



Bennington County Regional Commission

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June 10, 2024

Peter Pochop, Project Manager
Vermont Agency of Transportation, Project Delivery Bureau
219 Main Street
Barre, VT 05641

Dear Mr. Pochop,

The Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC), the regional planning commission and the regional development corporation for Southwestern Vermont, is pleased to support the Village of North Bennington's application to the VTrans Bicycle & Pedestrian Grant Program for large-scale design and construction to build a sidewalk on Mechanic Street.

The proposed project seeks funds to create a safe and accessible route for pedestrians to travel along Mechanic Street to the Village Center and its many amenities, including municipal offices, the public library, and the Village School. Many residents and visitors already frequently walk this route, but the lack of a continuous sidewalk limits the comfort, safety, and access of all users. This project aligns with BCRC's goals to improve pedestrian networks in the Bennington area, and to expand access to the area's natural and cultural resources through active mobility. By extending the existing sidewalk network in North Bennington, this project would enhance mobility by users of all ages and abilities between the designated village center, the open space of the North Bennington Cemetery, and the residential area in between.

BCRC enthusiastically supports this project, and I encourage the committee to fund this application. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Samantha Page

Samantha Page, Regional Planner