

June 11, 2024

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

Dear Mr. Pochop,

The Village of North Bennington enthusiastically supports the application to the VTrans Bicycle & Pedestrian Grant Program for large-scale design and construction to build a sidewalk on Mechanic Street. The Village of North Bennington Board of Trustees has expressed its strong support for the project.

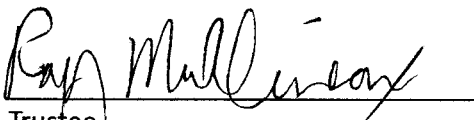
The Village of North Bennington understands that a 20% non-federal local match is required and will provide the match if awarded the grant. In addition, the Village of North Bennington will also accept future maintenance responsibility for the improvements.


Residents of North Bennington will benefit from the proposed project in many ways. In particular, the planned improvements will provide a safe and comfortable route between the village center and adjacent residential neighborhoods, enabling community members and visitors to walk or roll to schools, jobs, stores, government offices, and other amenities along a busy travel corridor now dominated by vehicle traffic.

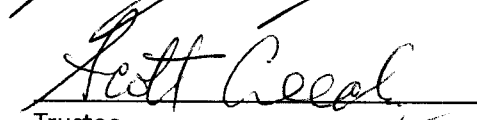
Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with VTrans and the Bennington County Regional Commission to construct this important project.

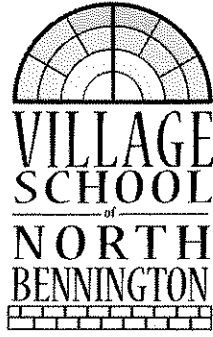
Sincerely,

  
Trustee Chair

  
Trustee

  
Trustee Vice-Chair

  
Trustee



The Village School of North Bennington  
P.O. Box 847  
9 School St.  
North Bennington, VT 05257  
802-442-5955  
Info@vsnb.org  
www.vsnb.org

June 10, 2024

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

Dear Mr. Pochop,

The Village School of North Bennington (VSNB) is pleased to provide this letter of support for the Village of North Bennington's application to the VTrans Bicycle & Pedestrian Grant Program to build a sidewalk on Mechanic Street.

The proposed project, which seeks funds to complete the design and construction of a sidewalk between Prospect Street and the North Bennington Cemetery, would provide residents and visitors with a safe option for active transportation, recreation, and passage to an array of daily destinations and cultural and natural amenities.

VSNB serves approximately 140 children in grades Pre-K through Sixth, the majority of whom come from the local community of North Bennington and Shaftsbury District 1. Our school does not have a bus, and many children and families walk or bike to and from school. Numerous VSNB families live on or near the streets named in the project. Additionally, many of our students walk or bike in this vicinity as part of their recreation after school, as these are prominent roadways in the center of our community.

I enthusiastically support this project. It will link community assets, stimulate the local economy, and provide safe active transportation opportunities for residents and visitors alike.

Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

Tim Newbold  
Head of School



## the fund for north Bennington

a not-for-profit Vermont corporation

P. O. BOX 803, North Bennington

Vermont 05257

June 10, 2024

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

Dear Mr. Pochop,

The Fund for North Bennington, Inc. is pleased to provide this letter of support for the Village of North Bennington's application to the VTrans Bicycle & Pedestrian Grant Program to build a sidewalk on Mechanic Street.

We are a tax-exempt, Vermont non-profit corporation that has initiated and supported community projects in and around North Bennington for more than 30 years. We also own more than 400 acres of conservation land that is open to the public for recreational use. More about our organization can be found at <https://northbennington.org/about/>.

Mechanic Street is an important residential area and connector street in the village. The proposed sidewalk project would provide residents and visitors with a welcome option for passage to an array of daily destinations and cultural and natural amenities. Many school children walk this street daily and the project would help assure their safety. We make no comment about the specific design of the sidewalk.

The Fund for North Bennington enthusiastically supports this project. It will link community assets, stimulate the local economy, and provide safe transportation opportunities for residents and visitors alike. Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Woolmington, President



**V. Hansmann**  
Prospect Street Writers House  
20 Prospect Street  
North Bennington, VT 05257

June 6, 2024

**Peter Pochop, Project Manager**

*Vermont Agency of Transportation, Project Delivery Bureau*  
219 Main Street  
Barre, VT 05641

Dear Mr. Pochop,

Prospect Street Writers House is pleased to provide this letter of support for the Village of North Bennington's application to the VTrans Bicycle & Pedestrian Grant Program to build a sidewalk. The proposed project, which seeks to complete the design and construction of a sidewalk along Mechanic Street between Prospect Street and the North Bennington Cemetery, would improve the safety and outdoor access of residents, visitors, and students at the nearby college.

Located at the top of Prospect Street, the Writers House offers one-week residencies to writers of all genres at every stage of their writing life. Many of our guests get restless in the afternoon and take off on foot. One popular walk is down Prospect, right on Mechanic, right on Matteson, right on Harlan, right on College, and home. A Mechanic Street sidewalk would provide safety and ease to these folks who currently must walk in the road the entire way. Our residents not only love the local trails and being outdoors in Bennington; these are primary reasons for returning to the program and recommending it to their peers and colleagues. A sidewalk would offer further support these interests, as well as the community's.

The Writers House enthusiastically supports this project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

V. Hansmann  
Executive Director and Founder



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1 PROSPECT | PO BOX 271, NORTH BENNINGTON, VT 05257 | 802-442-7171

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6/11/2024

Dear Peter Pochop,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the proposed sidewalk project on Mechanic Street. As both a resident of this village and business owner, I believe this initiative will significantly benefit our community.

Mechanic Street serves as a vital passage for our village, connecting key residential areas and providing access to various amenities, including St John's Cemetery, North Street, and Prospect Street. The proposed sidewalk, which will extend from St John's Cemetery to North Street on the south side and from North Street to Prospect Street on the north side, is a much-needed improvement.

From the perspective of a resident, this project will enhance the safety and accessibility of our neighborhood. Many families, including my own, regularly walk and jog along Mechanic Street. Currently, the lack of a continuous sidewalk forces pedestrians to share the road with vehicles, creating a hazardous situation. A properly constructed sidewalk will provide a safe pathway for children walking to school, residents visiting friends, and visitors exploring our charming village.

I wholeheartedly support the village's grant application for this sidewalk project and urge you to give it your full consideration. This investment in our infrastructure will yield long-term benefits, promoting safety, accessibility, and economic vitality.

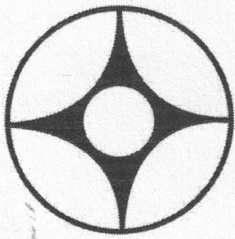
Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Disorda

Pangaea | Prospect Coffee House | Powers Market

518.269.7813



# JOHN G. McCULLOUGH FREE LIBRARY

Connect. Discover. Create.

June 11, 2024

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

Dear Mr. Pochop,

The John G. McCullough Free Library is pleased to provide this letter of support for the Village of North Bennington's application to the VTrans Bicycle & Pedestrian Grant Program to build a sidewalk on Mechanic Street.

The proposed project would greatly enhance the ability of residents to get to the McCullough Library safely and without the need to rely on automotive transportation. I have heard from patrons and the parents of young people in this community that they and their children would be more likely to access the library if the route to our location was safer for pedestrian access, so this project will enhance our ability to serve our community.

The McCullough Library has been a keystone organization in North Bennington's central corridor for over 100 years. The installation of a sidewalk on Mechanic Street would mirror and enhance the library's recent building accessibility improvements, providing easier access to resources for more people in this community. The library's physical location and the nature of my profession have allowed me to gather anecdotal evidence from North Bennington residents and visitors about conditions for pedestrians and their desires for improvements. I believe that the new sidewalk would be well used and deeply appreciated.

My colleagues and I enthusiastically support this project. It will link community assets, stimulate the local economy, and provide safe active transportation opportunities for residents and visitors alike. Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

Jennie Rozycki, Library Director