



November 30, 2023

Scott Robertson, P.E.
Municipal Assistance Bureau TA Coordinator
VT Agency of Transportation
219 North Main Street
Barre, VT 05641

Dear Scott:

This letter is in support of the City of Burlington's application to the VTrans Transportation Alternatives (TAP) Grant Program for additional funding for the design and construction of a shared use path to fill the gap between Penny Lane and Depot Street, including an improved ped/bike rail crossing. This project was scoped by the CCRPC in 2019/2020 and when constructed will connect walk/bike facilities at Burlington's popular waterfront area. This project began design, following this scoping study and initial TAP Grant, resulting in a robust understanding of the remaining scope and associated cost to construct.

This project is supported by several sections of the CCRPC's ECOS Plan related to active transportation projects:

One of the four broad goals established at the beginning of the document states:

"Make public and private investments in the built environment to minimize environmental impact, maximize financial efficiency, optimize social equity and benefits, and improve public health." ECOS Plan page 8

In the transportation discussion of key issues there's this finding:

"More robust investment in transportation options – transit, walking/biking, carsharing and ridesharing – could reduce congestion, vehicle miles traveled, use of single occupancy vehicles, social exclusion, and could improve public health, and enhance the economic well-being of our residents, businesses and visitors." ECOS Plan page 63

Under future transportation investments, one of the identified focal areas is to:

"Expand walking and biking infrastructure to support active transportation and to provide interconnection with the region's transit system." ECOS Plan page 93

The Public Health section also includes this as a priority strategy:

"Obesity -- Create policies and environmental supports that increase access to active transportation, active recreation, and healthy foods." ECOS Plan Page 103

The Plan section on implementing transportation corridor improvements identifies this priority: *"Expanding the bicycle and pedestrian networks with on- and off-road facilities and more sidewalks."* ECOS Plan page 181


This project is also supported by the 2022 Regional Active Transportation Plan (ATP):

- *The ATP's goal is to create a safe, comfortable, and connected regional network of pedestrian and bicycle routes that appeal to all ages and abilities.*
- *The regional network is designed to accommodate connections to important destinations, particularly schools and growth centers.*
- *Lake Street is identified as part of the regional walk/bike network.*
- *The ATP supports the vision, goals and objectives of the CCRPC Metropolitan Transportation Plan, and the MTP recommends expanding walking and biking infrastructure to support active transportation, and improve interconnection with the region's transit system.*

Construction of this project will allow cyclists and pedestrians to safely navigate on- and off-road facilities that favor these active transportation modes.

Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,



Bryan Davis
Senior Transportation Planner

cc: Andy Montroll, CCRPC Burlington representative