

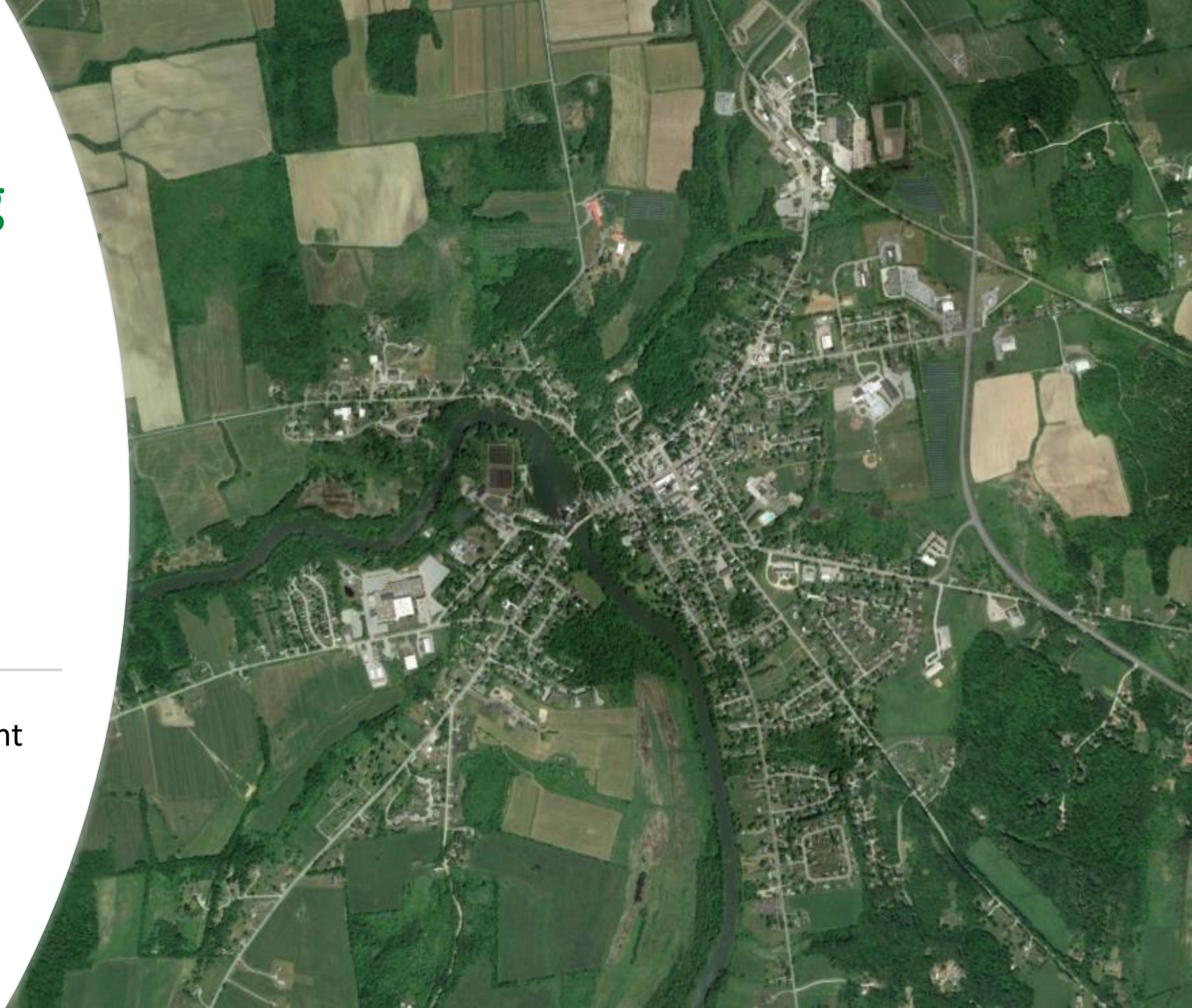


# Vergennes Planning and Environment Linkages Study: Draft List of Alternatives and Screening Criteria Public Workshops

Vergennes Planning and Environment  
Linkages Study:

Public Workshops

May 2022



# Team Introductions

Joe Segale, VTrans

Katharine Otto, VTrans

Adam Lougee, ACRPC

Mike Winslow, ACRPC

Bryan Pounds, WSP

Stephen Chiaramonte, WSP

Annabelle Dally, WSP

Ken Robie, Dubois & King

Rich Tetreault, Dubois & King

Dan Mallach, Dubois & King

V E R G E N N E S

## Planning & Environment Linkages (PEL) Study



# Agenda

1. Opening Remarks / Why are we here?
2. Public Outreach | Purpose and Need Recap
3. Draft List of Alternatives and Screening Criteria
4. Public Workshop Logistics
5. Public Workshop Breakout Groups
6. Reconvene | Group Discussion

V E R G E N N E S

## Planning & Environment Linkages (PEL) Study



# Why are we here?

Recap what we've heard so far and Study progress



Collaboratively compile a draft list of alternatives and develop screening criteria



Gather *your* feedback on solutions that should be considered and *your* perspective on their effectiveness



Continue inclusivity and transparency in the Vergennes PEL Study



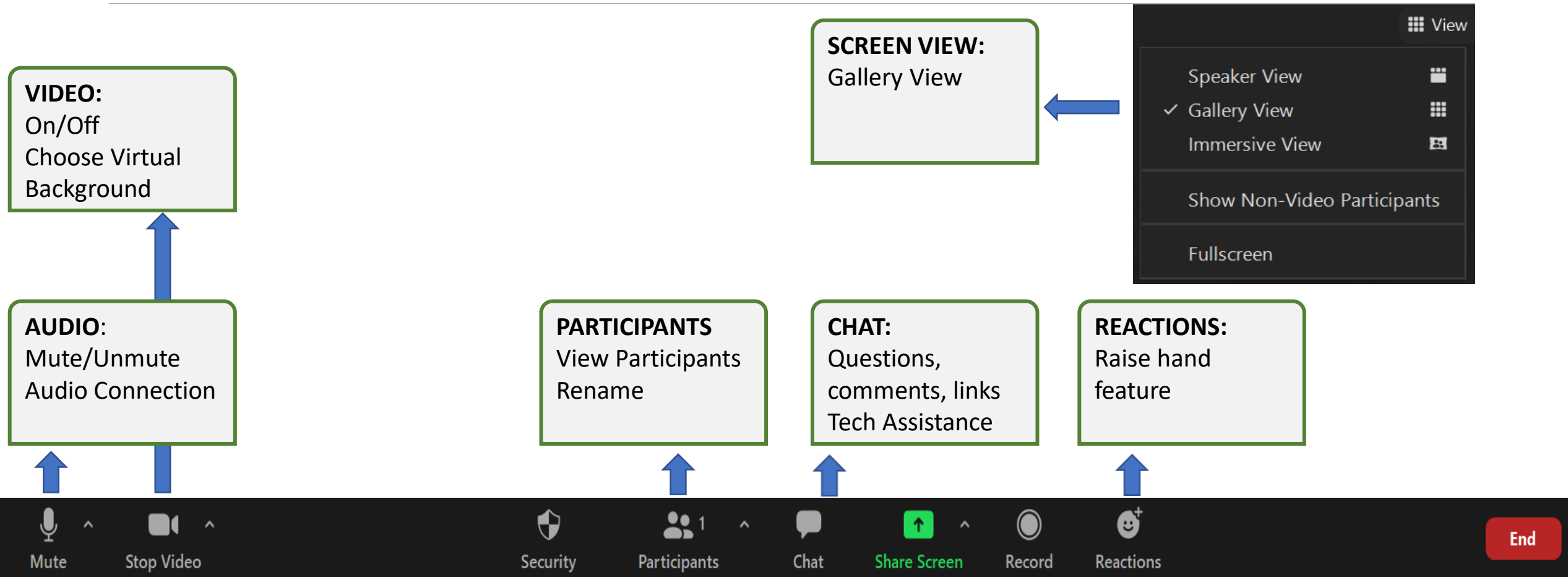
# Vergennes PEL Study Schedule (2022)

We are here



The Vergennes PEL Study is a three-year Study will continue through Spring 2024

# Zoom Orientation





# Public Outreach | Purpose and Need Recap

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# Summary of Public Outreach (2021)

- VT Truck and Bus Association survey (335 members)
- Vergennes City Council and neighboring Selectboard meetings
- November 4, 2021 Public Meeting (116 attendees online and in-person)
- Held four Focus Groups:
  - Equity
  - Mobility
  - Environment
  - Economic
- Conducted One on One Interviews:
  - Otter Creek Mobile Home Park
  - Vermont Land Trust
  - Vergennes Rescue Squad
  - Ferrisburgh Volunteer Fire Department
  - Vergennes Volunteer Fire Department
- VergennesPEL.com Website



Vergennes PEL Study Public Meeting, November 2021 (Vergennes Opera House)



# Public Outreach: What We've Heard So Far....

Public Meeting (Vergennes Opera House / Zoom)

*November 4, 2021*

Public input focused on key themes considered in the study, listed below.

Attendees:  
Approximately 40 in person,  
76 Online

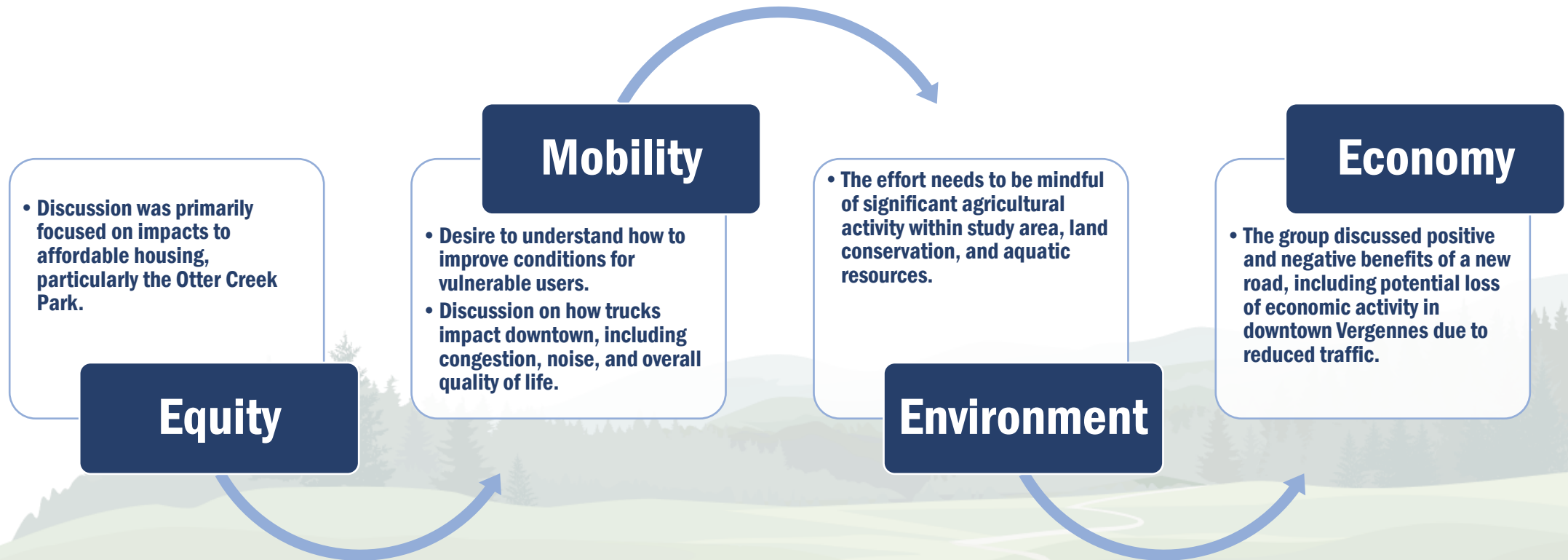


# Public Outreach: What We've Heard So Far....

## Focus Groups

*November 2021*

Focus Groups were comprised of subject matter experts on the four key themes



# Why did we establish a Purpose and Need for this Study?

Development of the Purpose and Need Statement

Identification of all reasonable Alternatives that address the Purpose and Need Statement

Detailed evaluation of the most promising Alternatives and Land Use Visioning

Narrowing to a short list of Alternatives to advance for Federal Environmental Review

# Purpose and Need Statement: Vergennes PEL Study

The ***purpose*** is to reduce the impacts of through truck traffic, including safety, congestion, noise, vibration, and dust on Route 22A in downtown Vergennes. Transportation solutions that reduce truck related quality of life impacts should also meet the mobility, safety, and economic vitality needs of Vergennes and the neighboring communities.

A summary of the ***needs*** identified are detailed below.



**Mobility and Access:** Maintain opportunities for the movement of freight in the region and minimize and/or mitigate traffic impacts to other transportation corridors



**Safety, Circulation and Resilience:** Support the continued movement, resilience and safety of travel through downtown Vergennes and in the neighboring communities.



**Quality of Life:** Improve the quality of life and minimize negative property and environmental resource impacts in downtown Vergennes and neighboring communities.



**Land Use:** Support local and regional land use plans and policies and state land use goals.



**Economic Vitality:** Promote economic vitality of downtown Vergennes, goods movement in Vergennes and neighboring communities, and support rural economy.





# Draft List of Alternatives and Screening Criteria

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# Draft “Long” List of Alternatives and Screening Criteria: Purpose

The purpose of establishing a long list of alternatives is to:

- Consider an exhaustive list of alternatives that may address the Purpose and Need of the Study
- Obtain input from the public on all alternatives being considered *prior* to screening

The purpose of establishing draft screening criteria is to:

- Propose questions under the Purpose and Need Statement that will assist in filtering the long list of alternatives
- Obtain input from the public on the criteria being considered *prior* to screening

The long list of alternatives should contain all potential solutions to address the *Purpose* of the Study, while the screening criteria is how effectively they address the *Needs* identified.



# Draft “Long” List of Alternatives: What is it?



## Draft Long List of Alternatives Types:

- ✓ New Road Alternatives
- ✓ Existing Road Alternatives
- ✓ VT 22A Corridor Alternatives
- ✓ Other Freight Modes



# Draft List of Alternatives: VT 22A Corridor Alternatives



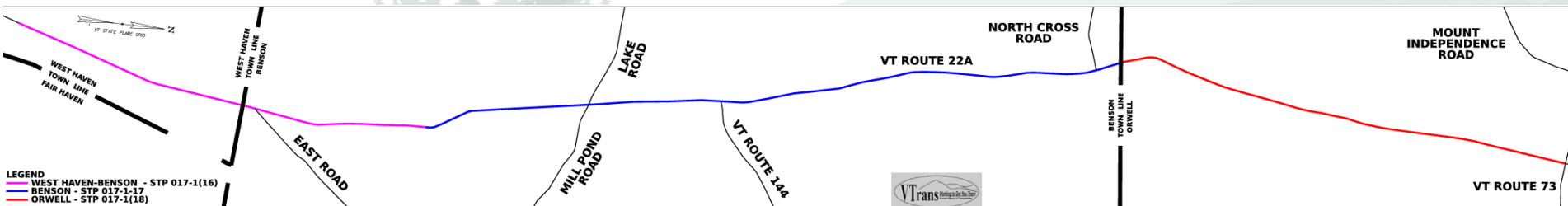
- Continue to permit trucks on VT Route 22A
- Proposes further enhancing recent VT Route 22A improvements such as:
  - Reconstruction and widening of Route 22A outside Vergennes to accommodate truck traffic
  - Traffic calming and multi-modal improvements on Route 22A through downtown Vergennes
- Includes a “No-Build” Alternative which includes:
  - Planned projects on Route 22A through 2045



Above: Pedestrian flashing beacons in downtown Vergennes



Curb bulb-out and new pedestrian signal in downtown Vergennes  
Src: ACRPC



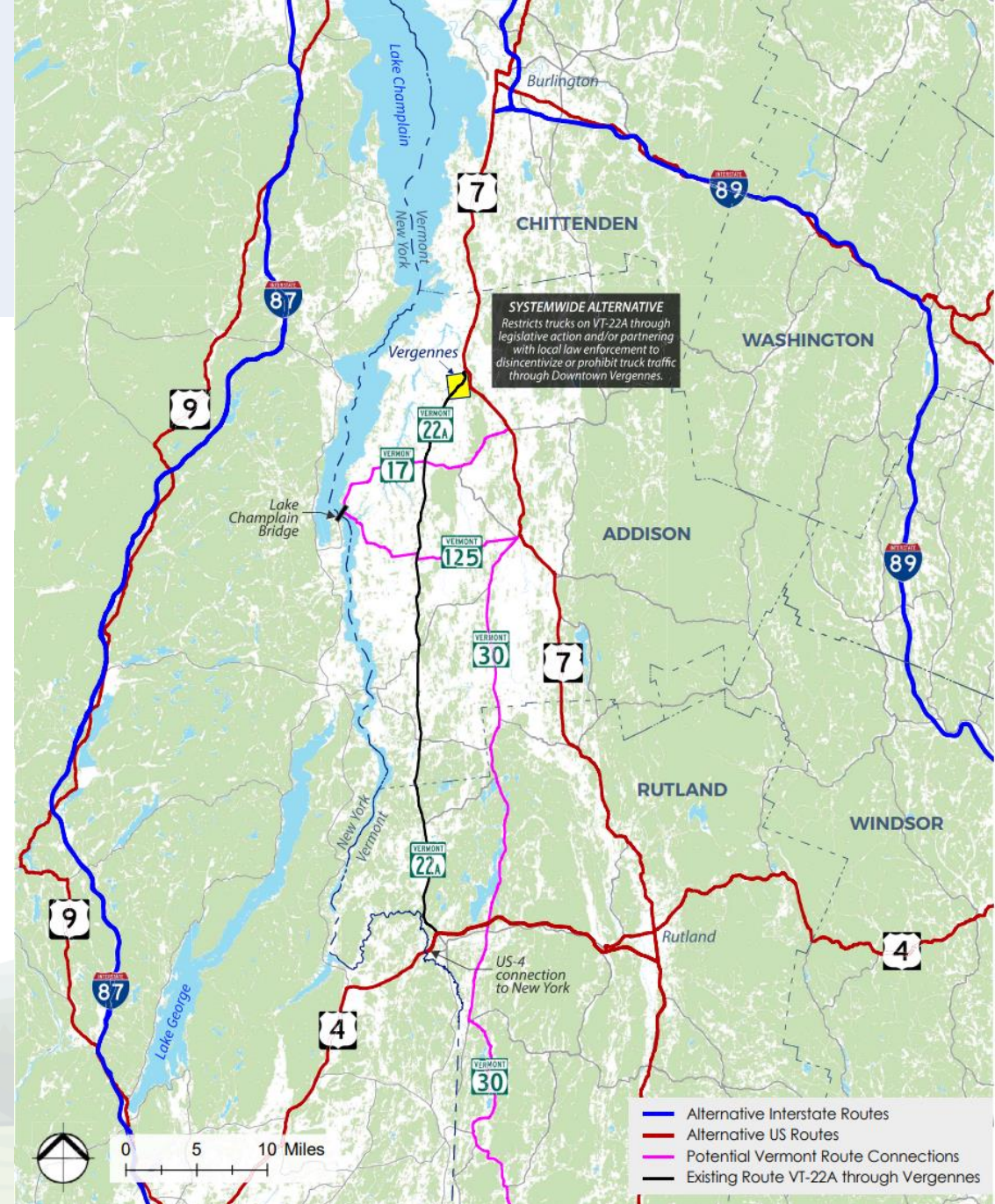
Shown to left: West Haven to Benson partial reconstruction, roadway reclaim, and shoulder reconstruction and widening. (Construction: 2025/2026)



# Draft List of Alternatives: Existing Road Alternatives

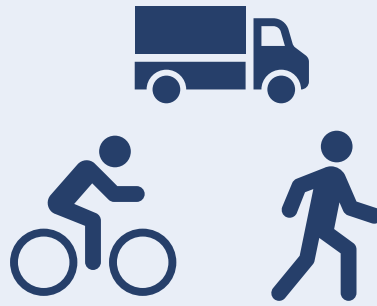


- Includes utilizing a network of existing roads to encourage or require trucks to use other state highways for freight traffic.
  - VT Routes 17, 30, and 125
  - US Routes 4, 7 and 9
  - Interstates I-87 and I-89
- May include:
  - Physical improvements to existing roadways to accommodate truck traffic
  - Restricting and/or prohibiting trucks on Rte. 22A though legislation and increased enforcement
  - Truck wayfinding/routing

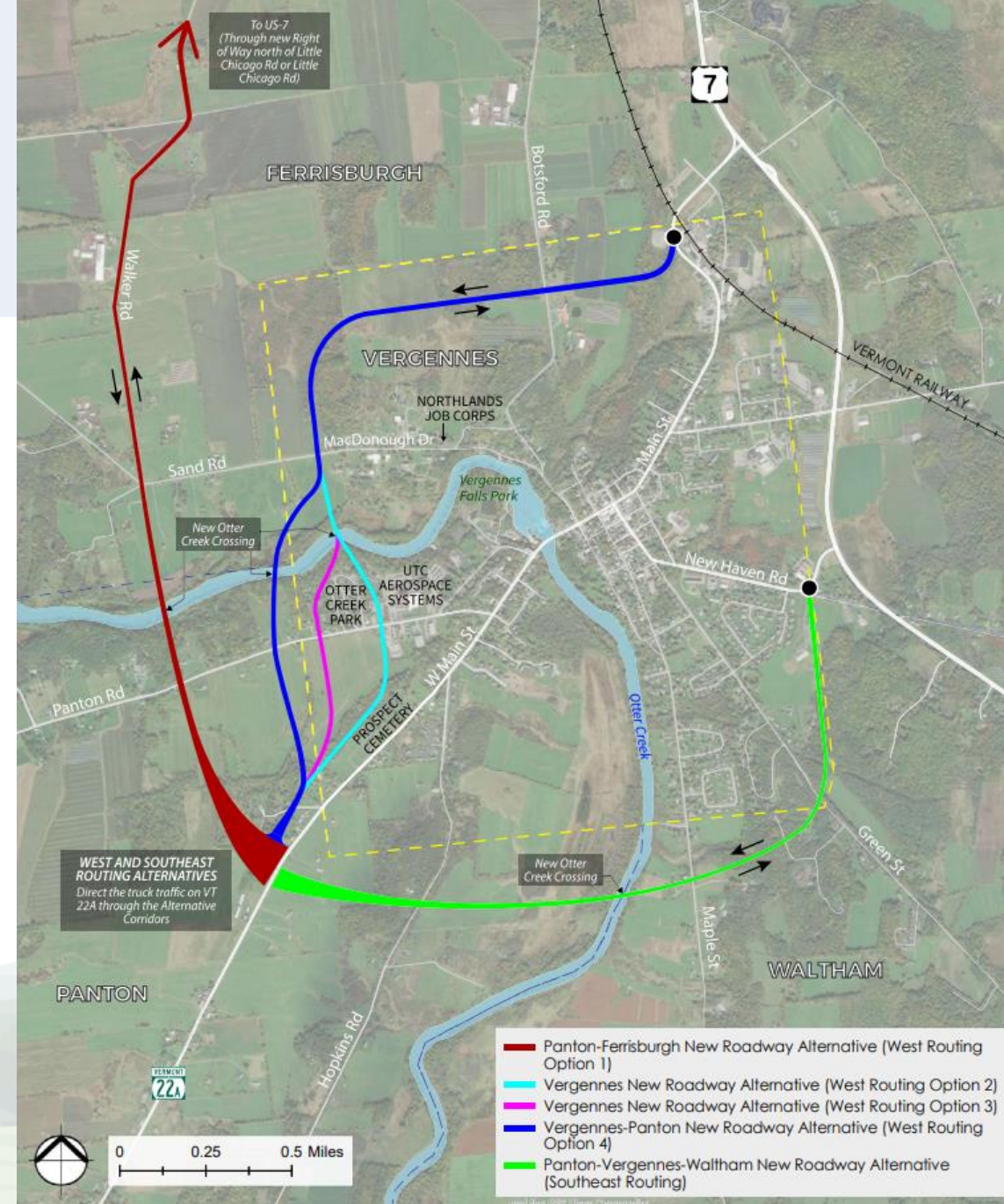




# Draft List of Alternatives: New Road Alternatives

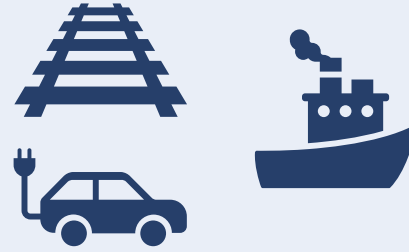


- Includes all New Road Alternatives considered under previous studies (1995, 2002, 2019)
- New Road Alternatives consider diverting trucks away from downtown Vergennes as a potential solution to reduce their impacts
- New Road Alternatives are conceptual ideas and - exact locations are to be determined





# Draft List of Alternatives: Other Freight Modes



- Includes transitioning truck freight cargo to rail and water transportation modes
- Includes considerations for “Smart Freight” alternatives such as electric vehicles (EVs) and Connected and Autonomous vehicles (CAVs)



Source: Shutterstock



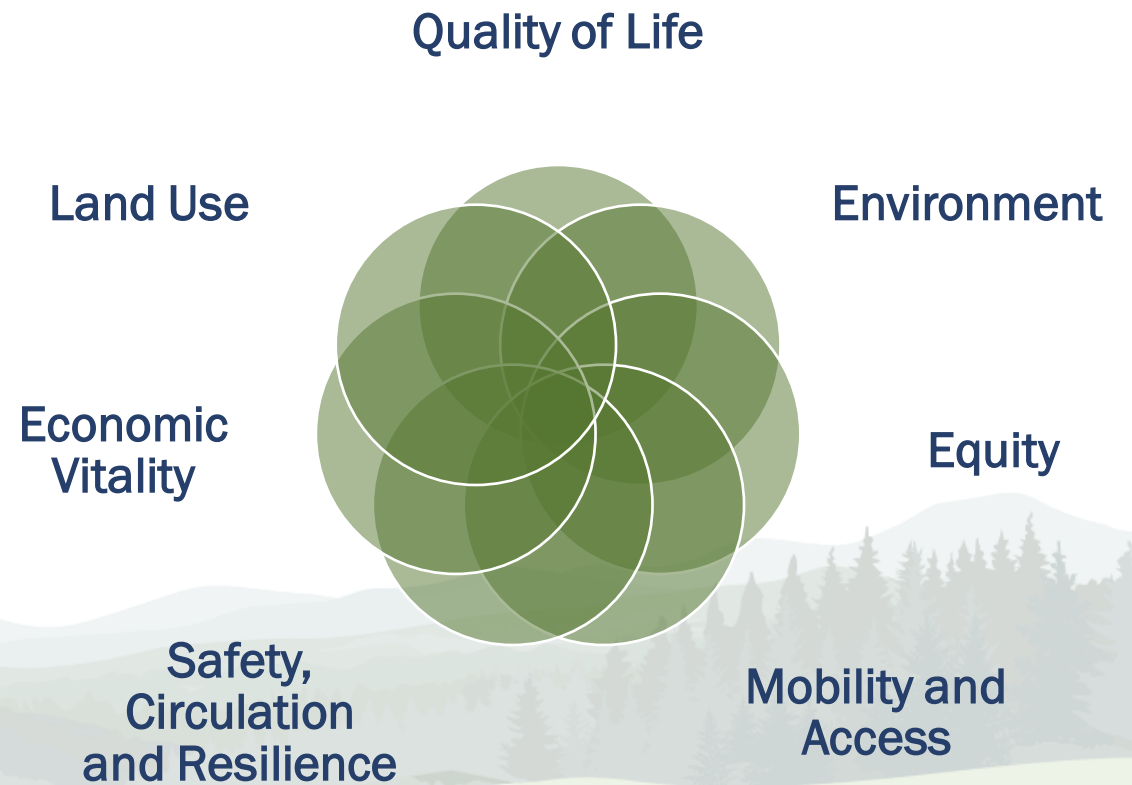
Source: VTrans



# Draft Screening Criteria: Needs

- Upon establishing the long list of alternatives, each alternative will be subject to “screening” based on the Study’s needs.
- Each need has a set of criteria which will be used to screen the alternatives being considered.
- The “screening” process will assess the effectiveness of each alternative to meet the Purpose of the Study.

Does the alternative meet the Study’s Purpose and Need?





# Draft Screening Criteria

## Quality of Life and Environment

- Reduces truck noise and emissions
- Avoids known environmental resources
- Maintains/supports community character

## Equity

- Balances distribution of transportation resources
- Avoids burdens to historically disadvantaged and environmental justice populations

## Mobility and Access

- Maintains freight mobility throughout the region
- Creates opportunities for multimodal travel throughout the region
- Promotes greater destination access to downtown Vergennes to for all modes

## Economic Vitality

- Promotes economic vitality in downtown Vergennes
- Promotes regional economic vitality

## Safety, Circulation and Resilience

- Creates redundancies to improve resilience of road network
- Improves motorized circulation throughout the region
- Improves non-motorized circulation throughout the region
- Improves motorized and non-motorized safety on Route 22A through downtown Vergennes

## Land Use

- Consistent with existing regional land uses
- Aligns with future and projected regional land uses and statewide goals

# Draft Screening Criteria: Applying to Alternatives

Alternatives will be screened using a “rating” system under each criteria:

Substantial Positive Effect **++**

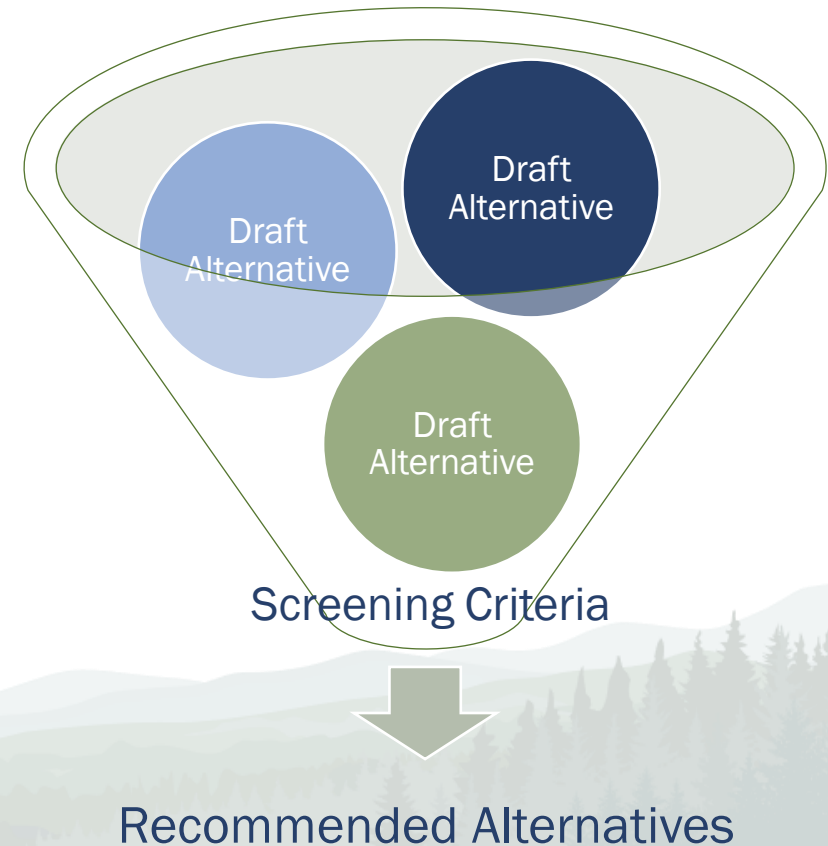
Some Positive Effect **+**

Neutral **○**

Some Negative Effect **—**

Substantial Negative Effect **---**

*Alternatives that do not satisfy the Purpose and Need, or have less than a “Net Positive” will be screened out from further evaluation*





# Public Workshop Logistics

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# Planning & Environment Linkages (PEL) Study

## Virtual Workshop Logistics

Workshop Rotation	Time
Automatically Divide into Breakout Rooms	5 minutes
Alternative Breakout Rooms New Road Alternatives Existing Road Alternatives VT 22 Alternatives Other Freight Modes	80 minutes 20 minutes (each)
Automatically Return to Main Room	5 minutes
Facilitator Highlights and Group Discussion	20 minutes
Next Steps and Wrap-Up	5 minutes

- 1) Facilitators will give a brief overview of alternative types
- 2) **Participants are encouraged to provide feedback out loud or in the breakout room chat box**
- 3) A notetaker will be present in each breakout room and sessions will be recorded to capture input
- 4) Presenters will rotate breakout rooms after 20 minutes. **Attendees are asked to stay in the same breakout room**
- 5) Each facilitator will provide highlights of the feedback “themes” at the end of the workshop to all participants



# Virtual Workshop Logistics: Breakout Rooms

## How to join a breakout room

1. The host will invite you to join a specific breakout room.
2. When the box pops up, please click the **Join** button.
3. **Please remain in the same breakout room.** The facilitators will rotate to share information with each breakout room.
4. After the four presenters have rotated to each breakout room. The host will end the breakout room session and all attendees will be returned to the main room. **The breakout room will automatically close, and you will rejoin the main room.**
5. If you drop off the meeting, you are welcome to rejoin. When you rejoin you will enter the main room and a team member will reassign you to the proper breakout room.



# Planning & Environment Linkages (PEL) Study

## Public Workshop Logistics

Workshop Rotation	Time
Divide into Four Smaller Groups and Move to Assigned Station	5 minutes
Alternatives Stations New Road Alternatives Existing Road Alternatives VT 22 Alternatives Other Freight Modes	80 minutes 20 minutes (each)
Return to Larger Group	5 minutes
Facilitator Highlights and Group Discussion	20 minutes
Next Steps and Wrap-Up	5 minutes

- 1) Station facilitator will give a brief overview of alternative types
- 2) Participants are encouraged to provide feedback on the alternative types and interact with the boards
  - ❖ Stick-it notes can be placed on the flip chart
  - ❖ Write on the flip chart
- 3) A notetaker will be present at each station to capture input
- 4) Participants will be asked to rotate to the next station after 20 minutes
- 5) Each station facilitator will provide highlights of the feedback “themes” at the end of the workshop

# Thank You!



We welcome your input and appreciate your feedback. Please visit <https://vergennespel.com/> to join our email list for Study updates

Please visit email us at [vergennespel@gmail.com](mailto:vergennespel@gmail.com) for further information, to submit comments or to contact the Study team.