



# Vergennes Planning and Environment Linkages Study

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Policy Committee

January 06, 2025



# Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Changes to the Agenda
3. PEL Study Background
4. Alternatives Evaluation
5. *Public Comment*
6. Discussion and Committee Consensus Point
7. Next Steps

V E R G E N N E S

## Planning & Environment Linkages (PEL) Study



# Zoom Orientation

**VIDEO:**  
On/Off  
Choose Virtual  
Background

**AUDIO:**  
Mute/Unmute  
Audio Connection

**PARTICIPANTS**  
View Participants  
Rename

**CHAT:**  
Questions,  
comments, links  
Tech Assistance

**REACTIONS:**  
Raise hand  
feature

**SCREEN VIEW:**  
Gallery View

View

- Speaker View
- ✓ Gallery View
- Immersive View

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Show Non-Video Participants

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Fullscreen

Mute Stop Video

Security

Participants 1

Chat

Share Screen

Record

Reactions

End

# Roll Call

## VOTING Members

- Chair: Adam Lougee, ACRPC
- Bill Smith, Vermont Truck and Bus Association
- Kati Gallagher, VNRC
- Brent Rakowski, ACRPC TAC
- Clark Hinsdale, Town of Ferrisburgh
- Diane Lanpher, City of Vergennes
- Jubilee McGill, State Rep. from New Haven, Weybridge and Bridport
- Ron Redmond, City of Vergennes
- Matthew Bogaczyk, VTrans
- Matthew Arancio, VTrans
- Mary Rudd, Town of Panton
- Matt Birong, State Rep. from Vergennes, Ferrisburgh, Waltham, Panton and Addison
- Mike Audy, Town of New Haven
- Renny Perry, Vergennes Partnership
- Phil Summers, Addison County Chamber
- Rhonda Williams, Town of Waltham

# Roll Call

## Non-Voting Members

- Amy Bell, VTrans
- Faith Dall, VTrans
- Joel Perrigo, VTrans
- Mike Winslow, ACRPC
- Liz Shipley, FHWA
- Jacqueline LeBlanc, FHWA

## Other attendees?

## Consultant Team

WSP

Dubois & King

VHB



# PEL Study Background



# Why are we doing a PEL study in Vergennes?

- Previous studies indicated regional agreement that truck volume in downtown Vergennes should be addressed.
- PEL study allow us to go:
  - Wider in our outreach and engagement
  - Deeper into details, including conceptual design and land use visioning

Goal is for region to come to *consensus* on path forward

- VTrans and ACRPC role in PEL study is to facilitate regional process



Summer 2021 – Spring 2022

Task 1: Project Kick-Off and Scope Refinement

Task 2: Purpose and Need Statement



Spring 2022 – Spring 2023

Task 3: Alternatives Development and Concept Screening



2023 - 2024

Task 4: Alternatives/Concept Refinement

Task 5: Integrated Transportation & Land Use Alternatives

Task 6: Alternatives Evaluation & Recommendations



2025

Task 7: Implementation Plan

Task 8: PEL Report



# Where are we in the overall timeline?

## PEL Study (2021-2025)

### Completed Tasks

- Define what we are working towards - *Purpose and Need Statement*
- Narrow down full list of concepts
- Land use visioning
- Conceptual design



### Current & Upcoming Tasks

- Alternatives Evaluation
- Implementation Plan
- Finalize report



## Future steps if the study concludes construction is warranted:

### Obtain Funding

- *Timeline: Unknown*



### Design & Engineering

- *Timeline: 7-13 years*
- Conceptual, Draft and Final Design
- Environmental Studies & NEPA
- Permitting
- Right-of-Way Acquisitions



### Construction

*NOTE: The study may conclude that construction is not warranted.*

# Policy Committee Role

- Endorsement of key assumptions and recommendations to VTrans
- Listen to stakeholder's input and concerns
- Consider areas of representation as well as the needs of the region as a whole

## Members

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

## Today's ask:

- Approve Alternatives Evaluation Technical Memorandum and study team's recommendation
- Consensus to proceed to NEPA, pending funding

- PEL is a collaborative decision-making **planning** process
- Goal to reduce the number of alternatives and identify potential impacts that will be looked at further during NEPA
- **Recommendations only – not binding** until NEPA process

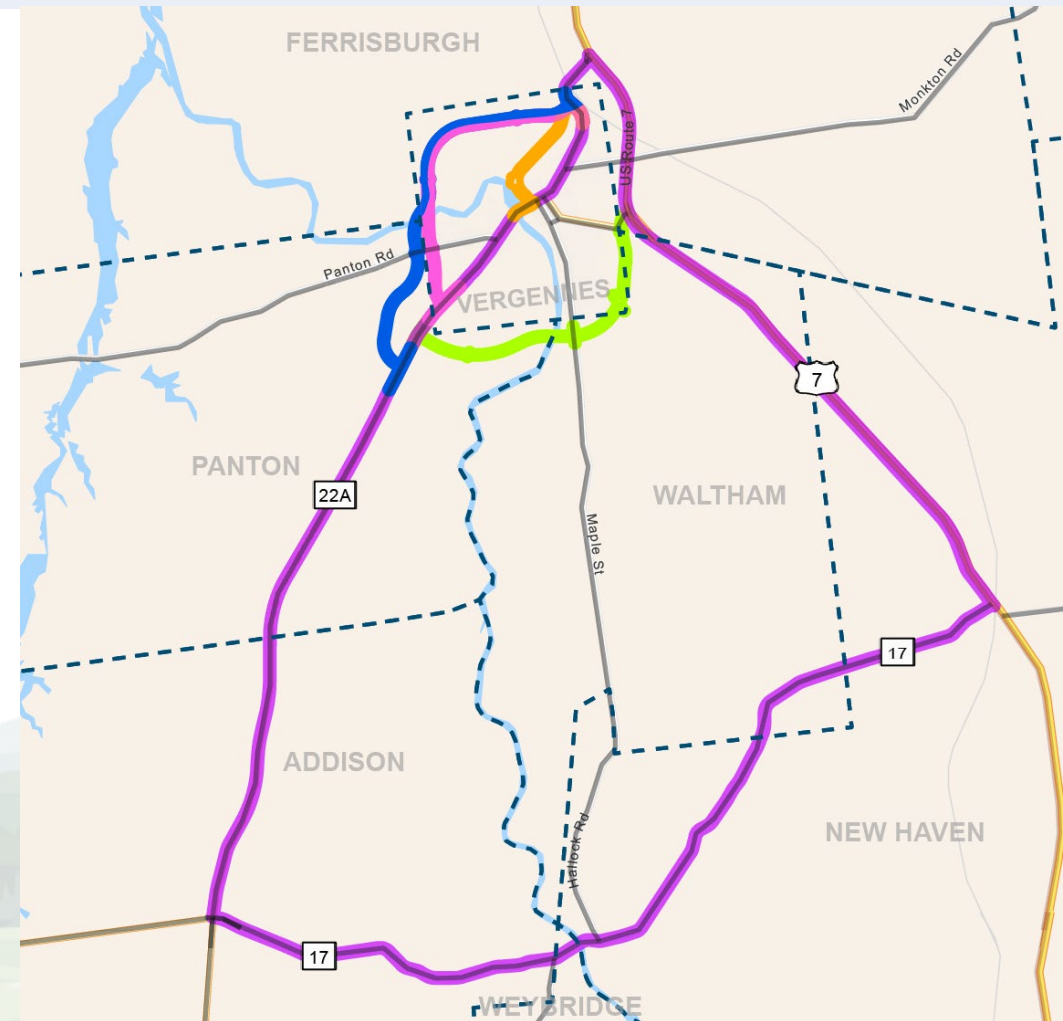


# Alternatives Evaluation



# Transportation Solutions Being Studied

- 4 new roadways
- 1 concept to improve an existing roadway, Route 17
- A "No Build" option that would maintain Route 22A in its existing configuration
- All alternative routes have strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities



# 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.

# Document Review

## Comments

- Additional historic and cultural resources assessment
- Review of construction cost estimate
- Addition of development costs
  
- None of these changes impacts the study team's recommendation

## Meetings Held

- VTrans Leadership Briefing – December 5
- Technical Committee Meeting – December 13

# Alternatives Evaluation

	<b>PURPLE ALTERNATIVE</b>	<b>BLUE ROUTE ALTERNATIVE</b>	<b>PINK ROUTE ALTERNATIVE</b>	<b>GREEN ROUTE ALTERNATIVE</b>	<b>ORANGE ALTERNATIVE</b>
Transportation Impacts	-6	5	5	1	3
Local and Regional Issues	-3	5	4	-2	-5
Environmental Resources	-19	-23	-20	-17	-13
<b>Total</b>	<b>-28</b>	<b>-13</b>	<b>-11</b>	<b>-18</b>	<b>-5</b>
Construction Cost Estimate	\$54 M	\$107 M	\$132 M	\$103 M	\$19 M
Development Cost Estimate	\$21 M	\$44 M	\$54 M	\$45 M	\$12 M

# Evaluation Matrix

- [OPEN EVALUATION MATRIX]



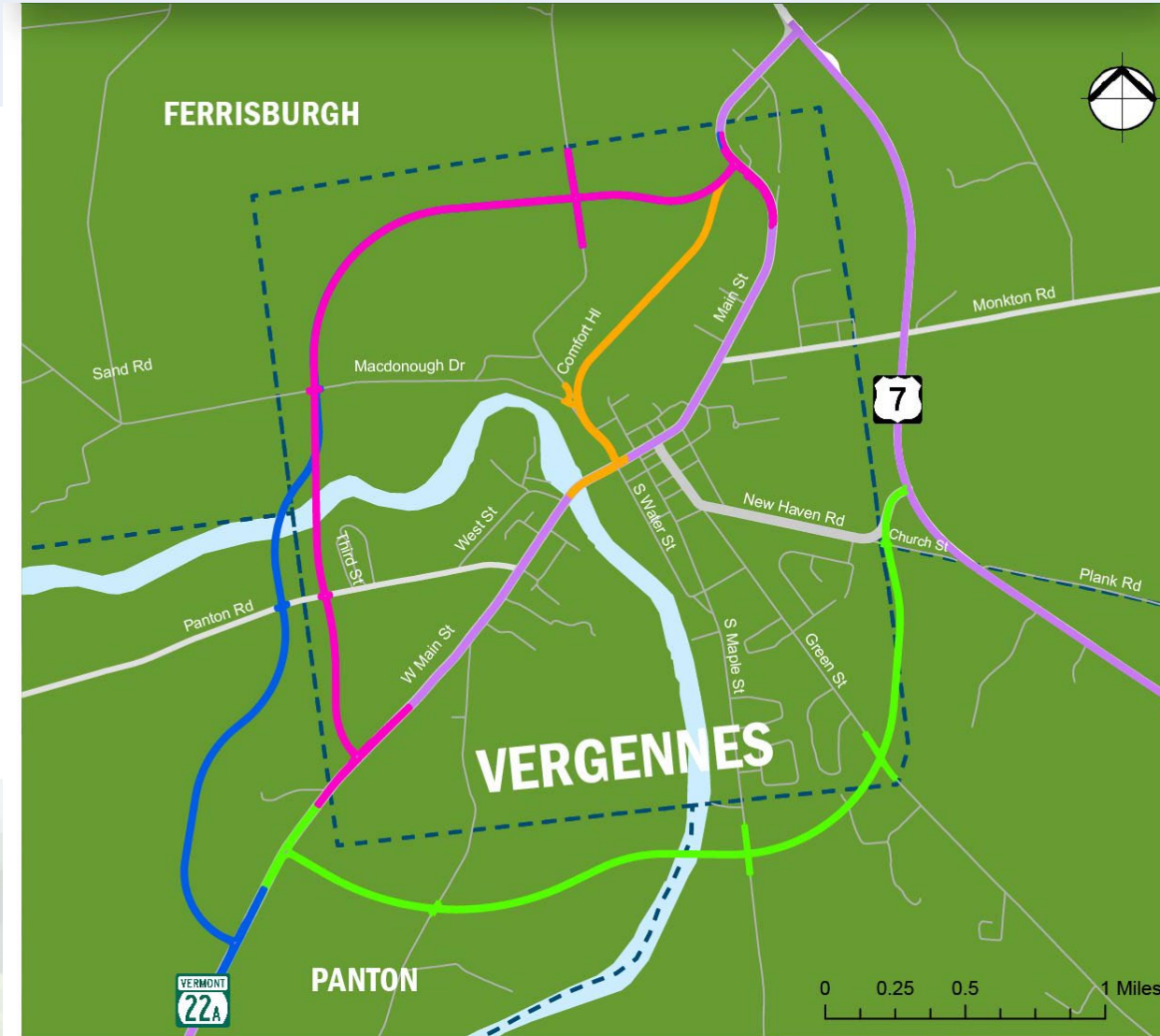




# Recommended Alternatives to be Advanced

Based on the results of the alternatives evaluation, the following route alternatives are recommended:

- Blue Route Alternative
- Pink Route Alternative
  
- No Build Alternative will continue as per NEPA





## **Public Comment Period**





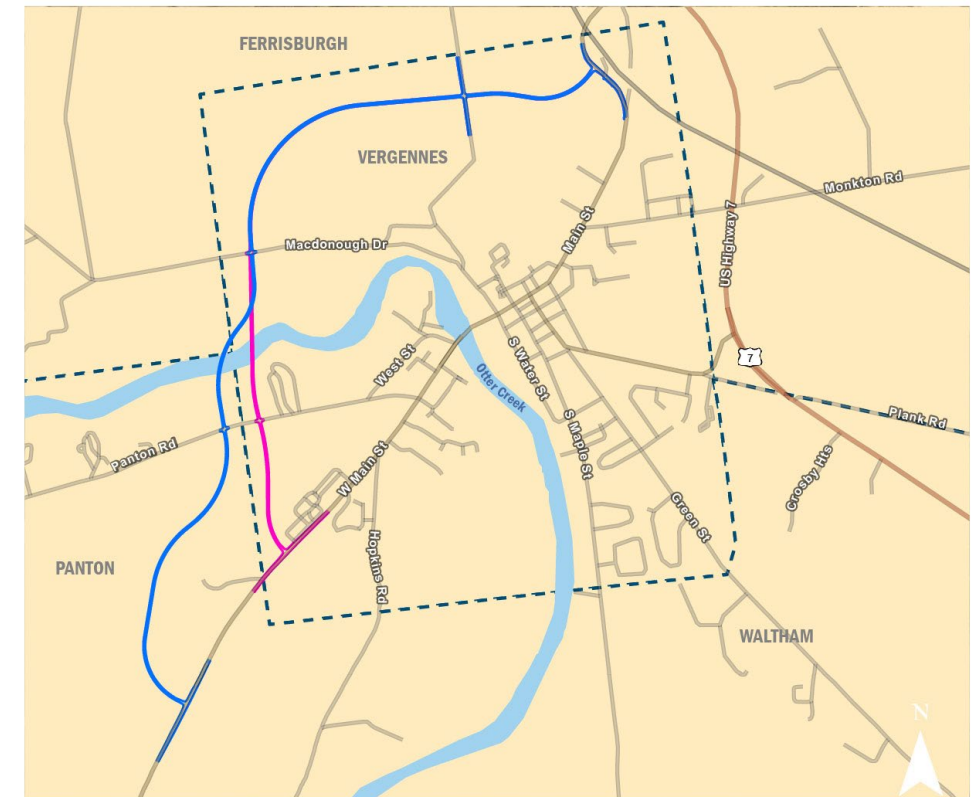
## **Discussion and Consensus Point**



# Consensus Point

**Consensus point:** Based on your review of the Alternatives Evaluation Technical Memorandum, do you:

- Approve the study team's recommendation
- Give your consensus to proceed to NEPA, pending funding
- Additional comments due by January 13



— Blue Route  
— Pink Route

0 0.3 0.5  
Miles

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## Next Steps



# What Comes Next?

## Technical Work

## Meetings and Outreach

### Final PEL Report

- Recommended alternatives
- Local land use regulations and planning
- Funding and financing options

### Public Information Meeting





# Vergennes Planning and Environment Linkages Study

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Policy Committee

January 06, 2025



# What is a Planning and Environment Linkages (PEL) study?

- PEL is process intended to streamline NEPA through a preliminary vetting of transportation project alternatives
  - considers environmental, community, and economic goals
  - includes extensive collaboration with internal and external stakeholders
  - includes extensive public participation



# Public Outreach

## Public Meetings

- November 2021
- November 2022
- Spring 2025

## Public Workshops

- Spring 2022
- December 2023 – January 2024

## Public Survey

- Summer-Fall 2023

## Community Liaison:

**37** Stakeholder meetings—homeowners, business owners, town leaders.

**36** PEL Team planning meetings—sharing community concerns and recommendations.

**7** Planning Commission meetings—wrapping up land use workshops.

**15** meetings with individual Policy Committee members—updates and sharing of views.