

# Vergennes Planning and Environment Linkages (PEL) Study

## Talking Points for Fall 2022 Selectboard/ Council Visits

Katharine Otto – Planning Coordinator – Vermont Agency of Transportation – [Katharine.otto@vermont.gov](mailto:Katharine.otto@vermont.gov)

Mike Winslow – Transportation Planner – Addison County Regional Planning Commission – [mwinslow@acrpc.org](mailto:mwinslow@acrpc.org)

### What is the project?

The Vergennes PEL Study is evaluating transportation alternatives that reduce the impact of large truck traffic on VT Route 22A and Downtown Vergennes to enhance the quality of life and economic vitality in Vergennes and the surrounding towns.

### Goals for today

- Overview of what we have done in the last year
- Outline what is coming soon
- Hear comments

### What have we done? What is coming up?

- April 2021 – Study launched
- Fall 2021 – Public outreach and stakeholder engagement focusing on Purpose and Need
- March 2022 – Purpose and Need statement finalized (see page 2)
- May/ June 2022 – Public workshops focusing on draft long list of alternatives and screening criteria
- *Fall 2022 (now!) – Public meeting focusing on alternatives screening*
- Later in the Fall – Short list of alternatives

This study will be continuing through Spring 2024. Next steps include

- Detailed evaluation of the most promising Alternatives and Land Use Visioning
- Narrowing to a short list of Alternatives to advance for Federal Environmental Review

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
Vergennes PEL Study Hybrid Public Meeting  
*A study regarding truck traffic in Vergennes*

**Thursday, November 3**  
**6:00 to 8:30pm**

**TWO WAYS TO JOIN!**  
Join **in-person** at the Vergennes Opera House **OR**  
Join **virtually** via Zoom

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

  
REGISTER NOW!

The purpose of the public meeting is to present the amended screening criteria, review the initial screening process and outcome, and gather feedback from the public.

Full details about in-person (Vergennes Opera House) and virtual meeting (Zoom) options are available on the Study website: <https://vergennespel.com/news-events/>

## What types of alternatives are being considered?

*Everything!* All alternatives are back on the table for this stage, but by the end of the fall we should be down to a much smaller list.

- Creating new road alternatives – including ideas discussed in previous studies and new ones
- Utilizing existing roads, including improvements as needed
- Encouraging freight to use other modes or use new technologies – eg rail or water
- Enhancements to Route 22A corridor
- Do nothing (“No Build”) alternative where there are no changes beyond what is already planned for Route 22A

More information about these alternatives is available on the project website - <https://vergennesspel.com/>

*Please help us to prioritize by attending the November 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting!*

## How are alternatives being evaluated?

The Purpose and Need Statement provides the foundation for the screening criteria

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.

View the alternatives screening criteria on the project website - <https://vergennesspel.com/>

## Who are on the committees?

- Technical Committee - Assembled to guide, review and validate data collection methods, analysis, findings and recommendations brought forth by the consultant team.
- 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.
- For full membership list see <https://vergennesspel.com/committees/>

## More information and sign up for regular email updates

Project website includes project documents, meeting notes and videos. and more <https://vergennesspel.com/>