



**VTrans Fall 2022 Transportation Alternatives (TA) Grant Application**

Thoroughly read the ***Vermont Transportation Alternatives Fall 2022 Application Guide*** before you begin your application. It includes important program information and step-by-step instructions. Pay particular attention to the application process requirements. **Applications are due in hand or by e-mail by December 14, 2022.** Please e-mail the completed application to: [Scott.robertson@vermont.gov](mailto:Scott.robertson@vermont.gov)

Richford Village Sidewalk to School  
(Project Name/Title)

802-848-7751 ext 6  
(Phone)

Michael Olio  
(Municipality contact person responsible for the management of this project)

edc@richfordvt.org  
(e-mail address)

Richford  
(Town)

\$ \$40,000  
Amount of **Federal Funds requested** (no more than 80% of the project cost estimate).

05476  
(Zip Code)

\$10,000  
Amount of Local Match. Example:  
Federal Award = \$300,000 (80% of total)  
Local Match = \$75,000 (20% of total)  
Total Project Cost = \$375,000 (100% of the total)

94 Main St.  
(Mailing Address)

County: Franklin

Town/Village/City: Richford

Specific location, street, or road: Route 105 and Richford Elementary School Rd.

Regional Planning Commission: Northwest Regional Planning Commission

If a linear project, what is the length in feet? 3,168

Is the project on or intersecting to a State maintained highway? Yes  No

- *Note: If yes, be sure to include documentation that you have notified the VTrans District Transportation Administrator of the intent to apply for TA funding and have provided them with a brief (one paragraph) description of the proposed project.*

Project type being applied for:  **Scoping**  **Design/Construction**

The municipality understands that a typical construction project utilizing Transportation Alternatives Program funds will take roughly three years (min.) in the Design and ROW phases prior to going to construction (as pointed out in the TA Program Application Guide)? Yes  No

Does this project have a previously completed scoping or feasibility study? Yes  No

**Note:**

Attach a map(s) of the project area and clearly show the limits of the project as well as surrounding benefits from the proposed improvement. If the project is within or adjacent to a designated downtown, village or growth center, clearly indicate the relationship of the proposed project to the boundary of the designated area. Color photos of the area are also recommended.

**Fiscal Information:**

Accounting System Automated  Manual  Combination

SAM Unique Identifier # XETELLWJ1ML1

Fiscal Year End Month 12/22

**Property Ownership:**

If the proposed project is on private property that will need to be acquired by the Municipality through purchase, easement, or eminent domain (includes temporary construction rights) in accordance with the "Uniform Act", then the municipality is committed to exercising its right of **eminent domain** to acquire the rights to construct the project if necessary. Yes  No  NA

**Funding:**

Does this project already have existing funding? If so, please describe. Yes  No   
NA

Will you accept an award less than you applied for? Yes  No

- If yes, please indicate whether local funds will be used to make up the shortfall, or if the project scope will be reduced. If the project scope is to be reduced, describe what part of the project (please be specific) you would accept partial funding for.

Project will be scaled to the award received.

**A support letter from the governing body of the applicant municipality or organization** and an acknowledgement and source of the local match and commitment to future maintenance responsibility for construction projects is required (must be dated within 1 year of the application). Is a letter of support attached?

Yes  No

**Regional Planning Commission Letter of Support:**

In order to apply, the project must have a letter of support from the regional planning commission. Is a letter of support attached?

Yes  No

**Application Scoring Criteria:**

- 1. Please give a brief description of the project (be sure to indicate the primary facility type being applied for and be concise). (10 points max.)**

This project will develop a scoping study for about .6 miles of sidewalk along Route 105 and Elementary School Rd in Richford and associated crossings. The sidewalk will allow for a safe pedestrian connection from the Village Center and the neighborhoods in and around Richford Village to the Richford Elementary School, along with the Pinnacle Jolley store, a local daycare and the public preschool. The sidewalk will begin around the intersection of Route 105 and Noyes Street where the Richford Village sidewalk network ends on the east side of the street and extend down Route 105 to Pinnacle Jolley where Class 1 Town Highway ends. It will continue along State Highway Route 105 until the intersection with Elementary School Road (Class 3 Town Highway), where it will continue to Richford Elementary School. Please Reference Map 1.

The project will consider the best location and side of road for the sidewalk. The study will also consider the best sidewalk design to provide a safe route to the intended users - families and school children in Richford. Please reference Map 2 for some options at the Noyes Street intersection, which is being considered as part of a Village Center Streetscape Master Plan.

Pedestrian crossings on Route 105 may be needed at the Noyes Street intersection and at the Elementary School Road intersection to access the preschool and daycare. Where pedestrian crossings are proposed, the study will consider the best location and design for these crossings, in addition to coordinating with VAOT to confirm that conditions will be met for the crossings.

- 2. What is the feasibility of this project? Feasibility (or Scoping) study applications will not be scored on this criterion. Also, please describe the extent of project development completed to date. (10 points max.)**

NA – Scoping Project

- 3. Does this project address a need identified in a local or regional planning document? If so, please describe. (5 points max.)**

This project will further many goals and policies of the 2017 Northwest Regional Plan. Specifically, the project will further the following goals and policies:

Goal: To ensure all of the region’s residents have access to safe and affordable transportation options regardless of age, physical ability or economic status.

Goal: Ensure the transportation network enhances residents’ overall quality of life, supports regional land use goals and expands economic opportunities.

Policy: Ensure that the region’s transportation network will accommodate all users including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, freight and public transit users.

Policy: Seek out engineering, enforcement and behavior change solutions to address safety issues on the transportation network.

Policy: Use appropriate Complete Streets techniques depending on the land use context.

The Regional Plans implementation strategy for complete streets in village centers, includes the following for sidewalk construction: Gaps in the sidewalk network shall have high priority for new sidewalk construction. New sidewalks shall be constructed and existing sidewalks upgraded to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Richford’s Municipal Plan identifies the need for a sidewalk to the Elementary School as “all students are bussed but there have been discussions on providing and improving sidewalks to allow some students to walk to school.”

4. Does this project benefit a State Designated Center per the link below (i.e., downtowns, villages, or neighborhood growth centers recognized by the Vermont Department of Economic, Housing and Community Development)? (10 Points Max.)

<http://maps.vermont.gov/ACCD/PlanningAtlas/index.html?viewer=PlanningAtlas>

Richford has a Designated Village Center. The Elementary School and project area are located outside the Designated Village Center, but the sidewalk that this project would scope would provide a safe pedestrian connect to key amenities, including the Elementary School to the Designated Village Center. It is beneficial for both families and teachers and the village center to have a safe pedestrian route from the Elementary School. It can increase the amount that families, teachers and students are choosing to walk, which can lead to better health outcomes. More walkers can in turn lead to more business and activity in the village center.

5. Provide a project cost estimate below (project costs below include both federal dollars and local dollars). Projects will be scored based on whether the cost appears realistic for the size and scope of the project. For scoping studies, use PE and Local Project Management lines only.

**Note:** If you are applying for additional funds for an existing project, show the amount being requested for this grant in the PE, ROW, Construction, Construction Engineering, and Municipal Project Management rows below. Also, be clear regarding total project cost and other funding amounts and sources in the additional funding comments box below. (10 points max.)

Preliminary Engineering (PE) <i>(Engineering, Surveying, Permitting)</i>	\$ <u>45,000</u>
Right-of-way / Acquisition (ROW) <i>(appraisals, land acquisition and legal fees)</i>	\$ <a href="#">Click here to enter value</a>
Construction <i>(construction costs with reasonable contingency)</i>	\$ <a href="#">Click here to enter value</a>
Construction Engineering <i>(cost to provide inspection during construction)</i>	\$ <a href="#">Click here to enter value</a>
Municipal Project Management Costs <i>(minimum of 10% of total PE, ROW and Construction Phases).</i>	\$ <u>5,000</u>
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>\$ <u>50,000</u></b>

**Addition Funding Comments:** (ex. Total and additional funding for existing projects)  
No applicable.

6. Select the eligibility category below (A, B, C or D) that best fits your project and answer the corresponding questions for that category (choose only one category). 10 bonus points will be awarded to projects that are primarily Bicycle or Pedestrian facilities.

**A. Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities (includes Safe Routes for Non-Drivers and Conversion of abandoned railroad corridors.**

- (i) Will the project contribute to a system of pedestrian and/or bicycle facilities? **(10 points max.)**

Yes, the project will scope a sidewalk network extension in Richford Village to the Elementary School, also connecting a key local store, preschool and daycare to the network. The sidewalk will add to the existing sidewalk network in Richford Village, along with providing connection to local trails, including the Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail.

- (ii) Will the project provide access to likely generators of pedestrian and/or bicyclist activity? **(10 points max.)**

The project will provide pedestrian access to the Pinnacle Jolley Store, the Local Elementary School, the preschool and local daycare center. The Pinnacle Jolley Store has a deli and serves pizza in addition to other hot meals. A safe pedestrian route to this location will increase pedestrian traffic. A sidewalk from the elementary school will provide for a safe route to and from school for parents, children and teachers. The sidewalk will also incorporate a crossing from the preschool, allowing the preschool to access the outdoor play facilities at RES.

- (iii) Will the project address a known, documented safety concern? **(10 points max.)**

It is well known in Richford that there is no walking route on Route 105 to the Elementary School. Having no safe walking route to the community's Elementary School when it is within walking distance is a major safety concern. Due to this safety concern, very few to no families and teachers walk. The safety concern is well known, but thankfully there have been no documented accidents.

**B. Community Improvement Activities:**

- i. Explain how the project improves the economic wellbeing of the community and/or provide a benefit to state tourism? **(10 points max.)**

[Click here to enter text.](#)

- ii. Describe the anticipated impact to the public; degree of visibility, public exposure and/or public use. **(10 points max.)**

[Click here to enter text.](#)

- iii. Answer only one of the following based on the type of project:

- a) Construction of turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas as related to scenic or historic sites. *To what extent will the project provide a view of a highly unique and scenic area?* **(10 points max.)**

[Click here to enter text.](#)

- b) Preservation or rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities. *Describe the historic significance of the historic transportation facility and the importance of the facility to the state.* **(10 points max.)**

[Click here to enter text.](#)

- c) Archeological planning and research related to impacts from a transportation project. *Describe the associated transportation project and benefit of the proposed activities.* **(10 points max.)**

[Click here to enter text.](#)

- d) Vegetation management in transportation rights of way to improve roadway safety, prevent invasive species, and provide erosion control. *Describe the extent of the current problem and the impact on the site and surrounding area.* **(10 points max.)**

[Click here to enter text.](#)

**C. Environmental Mitigation Activity Related to Stormwater and Highways**












- i. Please describe how this application provides environmental mitigation relating to stormwater and highways. **(10 points max.)**  
[Click here to enter text.](#)
- ii. What information or data is provided to substantiate the current stormwater problem and associated environmental impacts? **(10 points max.)**  
[Click here to enter text.](#)
- iii. What substantiating data or information is provided to show that the proposed application is an effective and maintainable solution to the problem? **(10 points max.)**  
[Click here to enter text.](#)

**D. Environmental Mitigation Activity Related to Wildlife**

- i. Please describe how this application will reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality or will restore and maintain connectivity among terrestrial or aquatic habitats. **(10 points max.)**  
[Click here to enter text.](#)
- ii. What information or data is provided to substantiate the current problem and associated environmental impacts? **(10 points max.)**  
[Click here to enter text.](#)
- iii. What substantiating data or information is provided to show that the proposed application is an effective and manageable solution to the problem? **(10 points max.)**  
[Click here to enter text.](#)



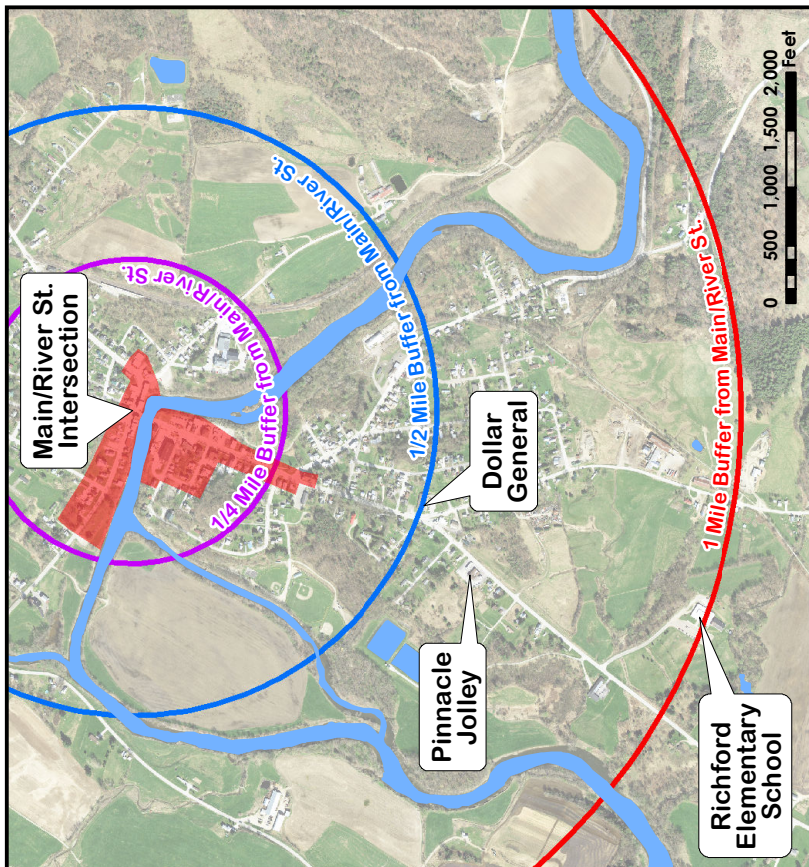
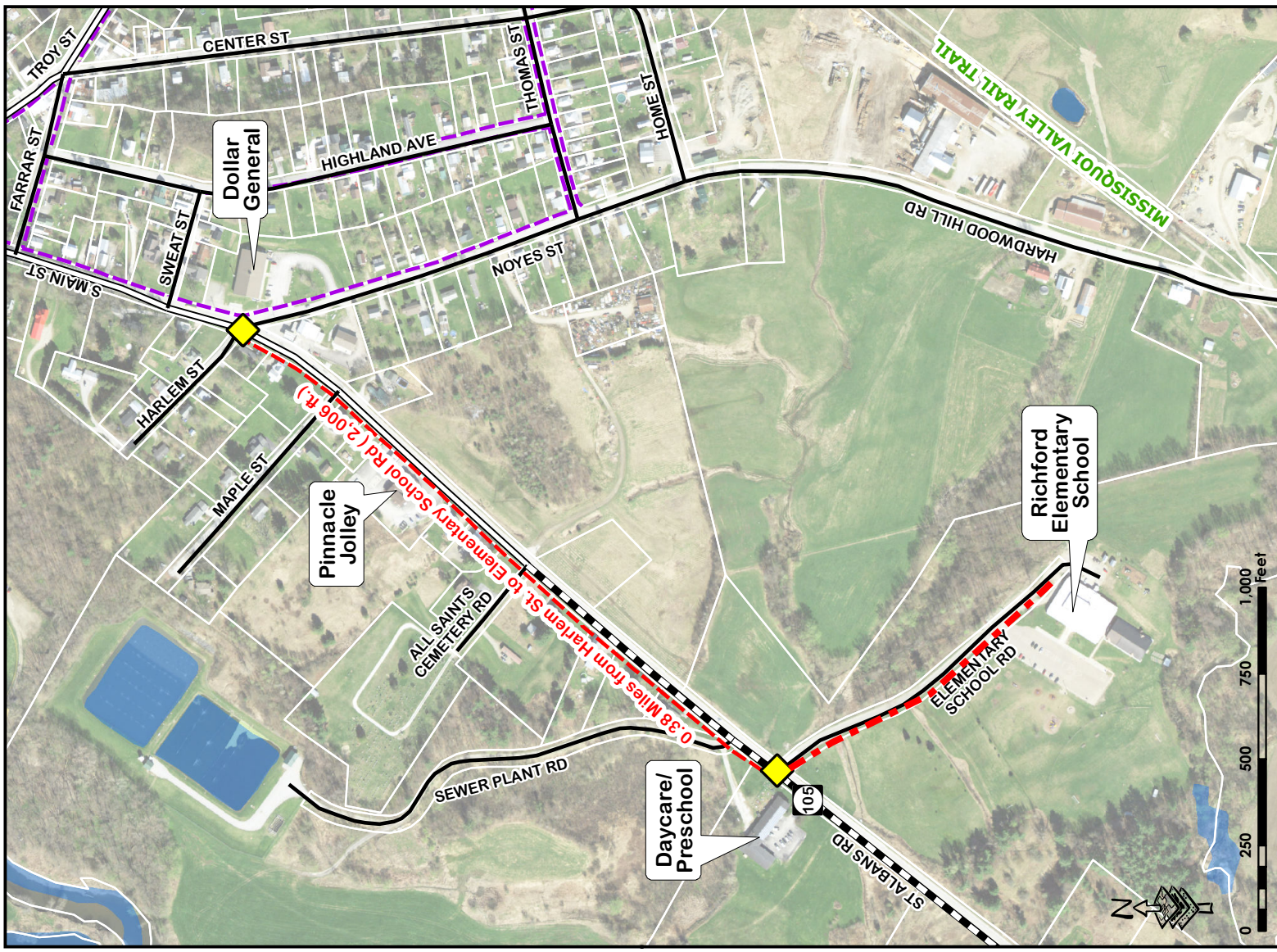
# Richford Proposed Sidewalk Scoping Study

-  Potential Crossing
-  Proposed Sidewalk
-  Existing Sidewalk
-  State Highway
-  Class 1 Town Highway
-  Class 2 Town Highway
-  Class 3 Town Highway
-  Class 4 Town Highway
-  Parcel Boundary (white lines)
-  Village Designation
-  Surface Water



Vermont Coordinate System  
 Transverse Mercator, NAD 83.  
 For planning purposes only.  
 Prepared by:  
 NRPC  
 75 Fairfield Street  
 St. Albans, VT 05478  
 802-524-5958  
 www.nrpcvt.com  
 December, 2022.

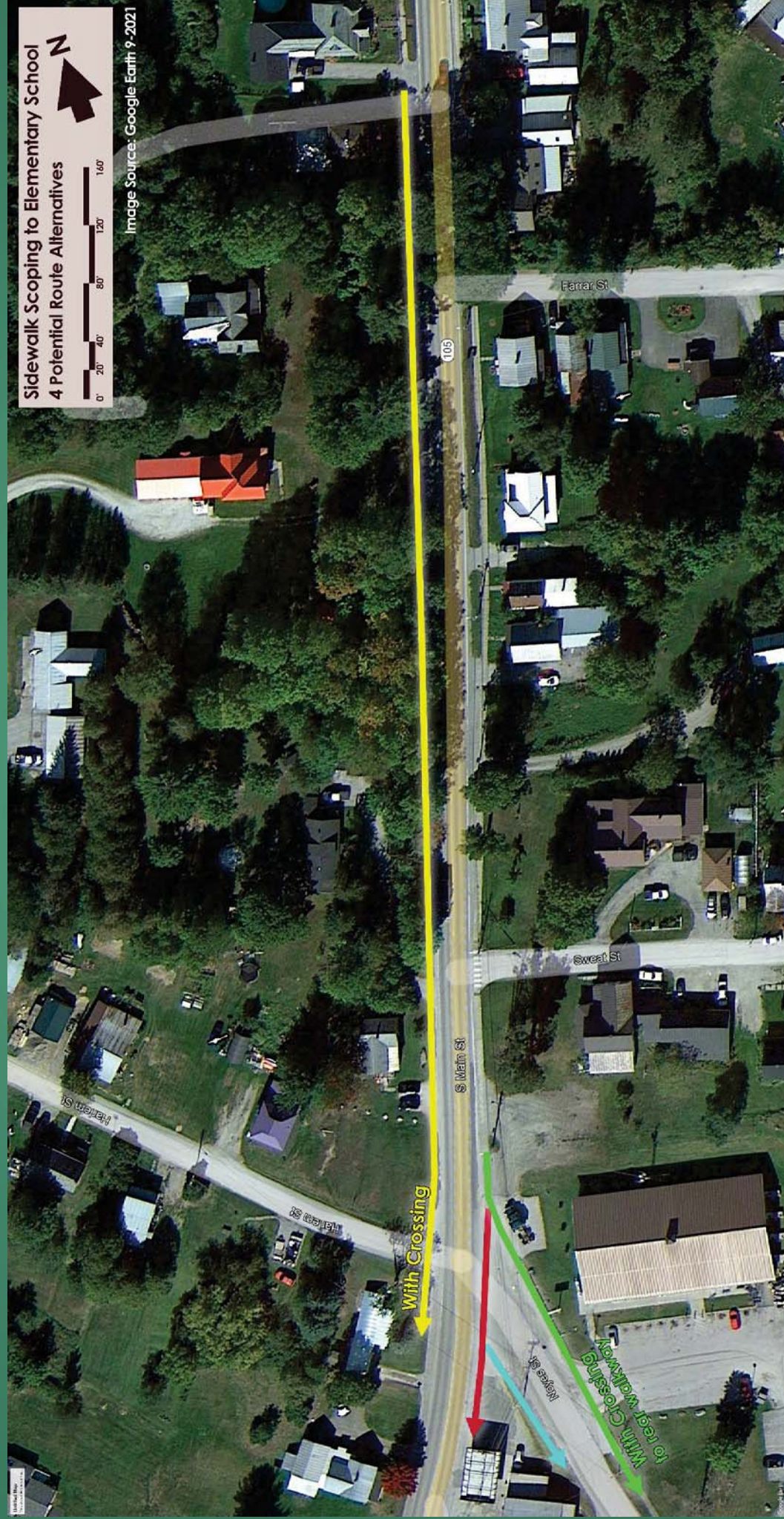
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# Focus Area: Scoping a Sidewalk to the Elementary School

## Map 2





Focus Area: Main & Noyes at Dollar General and Gulf Station





Focus Area: Main & Noyes at Dollar General and Gulf Station





## Focus Area: Main & Noyes at Dollar General and Gulf Station



### Features:

- Grass margin with curb
- Painted crosswalk
- Street light
- Filled-in side parking for bench, tree, etc.

# Richford Sidewalk to School Project Area Photos



Looking southwest on Route 105 towards the Noyes Street and Harlem Street intersection. The end of the village sidewalk network can be seen on the left side of VT105/Main Street.



VT 105/Main St. intersection with Noyes St. and Harlem St.





Looking southwest on VT 105 towards the Pinnacle Jolley Store. No sidewalks, narrow shoulders.



VT 105 looking southwest at the Pinnacle Jolley Store. No sidewalks, narrow shoulders.



VT 105 looking southwest towards Elementary School Rd.



VT 105 looking southwest towards Elementary School Rd.





VT 105 looking southwest at intersection with Elementary School Rd and the preschool and daycare.



VT 105 looking northeast at Elementary School Rd and the preschool and daycare.



Looking southeast down Elementary School Rd. from Route 105.



## *Town of Richford*

PO Box 236, 94 Main St.  
Richford, VT 05476

Tel. 802-848-7751 Fax 802-848-7752

Scott Robinson, PE  
Municipal Assistance Bureau  
Vermont Agency of Transportation

12/12/22

Dear Mr. Robinson

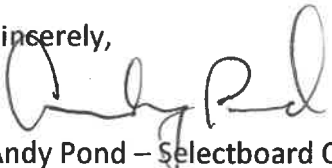
The Richford Selectboard excitedly supports the submission for the 2023 Transportation Alternatives Program with a match of \$ 10,000 from our general fund, to conduct a scoping study to pinpoint alternative traveling methods to Richford Elementary School.

Since the elementary school was built, the only pragmatic mode of transportation to get there is by a motorized vehicle. It is unfortunate that alternative traveling methods such as walking or biking are unfavorable, since state highway Route 105 is the main road to the school. This is a dangerous trek with no sidewalk, bike path, or crosswalk along the route leading out of Richford.

For years the municipality has tried to find creative solutions to spur alternative transportation for kids or residents. Along Hardwood Hill Road there is a pathway that leads to Richford Elementary School, but this possesses its own complications. There are no sidewalks through that section of road, and with a wood pellet plant in full operation on that stretch, safety continues to be a major concern.

Having professional input through a scoping study would be an effective strategy to assess all available options. Richford Elementary School is uniquely situated with a large plot of land that has its own soccer field, basketball court, playground equipment, and a nature trail. We would like to ensure every resident has the ability to enjoy these amenities, and it starts with having safe accessible routes.

Sincerely,



Andy Pond – Selectboard Chair





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

December 13, 2022

Scott Robertson  
Municipal Assistance Bureau – Local Projects Group  
Vermont Agency of Transportation  
One National Life Drive  
Montpelier, VT 05633-5001

Re: Letter of Support for Richford Sidewalk to School Project

Dear Mr. Robertson:

The Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) is pleased to support the Town of Richford's application to the Vermont Transportation Alternatives Program. The funding would be used to extend the sidewalk on Main Street from the intersection with Noyes Street to the Elementary School. The extension of the sidewalk network will provide access to the Pinnacle Peddler store, a daycare and preschool, several residences and the Richford Elementary School. It will also help meet the conditions to allow for a crossing from the preschool to the Elementary School.

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 or economic status.
- 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:

Bethany Remmers  
Assistant Director

**From:** [Stanley, Steven K](#)  
**To:** [Greta Brunswick](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Richford Transportation Alternatives Grant Application Notice and Request for Support  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 13, 2022 2:57:07 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Greta,

The district supports the town conducting a scoping study to construct sidewalks. My only area of concern would be having a crossing but will be interested to see what comes from the scoping study.

**Steven Stanley** | Technician  
Maintenance Bureau | District 8  
District Maintenance & Fleet Division  
Vermont Agency of Transportation  
680 Lower Newton Rd | St Albans, VT 05478  
802-527-5564 phone | [steven.k.stanley@vermont.gov](mailto:steven.k.stanley@vermont.gov)  
<http://vtrans.vermont.gov>



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**From:** gbrunswick <[gbrunswick@nrpcvt.com](mailto:gbrunswick@nrpcvt.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 13, 2022 2:36 PM  
**To:** Stanley, Steven K <[Steven.K.Stanley@vermont.gov](mailto:Steven.K.Stanley@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** Richford Transportation Alternatives Grant Application Notice and Request for Support

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

Hi Steven,

The Town of Richford is applying for funds to complete a scoping study to construct a sidewalk from where the Village sidewalk network ends on Main Street near the Dollar General/Noyes Street intersection to the Elementary School. This includes extending down Route 105 (Class 1 portion) and continuing down Route 105 (State Highway) to Elementary School Rd (Class 3) and traveling up Elementary School Rd to the school. The project will scope a crossing from the daycare and preschool on Route 105 across from Elementary School Rd. as well.

Please let us know whether you support Richford's application to the TAP program for this scoping study and whether there are any considerations we should include.

Sorry for the late notice – the application is due tomorrow, so a prompt reply is appreciated.

Thanks,

Greta

**\*\*\* Please note: NRPC email was down from Friday 12/2 until Sunday 12/4. It is likely any email that was sent to staff during that time frame was lost. \*\*\***

**Greta Brunswick** / *Senior Planner*

**Northwest Regional Planning Commission** | 75 Fairfield Street, St. Albans, VT 05478

**Phone: 802.524.5958 | Fax: 802.527.2948 | Website: [www.nrpcvt.com](http://www.nrpcvt.com)**

# Richford Elementary School

Kelli Dean, Principal

1 Elementary School Road, Richford, Vermont 05476

TEL: 802-848-7453

FAX: 802-848-7720

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December 9, 2022

Scott Robertson  
Municipal Assistance Bureau – Local Projects Group  
Vermont Agency of Transportation  
One National Life Drive  
Montpelier, VT 05633-5001

Re: Letter of Support for Richford Sidewalk to School Project

Dear Mr. Robertson:

The Richford Elementary School is pleased to support the Town of Richford's application to the Vermont Transportation Alternatives Program. The funding would be used to extend the sidewalk on Main Street down Route 105 and up Elementary School Road. The new sidewalk will provide pedestrian access from the Village and adjacent residential neighborhoods to the Elementary School, Preschool and an important local business, the Pinnacle Peddler.

The sidewalk is important because our students are frequently accessing local business and resources in town as we partner with them for many learning opportunities. Currently, walking to town is unsafe without access to a sidewalk. This grant will allow a sidewalk to be built that will link to the existing section in town, opening up an opportunity for our students to safely navigate a walk to town.

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

Sincerely,

*Kelli Dean*

Kelli Dean  
Principal