June 11, 2024

Peter Pochop
Vermont Agency of Transportation,
Bicycle & Pedestrian Project Manager
219 North Main Street
Barre, Vermont 05641
Peter.pochop@vermont.gov
(802) 744-3123

Dear Peter,

The Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) is pleased to support the Town of Highgate's application for this 2024 Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Program submission.

The proposed project outlines constructing new and extending segments of sidewalk which will benefit residents and visitors in Highgate Center by providing safer pedestrian access moving along Vermont 78, St. Armand Road, and Lamkin Street. NRPC believes that a robust sidewalk network helps to encourage walking and reduce reliance on motorized vehicle dependency.

NRPC supports any and all efforts to add, repair, replace, or update sidewalks and active transportation infrastructure within our communities. This project fits well with the goals and policies of the 2023-2031 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.

This project is also in alignment with NRPC's Enhanced Energy Plan. Reducing vehicle miles traveled, increasing the share of pedestrian and bicycle commute trips, and focusing development in or near existing growth centers are all key tenets of the plans approach to reduce transportation emission.

Thank you for considering our comments. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or need for additional information.

Sincerely,

Kyle Grenier

Kyle Grenier
Transportation Planner