



November 3, 2023

Scott Robertson, P.E.
Vermont Agency of Transportation
Transportation Alternatives Program
219 North Main Street
Barre, VT 05641

Subject: Support for Weathersfield's 2024 Transportation Alternatives Program Application

Dear Scott:

The purpose of this letter is to document Mount Ascutney Regional Commission's (MARC) full support for Weathersfield's 2024 Transportation Alternatives Program application to scope pedestrian improvements in the Village of Perkinsville. This is an important project that would implement a locally popular concept from the 2018 Village Revitalization planning effort, and it is consistent with Weathersfield's Town Plan.

The Town is seeking funds to complete a scoping study for pedestrian improvements in the Village of Perkinsville. Perkinsville is a compact village center with several pedestrian-oriented trip generators. Current conditions, however, are not conducive to pedestrian safety or enjoyment, particularly the section along VT Route 106 and Hoisington Fields. VT 106 runs through the center of the village and provides the primary north-south route through it. Truck traffic volumes along VT 106 are fairly high (9%), and there are currently inadequate pedestrian accommodations throughout most of the village. There is an enhanced shoulder on VT 106 between High Street and the Perkinsville green to Quarry Road, but there needs to be a better, safe connection beyond to the 1879 Schoolhouse and Hoisington Field.

This project is also important to the Town's ongoing economic development and place making efforts. Hoisington Field is located at the southern end of the designated Village Center, and is a popular public gathering place. The Town has recently renovated the historic schoolhouse and made accessibility improvements. It currently serves as a community food shelf and event space. The Fields are used frequently for sporting events, concerts, dog walking and other outdoor recreation uses. The town is developing a Master Plan for this recreation facility, and exploring feasible bicycle and pedestrian improvements to this facility is a critically important aspect of this planning effort.

The MARC has been actively engaged in assisting the Town with the development of this proposal. The Town of Weathersfield's application for the 2024 Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Program is consistent with our Regional Plan, Regional Transportation Plan and Active Transportation Plan.

Please call me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Jason Rasmussen, A.I.C.P.
Executive Director

CC: Brandon Gulnick, Town Manager