

V E R G E N N E S

Planning & Environment Linkages (PEL) Study

*Weybridge Selectboard
Presentation
October 5, 2021*

**Katharine Otto, VTrans
Mike Winslow, ACRPC**



Planning & Environment Linkages (PEL) Study

Policy Committee

Assembled to review and endorse study findings and make a recommendation to VTrans on planning decisions to be carried forward into a future environmental review.

Weybridge Policy Committee Members:

- Harvey Smith, State Representative for Weybridge, New Haven, and Bridport

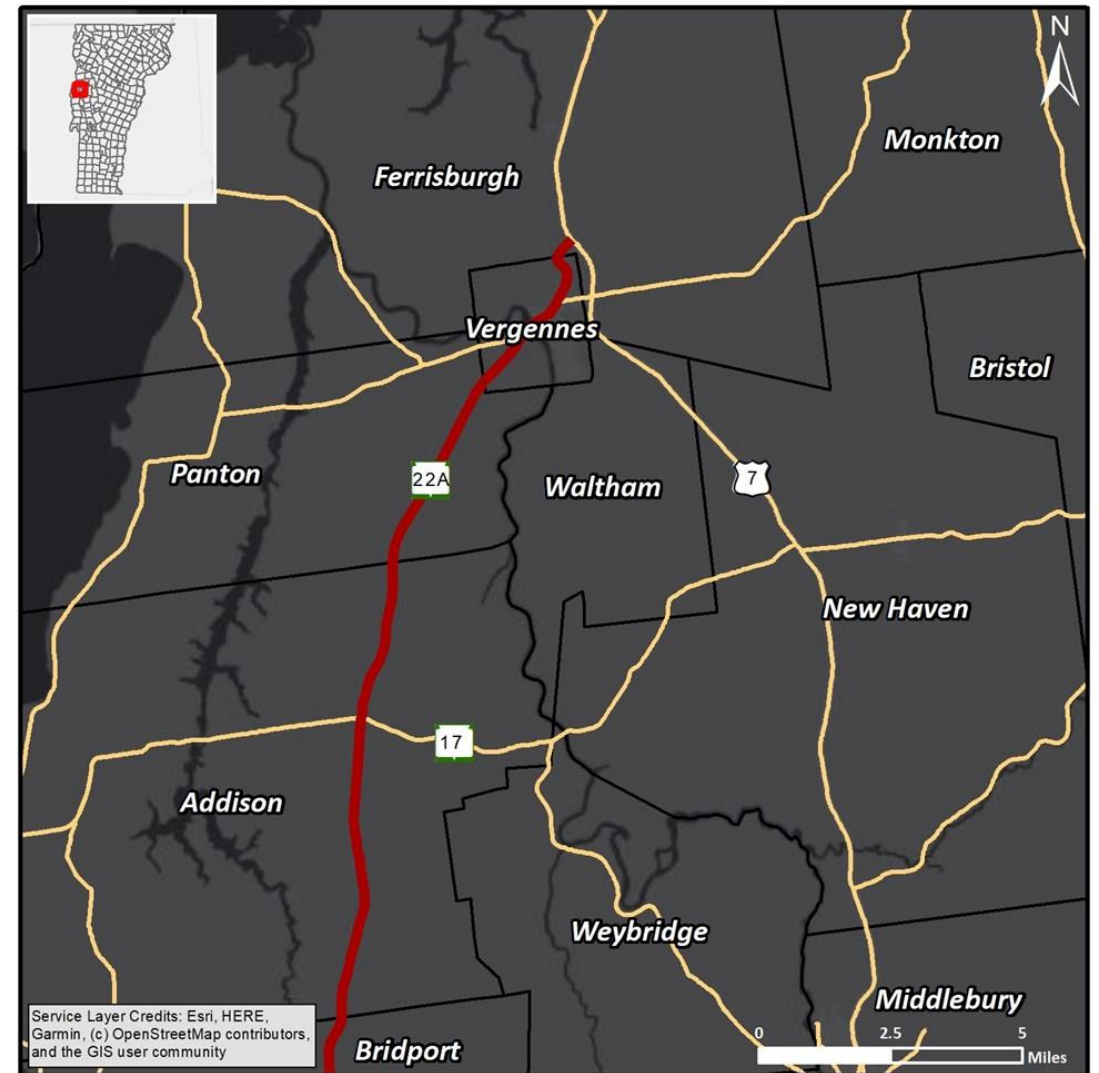


Vergennes PEL Study Purpose

To reduce impact (noise, vibration, fume and dust) of large truck traffic on VT Route 22A and Downtown Vergennes, while seeking ways to enhance the quality of life and economic vitality for residents in the City and surrounding towns.

Priorities:

- Maintain a high level of service for the movement of freight in the region;
- Minimize and/or mitigate truck and traffic impacts to other transportation corridors;
- Coordinate transportation investments with local land use plans
- Minimize property and environmental resource impacts in neighboring communities;
- Support the continued movement of non-truck traffic through downtown Vergennes; and
- Provide a cost-effective use of resources.



Vergennes PEL Study Project Outcomes

- Purpose and Need
- Screening of all reasonable alternatives
- Detailed Evaluation of Most Promising Alternatives
- Land Use Plans in most affected municipalities
- Identification of Short List of Alternatives for Federal Environmental Review





What are the benefits of PEL?

**Streamlines efforts
from Planning
into NEPA**

**Shortens timelines for
NEPA review and
project delivery**

**Stimulates the
development of
new tools**

**Helps identify
stakeholders early
in the process**

**Fosters relationships
among agencies and
the public**

**Engages non-
transportation agencies
in decision-making**

**Creates better real-
world outcomes for
the community**

**Improves planning
products that improve
the NEPA process**



Committee Roles and General Membership

Management

VTrans Project Managers –

Joe Segale and Katharine Otto

ACRPC Assisting –

Mike Winslow and Adam Lougee

Technical Committee

Role

- Guide, review and validate the consultant's methods, analyses, findings, and recommendations on which the Policy Committee will provide input

Members

- Subject Matter Experts from VTrans, the Region & Municipalities

Policy Committee

Role

- Endorsement of key assumptions and recommendations to VTrans

Members

- Municipal representatives, VTrans, ACRPC, FHWA
- Stakeholders representing business and economic development, the environment, pedestrian and bicycle users, and others.

V E R G E N N E S

**Planning & Environment
Linkages (PEL) Study**

Agency Involvement

State and Federal

- The Vergennes PEL Study is managed by VTrans Planning staff with coordination assistance from the Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC)
- Study is funded using state and federal transportation funds provided through the VTrans Capital Program

Local and Regional

- City of Vergennes
- Town of Addison
- Town of Ferrisburgh
- Town of New Haven
- Town of Panton
- Town of Waltham
- Town of Weybridge
- Addison County Regional Planning Commission

Stakeholder Involvement

Focus Group meetings planned for the following themes:

1. Environmental
2. Economics
3. Equity
4. Mobility

One on One Interviews will be conducted either as a result of focus groups or for those who may not be able to participate

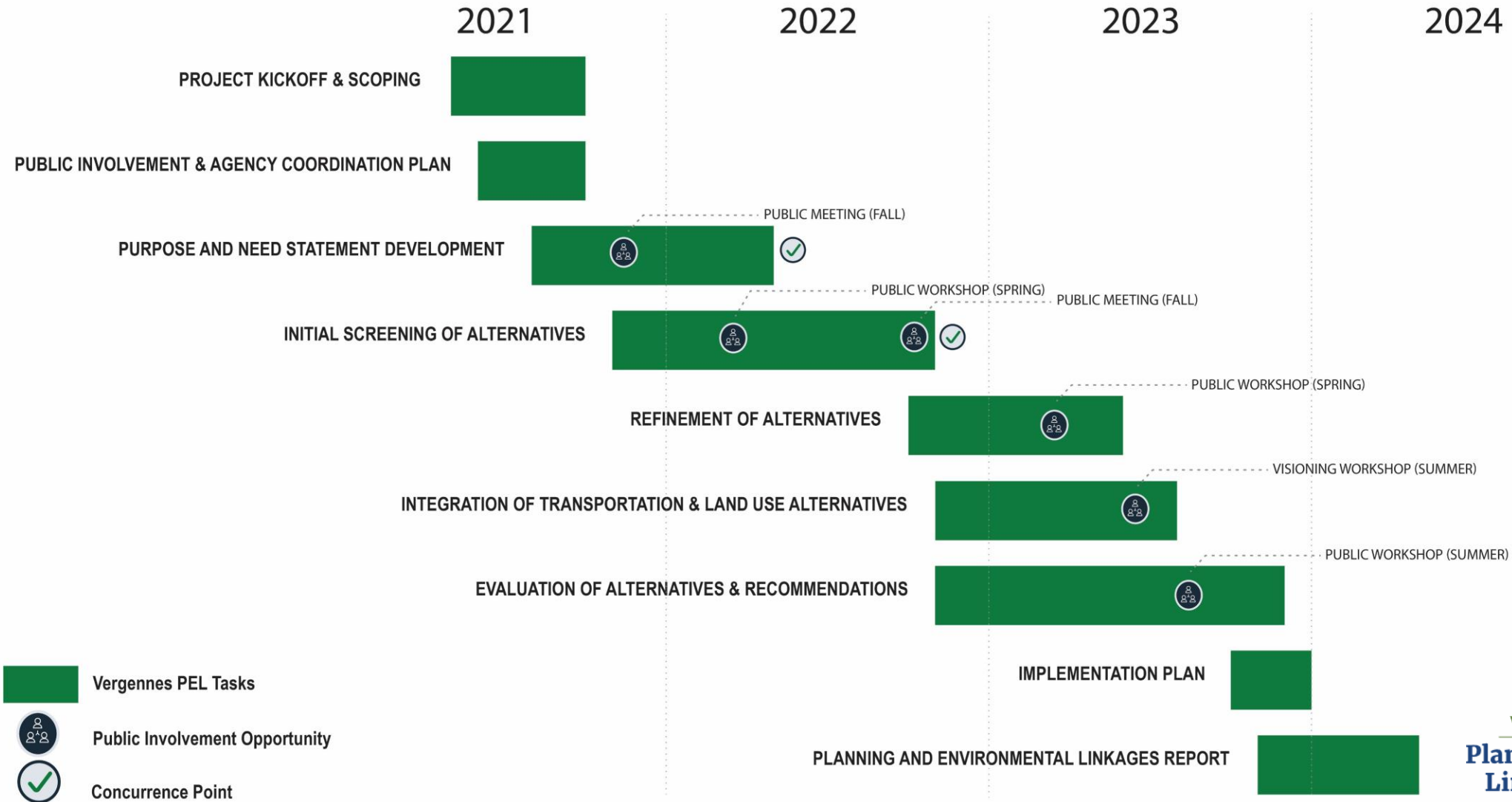


Stakeholder Involvement

An initial list of groups to approach for targeted outreach includes:

- Mobile home park residents in Vergennes
- The Vergennes Partnership
- The Addison Chamber of Commerce
- The Addison County Economic Development Corp.
- Conservation Law Foundation (CLF)
- Vermont Natural Resource Council
- Vermont Public Interest Group (VPIRG)
- Vermont Chapter of AARP
- ACRPC Transportation Advisory Committee
- Local Motion
- Addison County Farm Bureau
- Champlain Valley Farmer's Watershed Alliance
- Champlain Valley Crop & Soil Pasture Team
- Addison County Walk-Bike Council
- Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity
- John Graham Housing and Services
- Addison County Community Trust (ACCT)
- The Open Door Clinic
- Addison County Parent Child Center
- Vermont Truck and Bus Association and other freight users within the area

Study Schedule Overview



Contact and Next Steps

We welcome input and appreciate your feedback!

Please visit www.vergennespel.com for information and to submit comments/contact the project team.

Save the Date!

Vergennes PEL Study Public Meeting

Nov 4th, 6:30 – 8:00pm

Discussion

Questions:

1. What do you see happening in your community today?
2. What drives the need for action in the corridor?
3. What are the issues we want to solve?
4. What goals or outcomes are important to your community?
5. What are your areas of focus, interest, or concern related to this study?
6. Who are your town's preferred contacts for updates related to the study?