With no designated crossing locations, pedestrians attempt to cross RT 2 from numerous locations along the road that cannot be anticipated by drivers.

RV's waiting for oncoming traffic to turn into the Resort further add to the congestion at this location. And this will increase once the new restaurant and residential development is completed. Cars behind these stationary vehicles frequently pull into the breakdown lane to pass on the right, increasing the risk of collisions for those attempting to enter Rt 2. Added to that, the intersection of Featherbed Lane is frequently blocked by vehicles with boat trailers as they line up for the Fish and Wildlife boat launch (ignoring signage that directs them to the boat launch and parking entrance further west). Featherbed Lane residents are unable to safely turn onto RT 2 due to traffic and the increasing numbers of overflow boats and trailers parked in the RT 2 breakdown lane when the Fish and Wildlife parking area is full. This has made access to and from Featherbed Lane and the parking area especially dangerous.

There have been numerous concerns voiced at the DRB hearings for LPD Holdings and at recent Selectboard meetings about the safety of this area of RT 2. **The South Hero Selectboard's August 8th meeting at 7PM will include a discussion of these issues and the Board is inviting you, or a representative, to attend. Participation can be either in-person or via Zoom. Please confirm that you will be able to attend. The Board looks forward to this important discussion.**

Thank you.

David Carter

Chair, South Hero Selectboard

Please contact me to confirm that you wish to attend so I can send the agenda with Zoom information for the August 8, 2022 Selectboard meeting.

Martha Taylor-Varney

At Worthen Library and via Zoom

Board Members Present: David Carter/Chairman, Skip Brown/Board Secretary, Ross Brown/Vice Chairman Anne Zolotas (via Zoom), and Chuck Hulse

Board Members Not Present: none

Others Present: Martha Taylor-Varney, ZA. Also see sign in sheet of in person and active Zoom participants. *Attendance SB 08-08-2022

1. Called to Order:

-The meeting was called to order by Chairman David Carter at 7:00 pm

2. Adjustment to Agenda:

-none

3. Minutes:

-Chuck Hulse made a motion to acknowledge the minutes as corrected of the meeting of July 25, 2022. The motion was seconded, all in attendance at the meeting so voted and the motion carried.

4. Public input:

A. Ruby Bresinsky discussed the fact that cars are parking on both sides of Featherbed Lane and sometimes even double parking. This causes a safety hazard to the residents of the Lane. Also, boats exiting the State boat ramp sometimes exit using Featherbed Lane. She asks that "no parking" signs be installed on Featherbed Lane and that better signage be installed to advise boaters to not turn onto Featherbed Lane. More discussion to follow below.

B. Penny Cunningham asked if the traffic calming study re: the village center area that was done in approximately 2000 be revisited. More discussion to follow below.

5. New Business:

A. There have been several accidents and near misses in the vicinity of the old Sandbar Motel and Apple Island Resort. The Town of South Hero invited representative of VTrans and Fish and Wildlife to this meeting to discuss the concerns in the area. Selectboard Chairman David Carter One began the discussion to request the possibility of installing 2 crosswalks in area between the LPD Holdings property and across to the Near Coastal Holdings marina, with the other one requested near the Apple Island Property and across to Featherbed Lane. Also, it was suggested that the speed limit in the area be reduced to 35mph and that radar signs indicating "your speed is" would be helpful. The Selectboard has also asked that "no parking" signs be

placed on the North side of Route 2 between Featherbed Lane and the F&W access, as when overflow vehicles and boat trailers park there then the visibility is severely limited. See Map:US RT 2 Causeway to F&W parking

Some of the comments and responses regarding the above are as follows:

-Sheriff Ray Allen supports the Selectboard requests and does think that the current 40 mph speed limit is too fast in the area of crosswalks.

-F&W Representative Mike Wichrowski stated that he is not comfortable installing signs on Featherbed Lane since it is a private road. Note that F&W owns the land, and that the Featherbed Lane residents have a right of way/easement over it. F&W Commissioner Chris Herrick said that he would speak with the State legal council to inquire about whose responsibility signs would be.

-VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian official Jon Kaplan stated that no parking on the North Side of Route 2 has already been established and that have apparently been missing for some time. VTrans district representative Ernie Patnoe is in charge of replacing the missing signs. He stated that he is waiting for a formal work order to replace them. They should be installed within 30 days and he will try to get that expedited. He also stated that he will look into a "your speed is" radar sign.

-In order to change the speed limit on a State road, the Vermont Traffic Committee has to be contacted.

- VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian official Jon Kaplan stated that should crosswalks be designated, connecting infrastructure such as sidewalks need to be in place so that there will be a definitive landing spot on both sides of the road. South Hero can apply for a grant to help pay for a study and possibly some of the cost of such infrastructure.

-South Hero DRB member Lisa Kilcoyne feels that since this area is composed of many entities, it needs a designer who will come up with a long term solution.

-Featherbed Lane resident Erin Morse feels that all of the signs in the vicinity should be looked at and reviewed.

- VTrans district representative Ernie Patnoe explained that if South Hero wants more control of Route 2 in the Town, then it can look into taking it over as a Class 1 Town Highway. It will mean that South Hero would have to bear the financial responsibility of the road such as plowing, ditching, culverts etc., save for paving approximately every 20 years.

- Note that a video of the whole meeting can be found here: <https://lcatv.org/south-hero>

B. Recreation Commission member Carol Tremble was present to discuss the possibility of installing a "pump track" on Town property for BMX bicycles. The area behind Folsom Educational and Community Center is not suitable. More information will be available if an area is deemed possible. She asked if the Road Department can assemble and place a bicycle rack

inside the fence at White's Beach. Ross Brown will speak with the Road Crew to do it.

C. Ross Brown made a motion to approve and sign an Errors and Omissions document from the Listers for Roy and Diane Gates as the wrong value was assigned on a trailer. The motion was seconded, all in attendance so voted and the motion carried.

6. Administrative Assistant Report:

A. See the written report filed with these minutes (Below on the website or in Town Hall).

7. Old and Ongoing Business:

A. none at this meeting

8. Announcements and Communications:

A. see Other Business

9. Other Business:

A. Ross Brown made a motion to approve and sign orders 23-03 and to pay the bills associated with the orders. The motion was seconded, all in attendance so voted and the motion carried.

B. Town Clerk/Treasurer updates: The primary voting is tomorrow.

C. Recreation Commission (RC) update: David Carter stated that the White's Beach area looks great. Tim Maxham suggested that the plantings under the large sign be attended to.

D. Road Department update: The land purchase for the future salt shed is still proceeding slowly.

E. Old South Hero Meeting House (OSMHM): There will be a "Cheese and Cheers" event on August 22, 2022.

F. ARPA fund updates: The Cemetery Commission wants to digitize their records and wonders whether ARPA funds will be suitable for this. It will be looked into.

G. Wastewater update: Peter Zamore discussed that fact that the study is funded with a fully reimbursable loan. Oddly, the State has requested that an underwriter look into the ability of South Hero to repay the loan should wastewater disposal ever be built and the loan then has to be paid back in the future. Otter Creek engineering and NRPC have outstanding invoices. They will not proceed with any more work until their invoices are paid. He asks for the Board to look into paying these invoices in the anticipation that the final loan approval will be granted. More information will follow at the next meeting.

10. Adjournment:

-Ross Brown made a motion to adjourn 8:50 pm. The motion was seconded, all in attendance



75 Fairfield Street • St. Albans, VT 05478 • (802) 524-5958 • Fax (802) 527-2948

June 9, 2023

Peter Pochop, MAS Project Manager
VT Agency of Transportation
219 North Main Street
Barre, VT 05461

Re: Letter of Support for Featherbed Lane/Apple Island Resort Safety Concerns Scoping Study

Dear Mr. Pochop:

The Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) is pleased to support the Town of South Hero's application to the Vermont Bicycle and Pedestrian Program. The funding would be used for a scoping study to identify pedestrian safety improvements specific to crossing Route 2 from the Apple Island Resort/Featherbed Lane area to the other side of Route 2 where there is a marina.

This project fits well with the goals and policies of the 2017 Northwest Regional Plan. Some of the goals that support this project are:

- Ensure all of the region's residents have access to safe and affordable transportation options regardless of age, physical ability, economic status or other factors.
- Use creative approaches to maintain, improve, and expand the region's transportation network, and ensure it is resilient to the impacts of climate change.
- Ensure that the region's transportation network will accommodate all users including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, freight and public transit users.
- Ensure the transportation network enhances residents' overall quality of life, supports regional land use goals and expands economic opportunities.
- Incorporate healthy community design through land development patterns, transportation options and site design that enable residents to lead physically active lives.

Thank you for considering our comments. Please feel free to call me or if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely:

Greta Brunswick

Greta Brunswick
Senior Planner