



Vergennes Planning and Environment Linkages Study

Technical Committee and
Agency Partners

June 21, 2023



Agenda

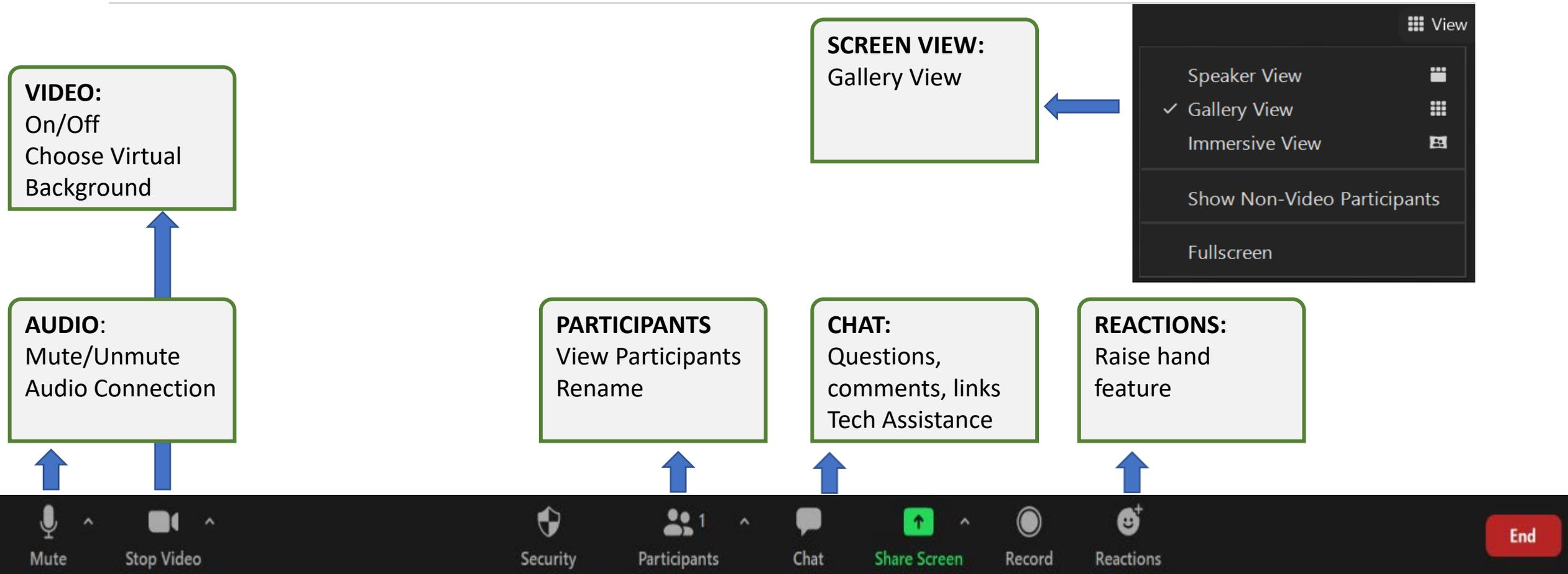
1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. PEL Study Background
3. Concept Screening
4. Conceptual Design
5. Land Use Visioning
6. Public Outreach
7. Committee and Agency Discussion

V E R G E N N E S

Planning & Environment Linkages (PEL) Study



Zoom Orientation



Roll Call – Technical Committee

VOTING members

- **Chair:** Katharine Otto, Transportation Planning (VTrans)
- John Bull, Road Foreman (Town of Ferrisburgh)
- Alysha Kane, District Maintenance (VTrans)
- Shannon Haggett, Land Use (City of Vergennes)
- Fred Kenney, Economic (Addison County Economic Development)
- Jim Larrow, Road Foreman (City of Vergennes)
- Bruce Martin, Roadway Design (VTrans)
- Joel Perrigo, Municipal Assistance (VTrans)
- Katie Raycroft-Meyer, Land Use Planning (ACRPC)
- Jeff Ramsey, Environmental (VTrans)
- Mike Winslow, Transportation Planning (ACRPC)

NON-VOTING members

- Jacqueline DeMent, Planning (FHWA)
- Chris Jolly, Planning (FHWA)
- James LaCroix, Structures (VTrans)
- Adam Lougee, Planning (ACRPC)
- Elizabeth Shipley, Environmental (FHWA)
- [Bike/Ped], VTrans

Note - Technical committee members were invited for specialism listed.
In contrast, Policy committee members invited according to jurisdiction (e.g., town) or specialism



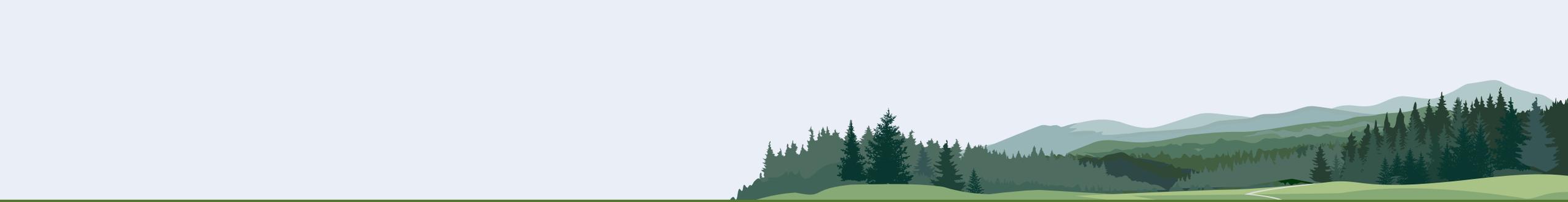
Roll Call – Agency Partners

Federal Agencies

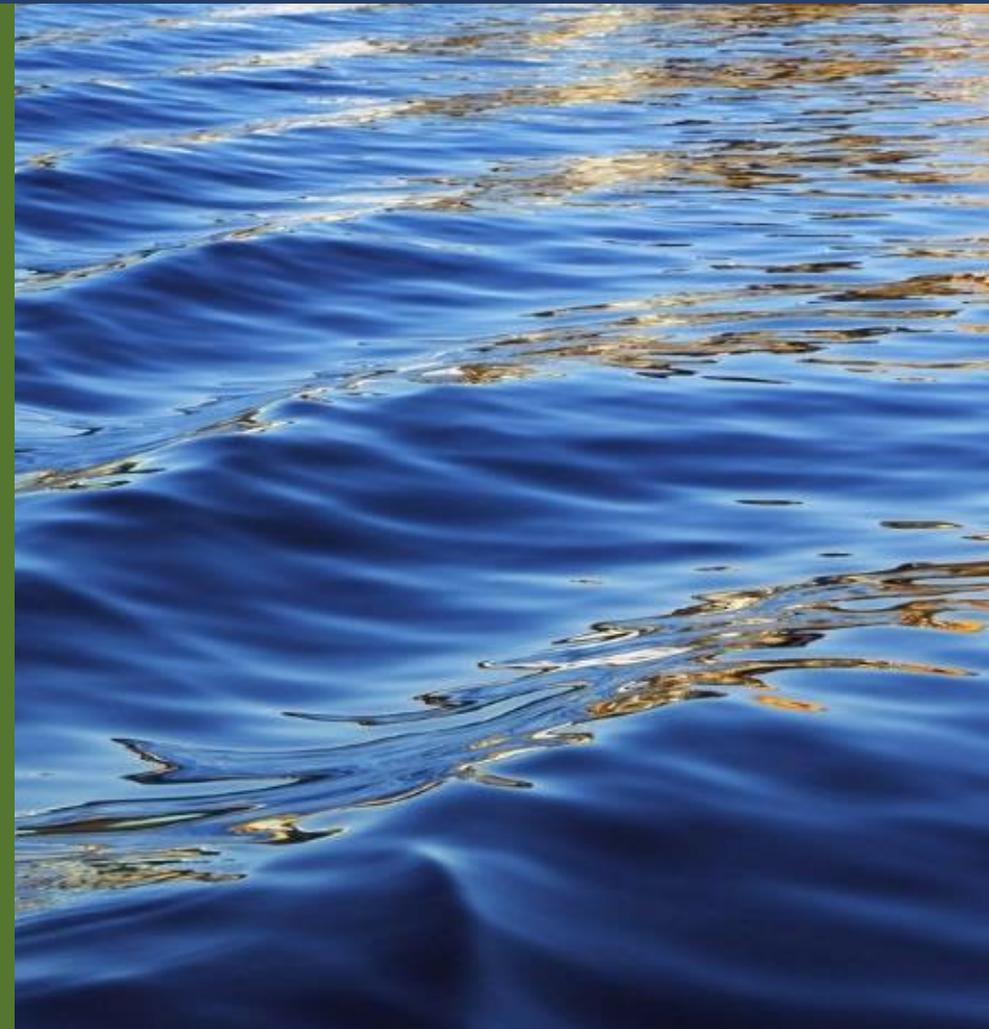
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Christopher Jolly and Elizabeth Shipley
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Michael Adams
- U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), Gary Croot
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Beth Alafat and Tim Timmermann
- U.S.D.A. - Natural Resource Conservation Service, Obediah Racicot
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), David Robbins and Eric Kuns
- [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Susi von Oettingen]

State Agencies

- Agency of Natural Resources (ANR), Billy Coster
- Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD), Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, Laura Trieschmann
- Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD), Department of Housing and Community Development, Chris Cochran and Amy Tomasso
- Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets, Ari Rockland-Miller and Ryan Patch
- Buildings and General Services (BGS), Vermont Agency of Administration, Eric Pembroke



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

Task 4: Alternatives/Concept Refinement

Task 5: Integrated Transportation & Land Use Alternatives

Task 6: Alternatives Evaluation & Recommendations



2024

Task 7: Implementation Plan

Task 8: PEL Report

Overall Process – Planning through Construction

PROJECT INITIATION

- PEL Study – complete in 2024
- Funding Authorization – *unknown timeline*

**Unknown
timeline**



PROJECT DEFINITION

- Conceptual Design
- Environmental Studies

3-5 years



PROJECT DESIGN

- Preliminary Design
- Permitting
- Right-of-Way Acquisitions
- Final Design

4-8 years



CONSTRUCTION

- Pre-Construction Activities
- Active Construction

2-4 years

Technical Committee and Agency Roles



Technical Committee

Role

Guide, review, and validate the consultant's methods, analyses, findings, and recommendations on which the Policy Committee will make its decisions

Members

Subject matter experts from VTrans, region, and municipalities



Agency Coordination

Role

Guide coordination activities through the duration of the study with interested, involved agencies that may be likely cooperating and participating agencies under NEPA

Members

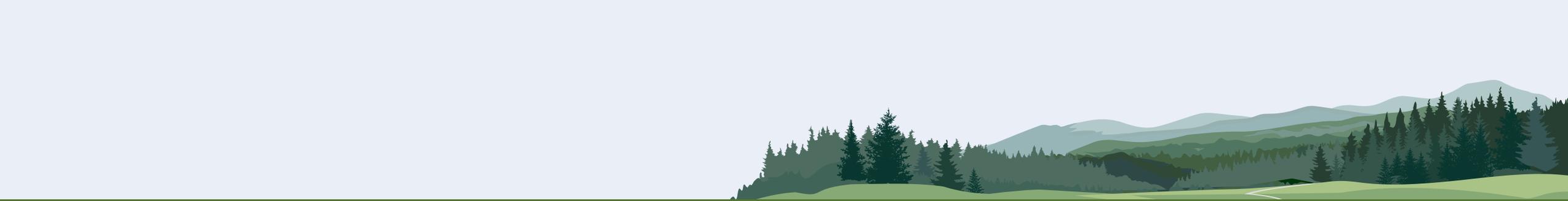
Likely Cooperating and Likely Participating Agencies

Technical Committee and Agency Roles

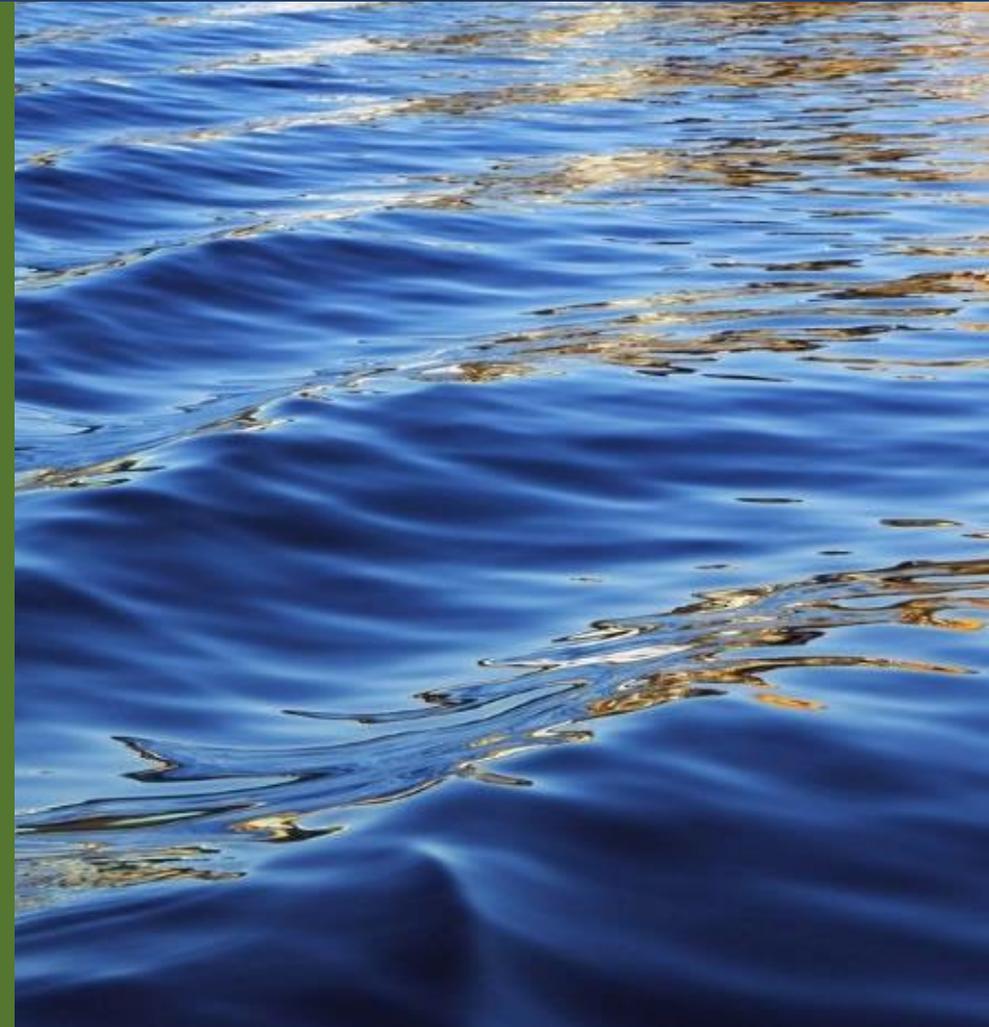
- PEL is a collaborative decision-making **planning** process
- Goal to reduce the number of alternatives and identify potential impacts that will be looked at further during NEPA
- **Recommendations only – not binding** until NEPA process

Today's ask:

- Provide input on conceptual design
- Identify land use visioning coordination touch points
- Opportunities for more in-depth review and discussion



Concept Screening



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.

Screening Criteria

Quality of Life and Environment

- Reduces truck noise and emissions
- Avoids potential impacts to water and natural resources
- Maintains/supports community character of downtown Vergennes

Equity

- Balances distribution of transportation resources
- Avoids impacts to surrounding communities, including disproportionate impacts to environmental justice communities

Mobility and Access

- Maintains freight mobility 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

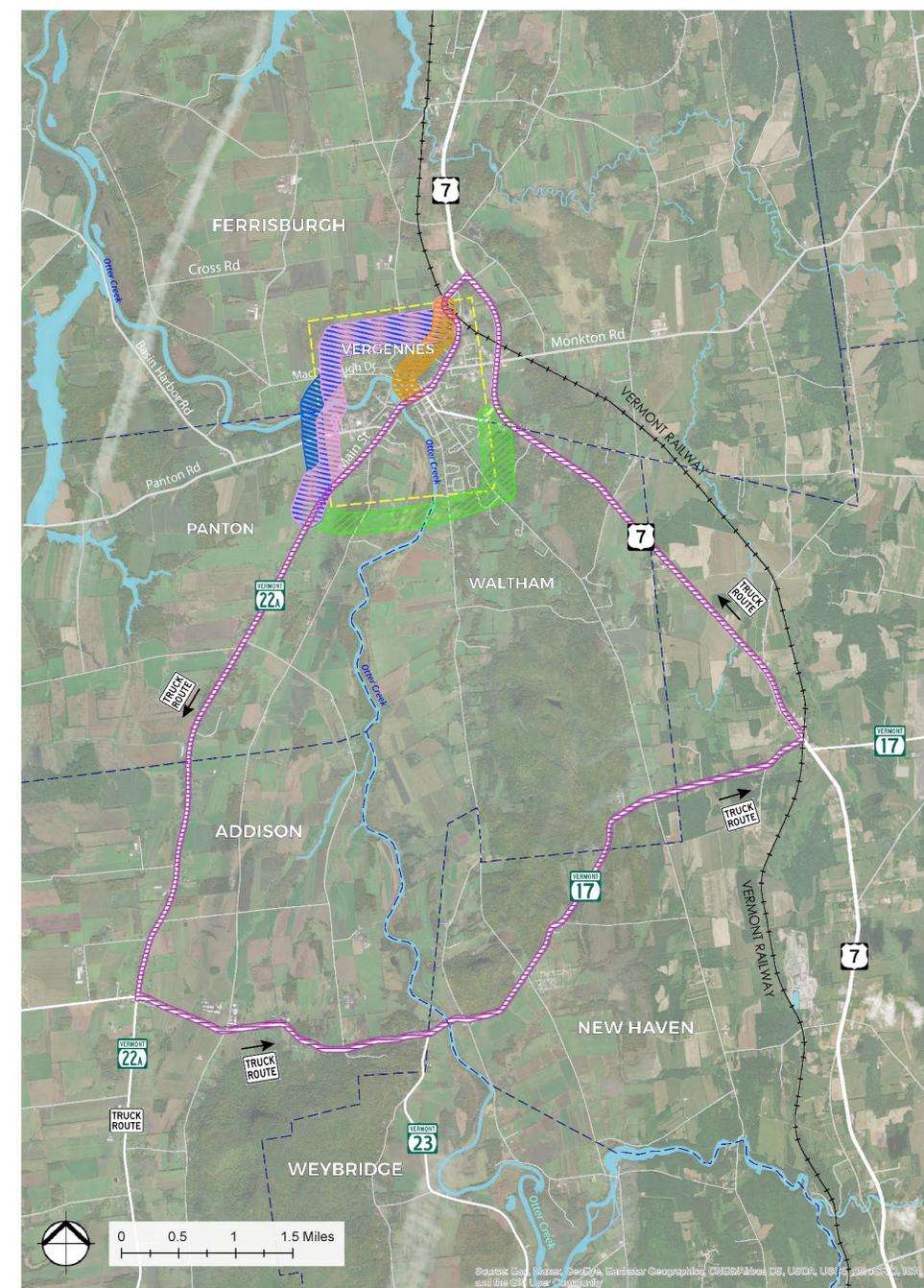
- Creates redundancies to improve resilience of road network
- Improves motorized circulation throughout the region
- Improves non-motorized circulation throughout the region
- Improves motorized and non-motorized safety on Route 22A through downtown Vergennes

Land Use

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

Concepts Recommended for Further Study

- Vergennes-Panton New Roadway (West Routing Option 4) (Blue)
- Vergennes New Roadway (West Routing Option 3) (Pink)
- Vergennes Main Street New Parallel Route (Orange)
- Panton-Vergennes-Waltham New Roadway (Southeast Routing) (Green)
- VT-17 Northbound/VT-22A Southbound (Purple)



Technical Work

Concept Engineering

- Design constraints including existing ROW and land use, environmental resources, location of adjacent roadways, municipal boundaries

Transportation and Land Use Integration

- Local land use controls/zoning, economic conditions and growth trends, environmental constraints

Evaluation of Concepts

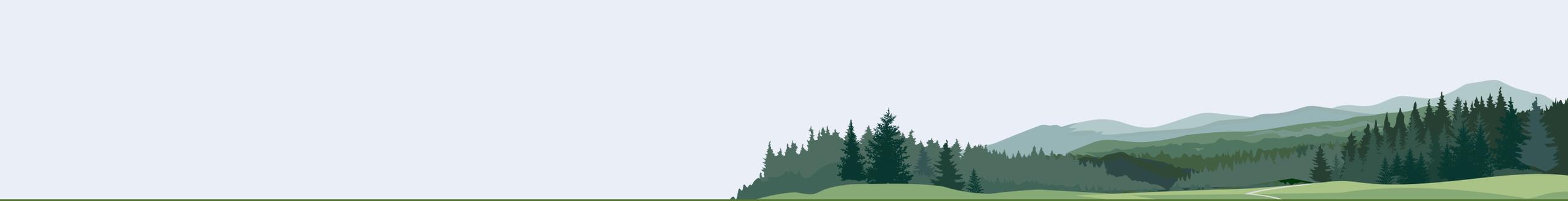
- Traffic impacts, multi-modal considerations
- Environmental impacts – wetlands, floodplains, habitats, noise

Outreach Activities

Public
Engagement

Land Use
Visioning

Public
Engagement



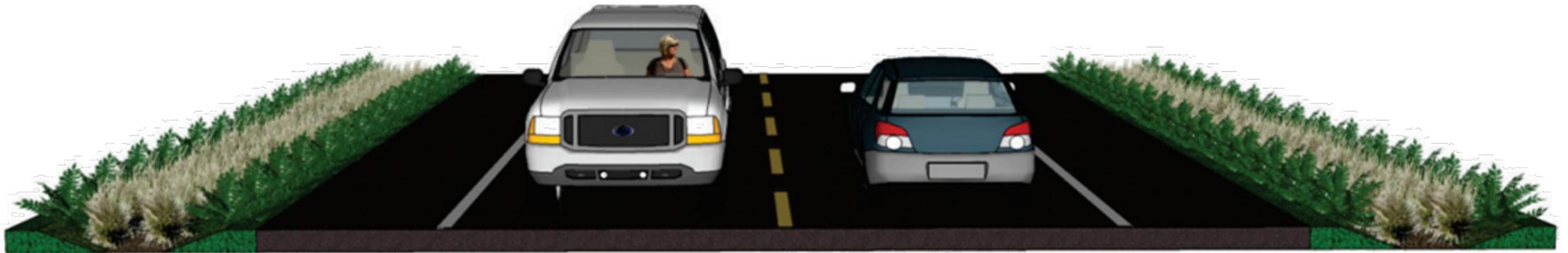
Concept Design



Design Methodology

- Follow Vermont State Standards related to lane and shoulder widths, speed, superelevation, vertical clearance over Otter Creek, grade and sight distances
- USCG Bridge Clearance guidance
- Avoid environmental constraints (water and natural resources) and property acquisitions where feasible
- Objective to keep passenger vehicles in downtown Vergennes (Route 22A/Main Street), as much as possible
- Intersection types to be considered

Typical Section – Initial Conceptual Design



Width for initial conceptual design = 30'- 36'

Additional discussion about roadway character and design at later stage of study (fall 2023)

ArcGIS Online Mapping

Vergennes Concept Design

Open in Map Viewer Classic

Sign In

Layers

Get started
You can explore maps, add layers, and more without signing in. To save your work, sign in before creating your map.
[Learn more about Map Viewer](#)

Vergennes

Right-of-Way

Engineering Detail

Add

Map interface showing a concept design for Vergennes, Vermont. The map displays various roads and features, including US Route 7, VT Route 22A, and several local streets like Walker Rd, Sand Rd, Comfort Hl, N Main St, Monkton Rd, Macdonough Dr, West St, S Maple St, Plank Rd, Prospect Cemetery, Green St, Crosby Hts, and US Route 7. The design includes colored lines (blue, orange, pink, green) representing different road types or project boundaries, and a yellow dashed line indicating a specific area of interest.

What do you think?

Today's discussion should focus on:

- Design approach
- Terminus locations
- Initial thoughts on concept designs and where to make refinements
- **Send comments by email by July 10, 2023**

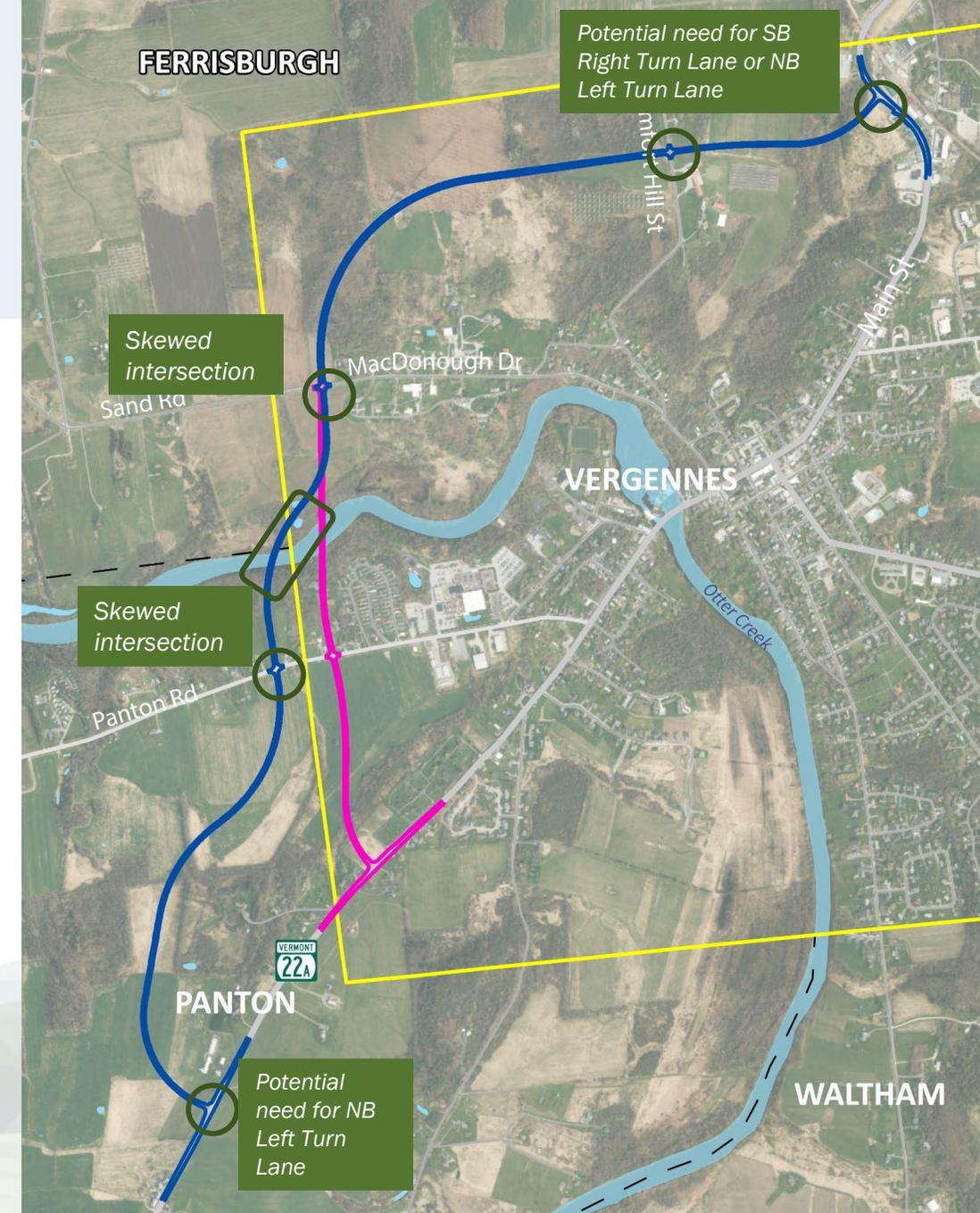
Would you like to be involved in more in-depth review of conceptual design before the next Technical Committee/Agency partners meeting?

Subjects for future discussion:

- Future land use around the roadways
- Roadway cross-section dimensions
- Intersection designs – roundabout, signalized, jug-handle, etc.
- Environmental resources
- Property acquisitions

Blue Route

- Connects with VT 22A approximately 1.5 miles south of Vergennes
- Crosses Panton Rd, Otter Creek, MacDonough Dr, Botsford Rd/Comfort Hill St
- Reconnects with VT 22A approximately 0.1 miles south of the Vergennes/Ferrisburgh border in Vergennes
- Overall length of the proposed roadway is 2.9 miles
- Portions of the roadway south of Otter Creek are to the west of the Vergennes city limit

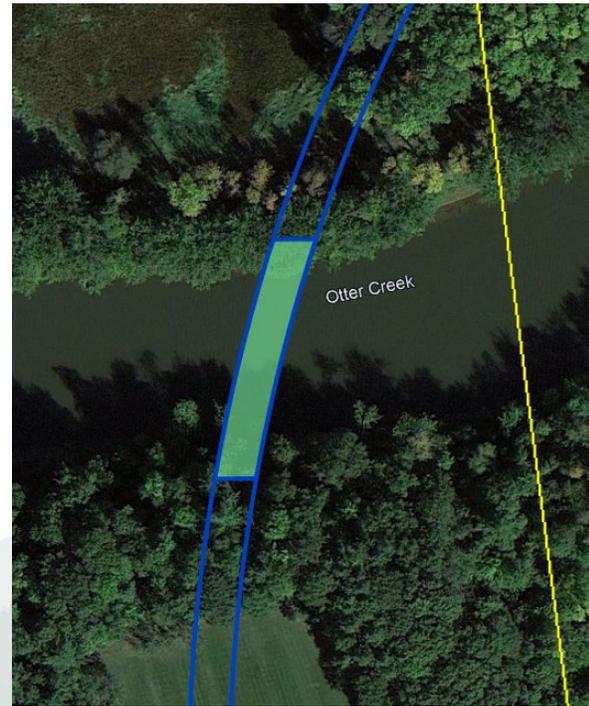


Blue Route

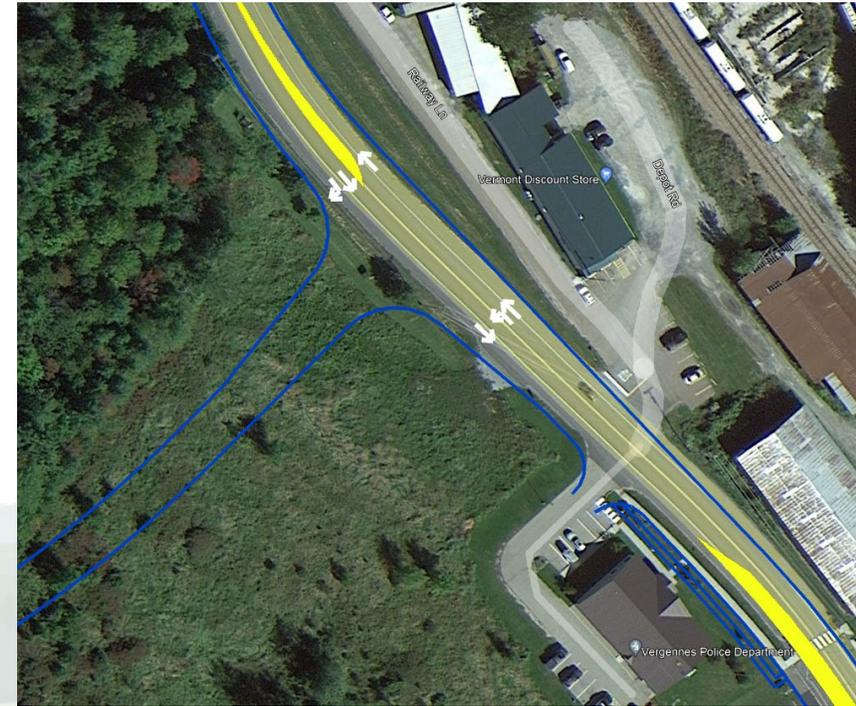
South terminus at Route 22A



Otter Creek Crossing
Single span bridge

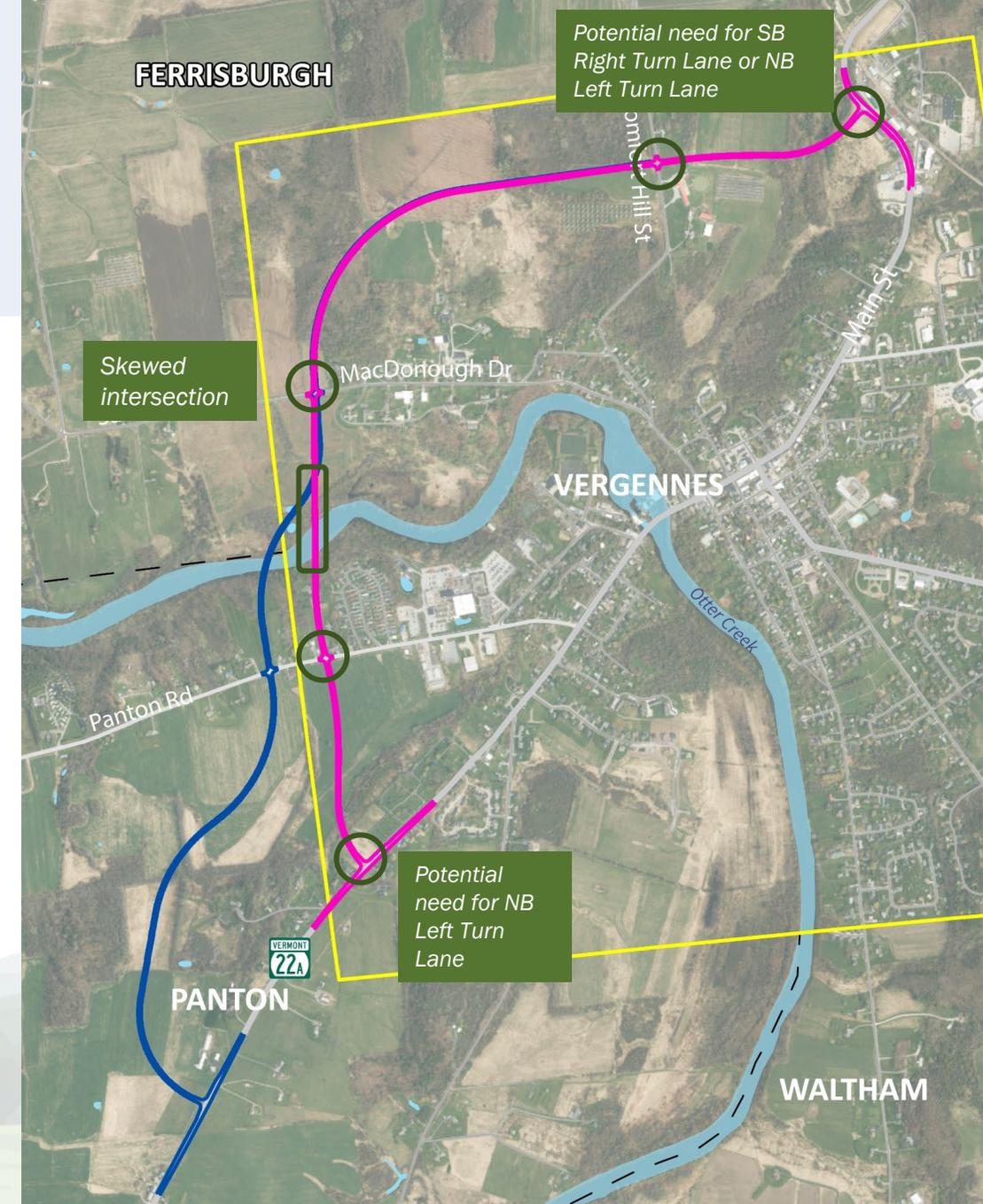


North terminus at Route 22A



Pink Route

- Connects with VT 22A approximately 0.1 miles north of the Vergennes/Panton border in Vergennes
- Modified version of the Blue Route that shifts the alignment east between Panton Rd and VT 22A
- Reconnects with VT 22A approximately 0.1 miles south of the Vergennes/Ferrisburgh border in Vergennes
- Overall length of the proposed roadway is 2.3 miles.

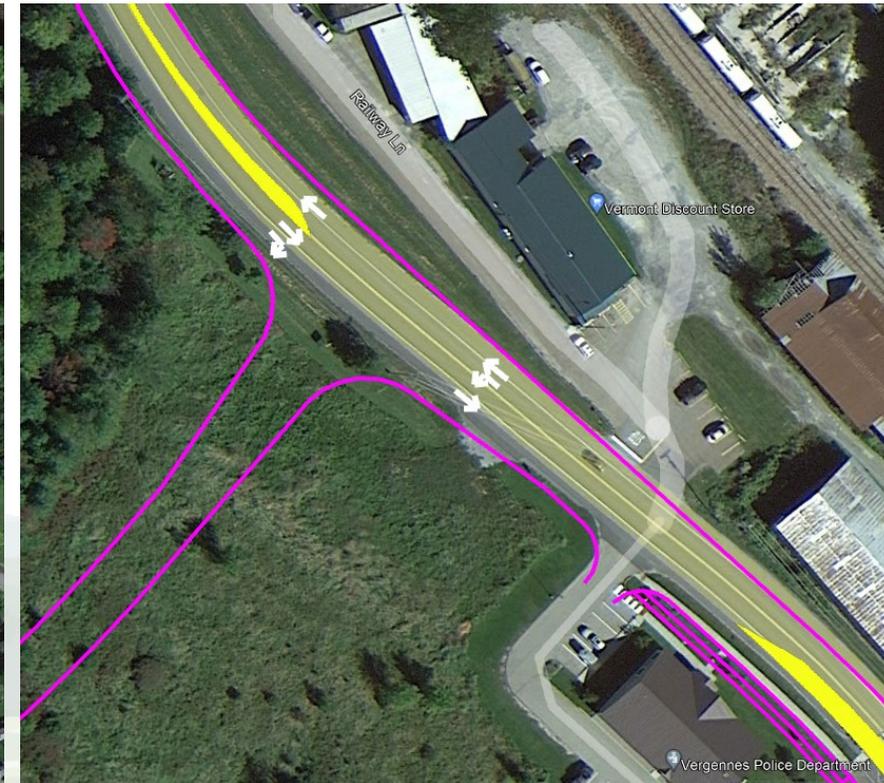
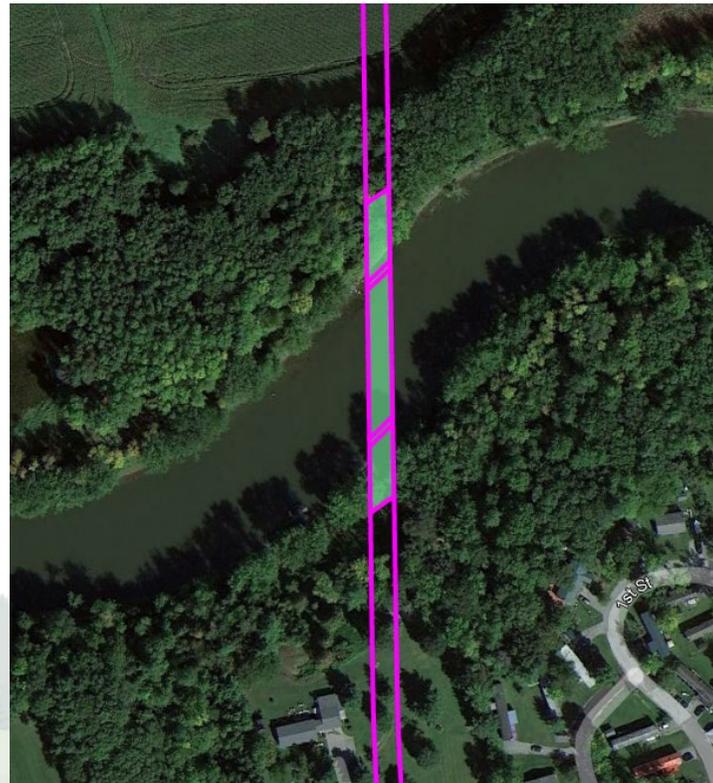
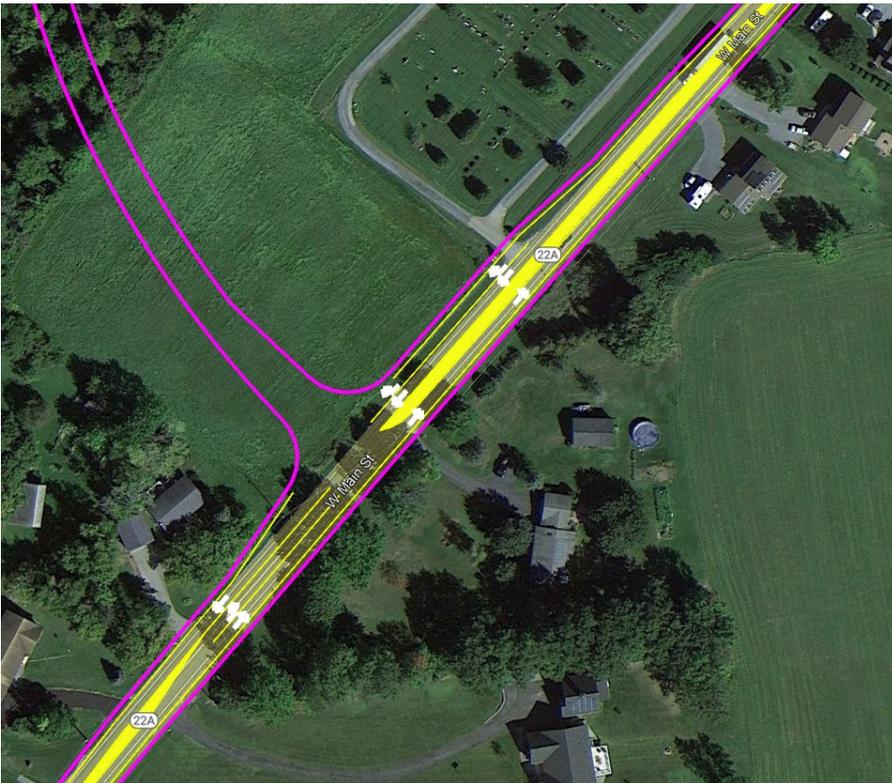


Pink Route

South terminus north of Sunset
Knoll Road, near cemetery

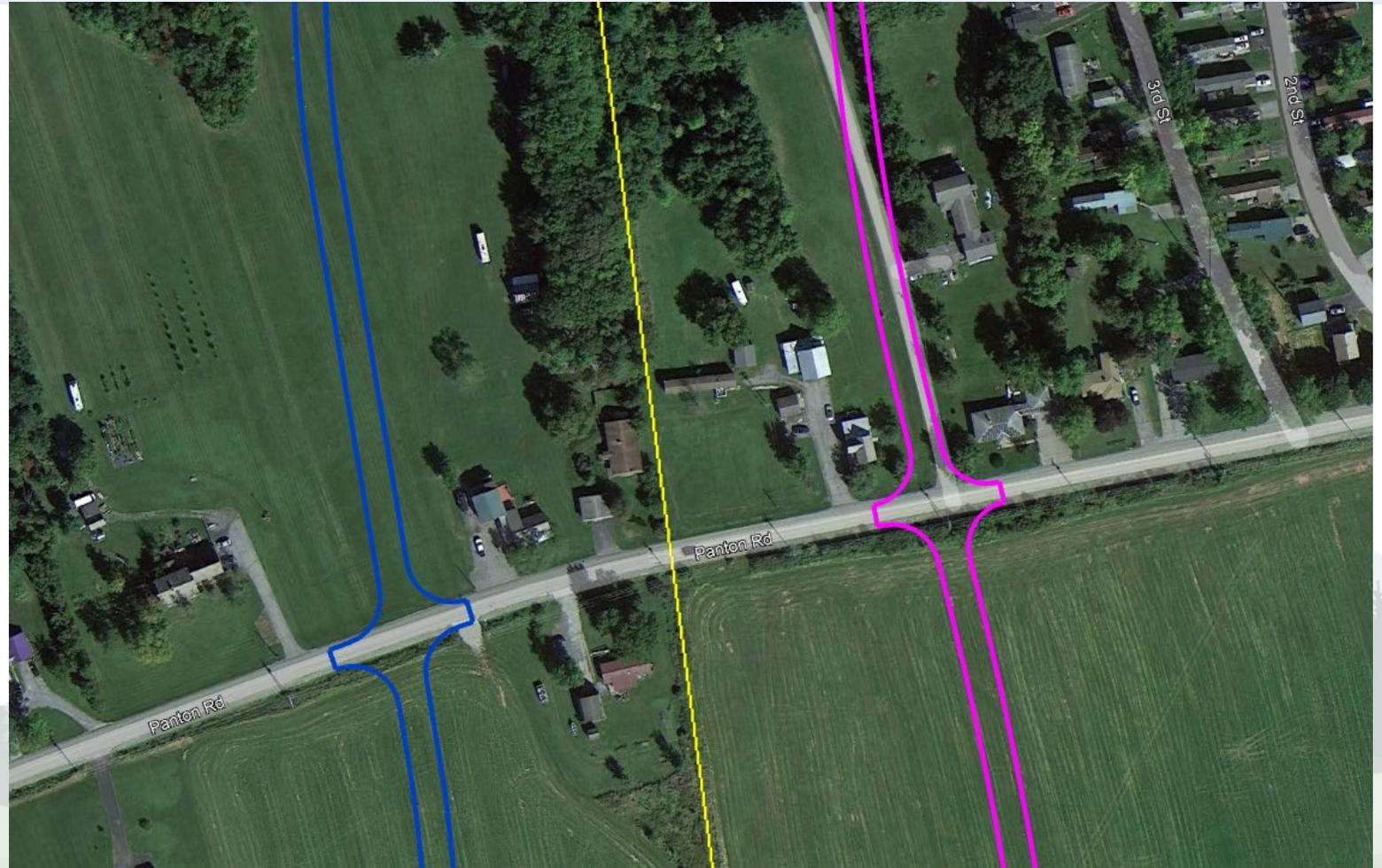
Otter Creek Crossing
multi-span crossing

North terminus at Route 22
same as Blue route



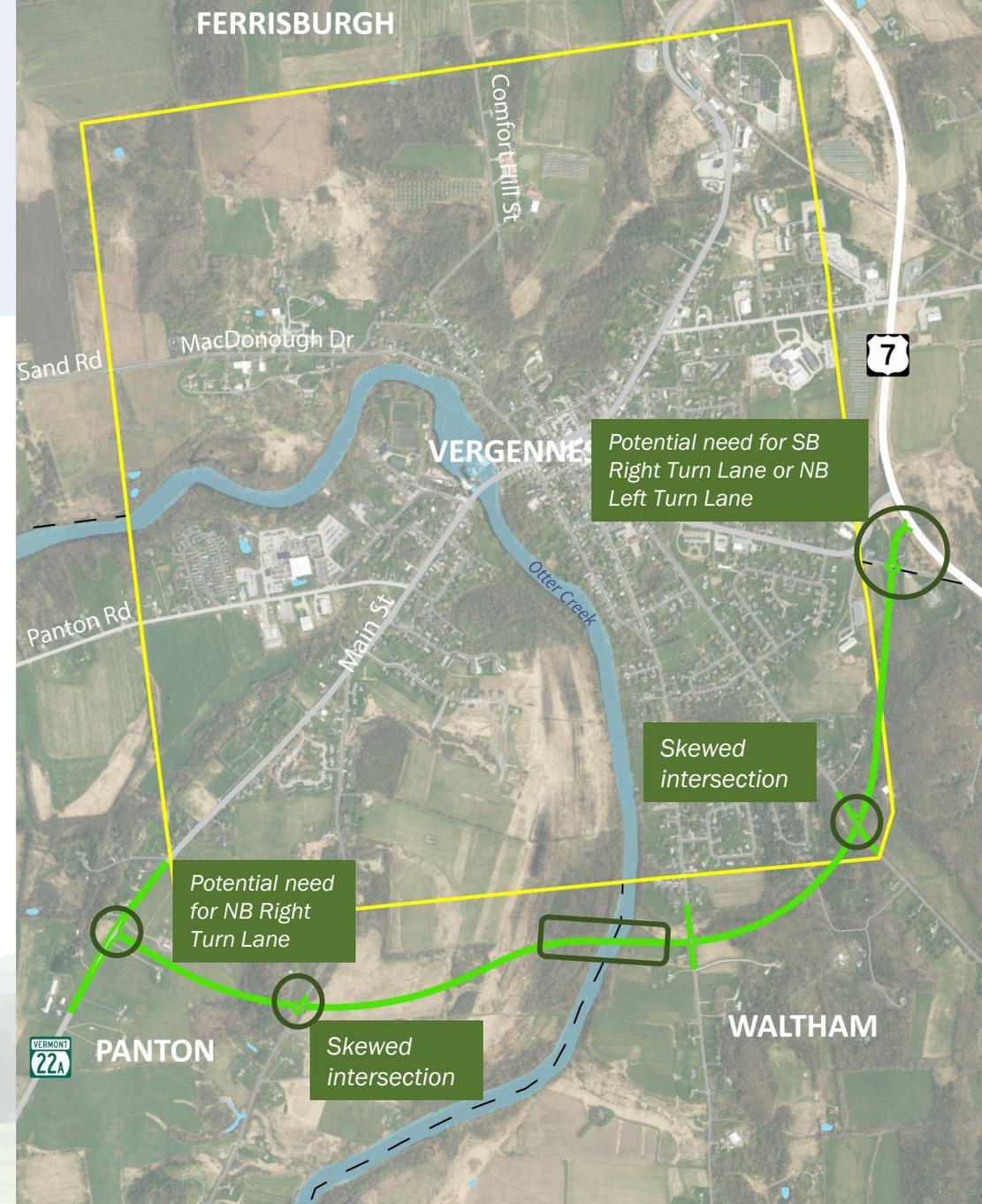
Blue/Pink Routes

Panton Road Crossing



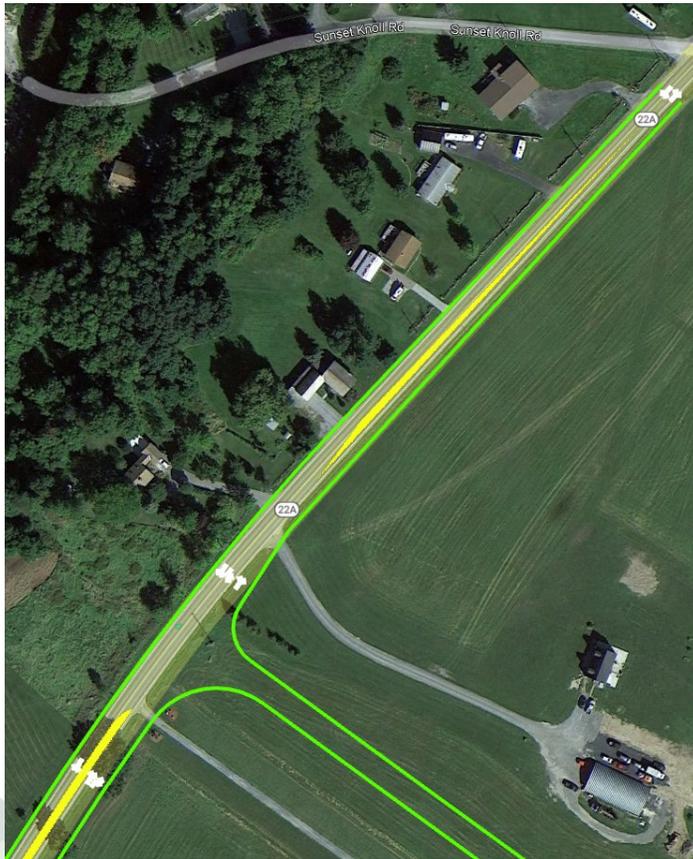
Green Route

- Connects with VT 22A approximately 0.5 miles south of Vergennes
- Crosses Hopkins Rd, Otter Creek, Maple St, Green St, and Church St
- Connects with U.S. 7 via existing New Haven Rd/U.S. 7 intersection
- Overall length of the proposed roadway is 2.4 miles

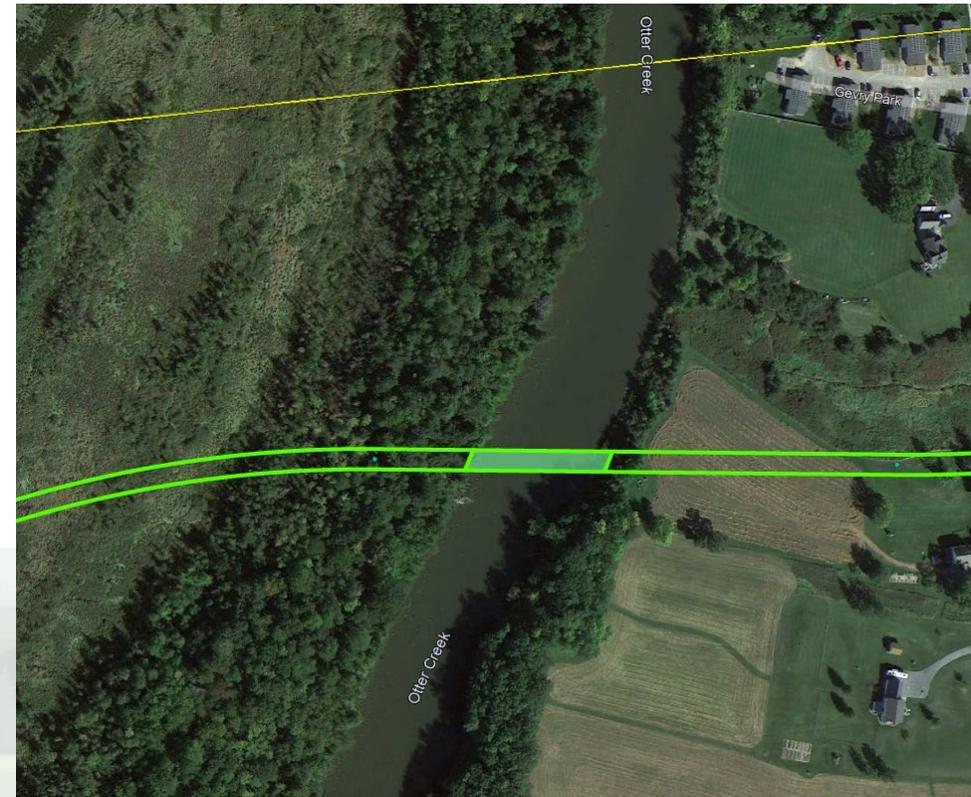


Green Route

West terminus with VT-22A

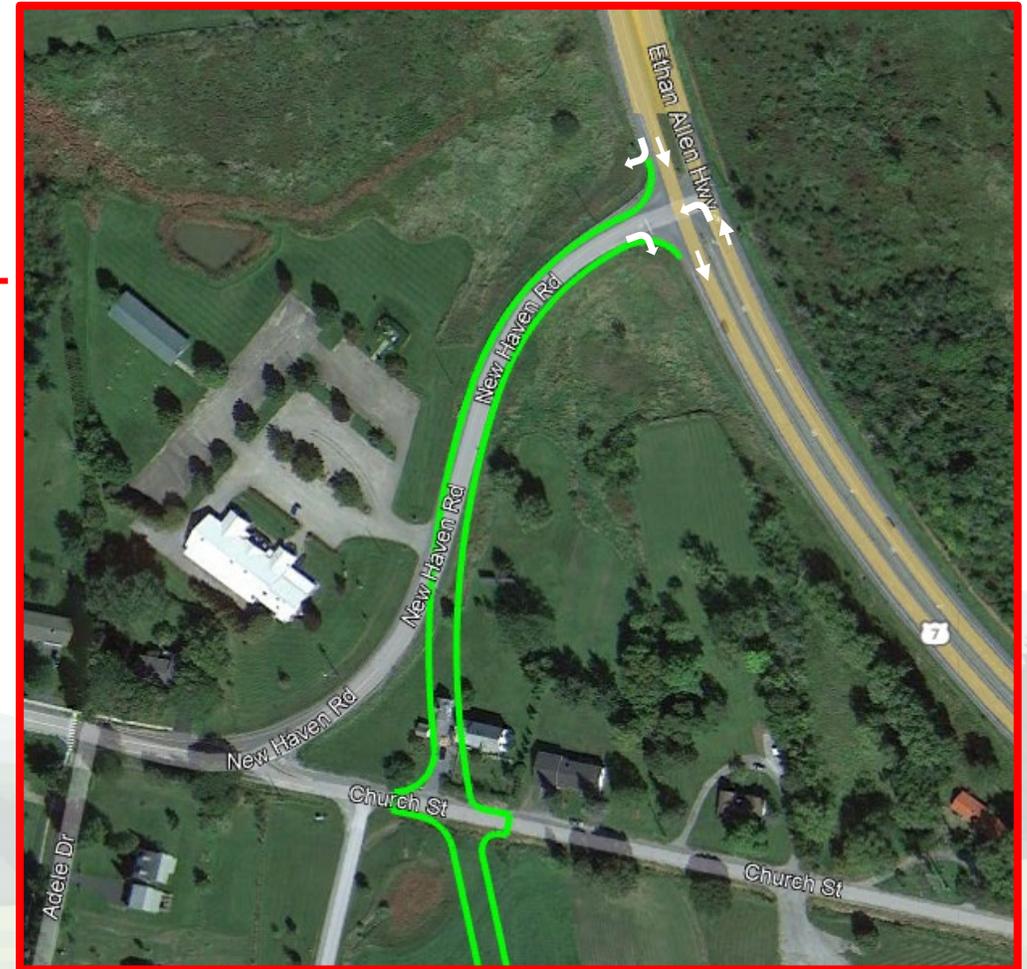
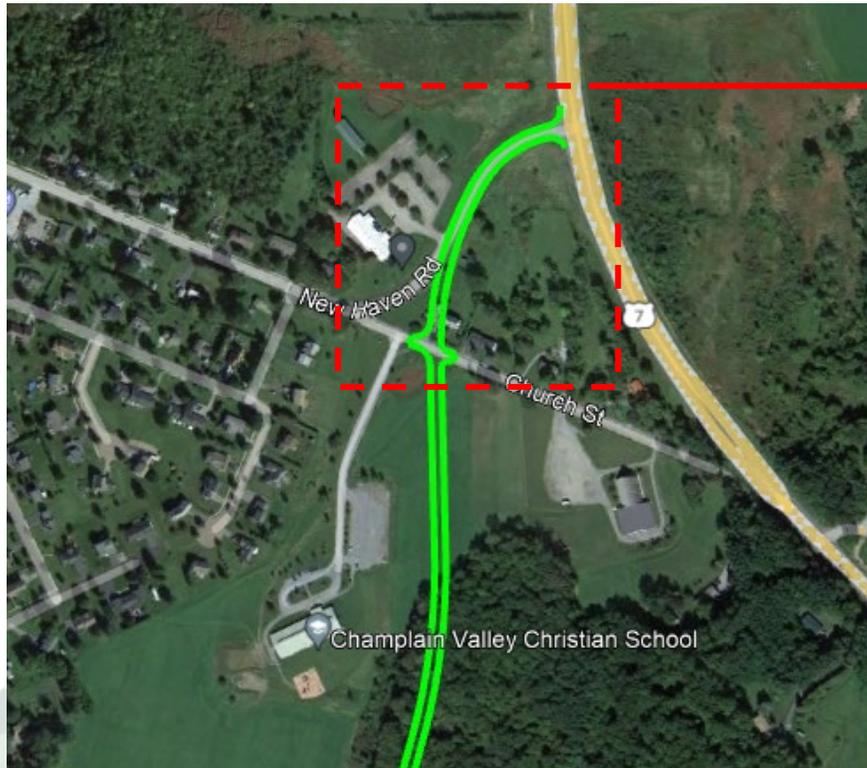


Otter Creek Crossing
Single span bridge



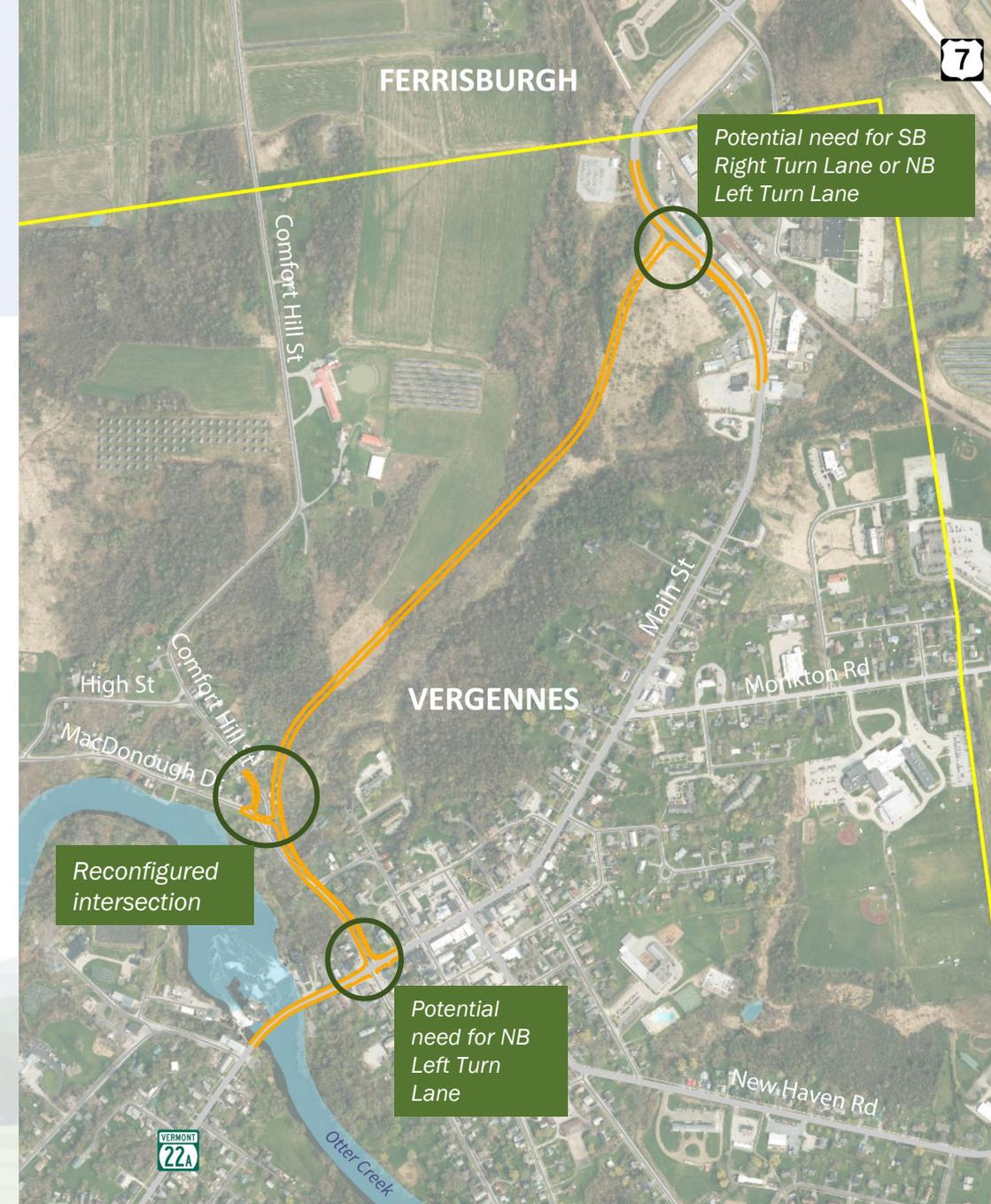
Green Route

East terminus with New Haven Rd and US-7



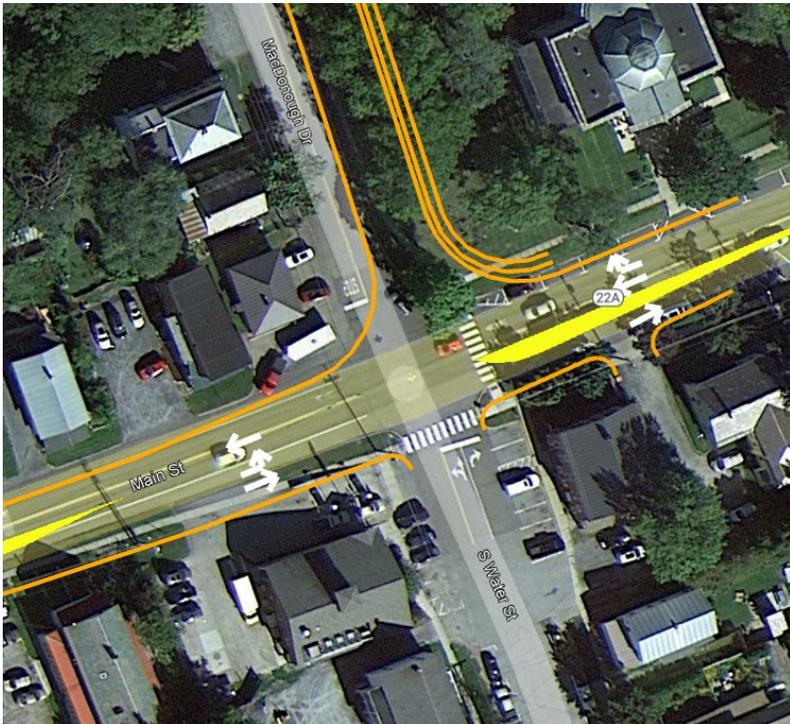
Orange Route

- Southern terminus is the existing intersection of MacDonough Dr with Main St approximately 500' east of Otter Creek
- Generally follows MacDonough Drive to the Comfort Hill Rd intersection
- Reconnects with VT 22A approximately 0.1 miles south of the Vergennes/Ferrisburgh border in Vergennes
- Overall length of the proposed roadway is 1 mile



Orange Route

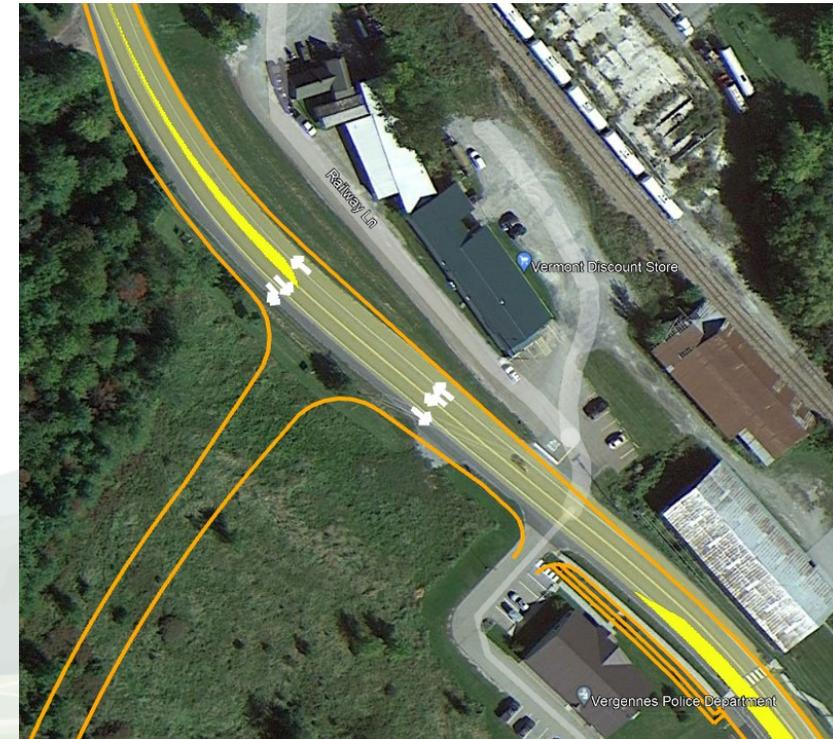
Southern terminus is the existing intersection of MacDonough Dr with Main St



Road realignment Comfort Hill St and MacDonough Dr

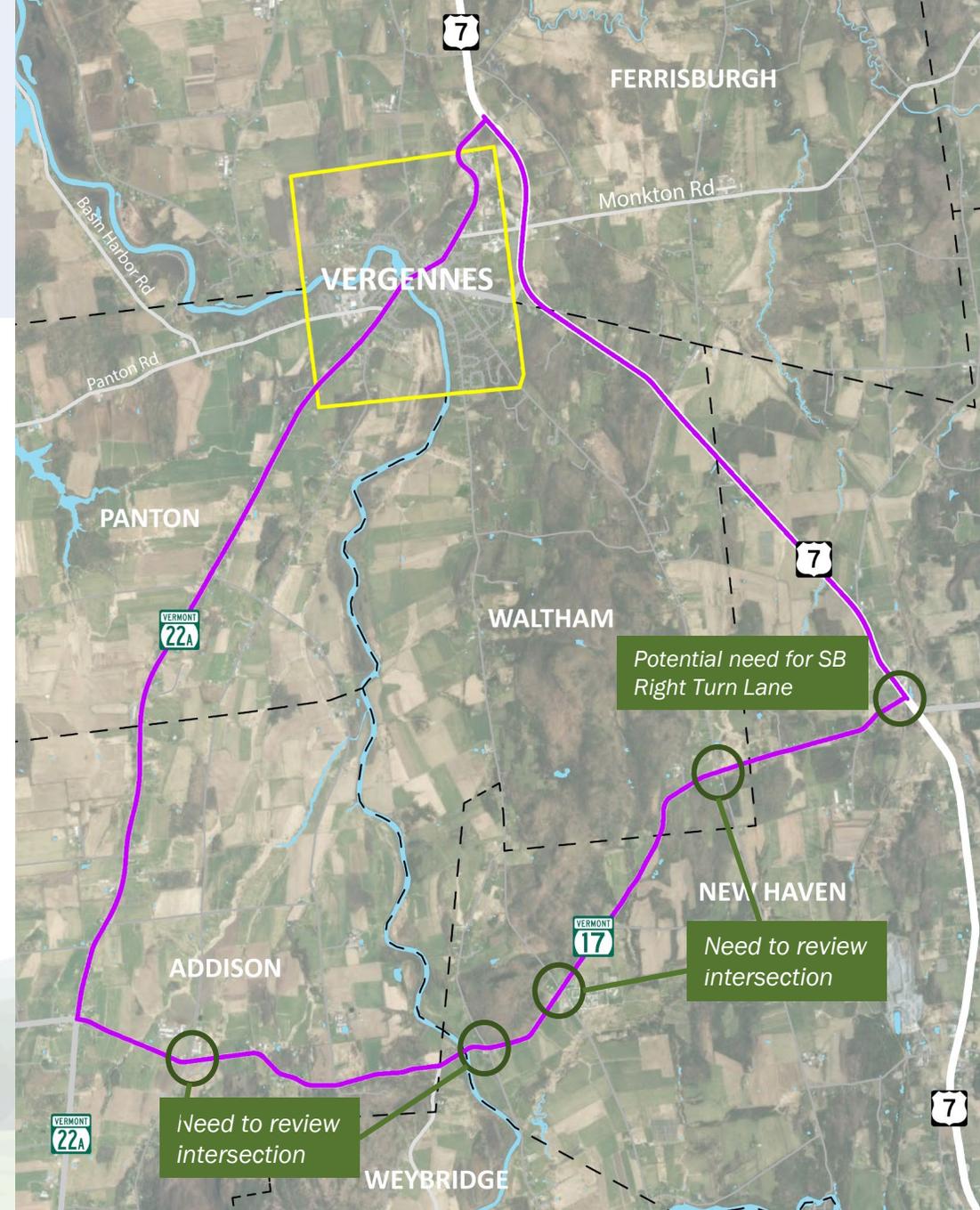


North terminus north of police station (same as Blue/Pink Routes)



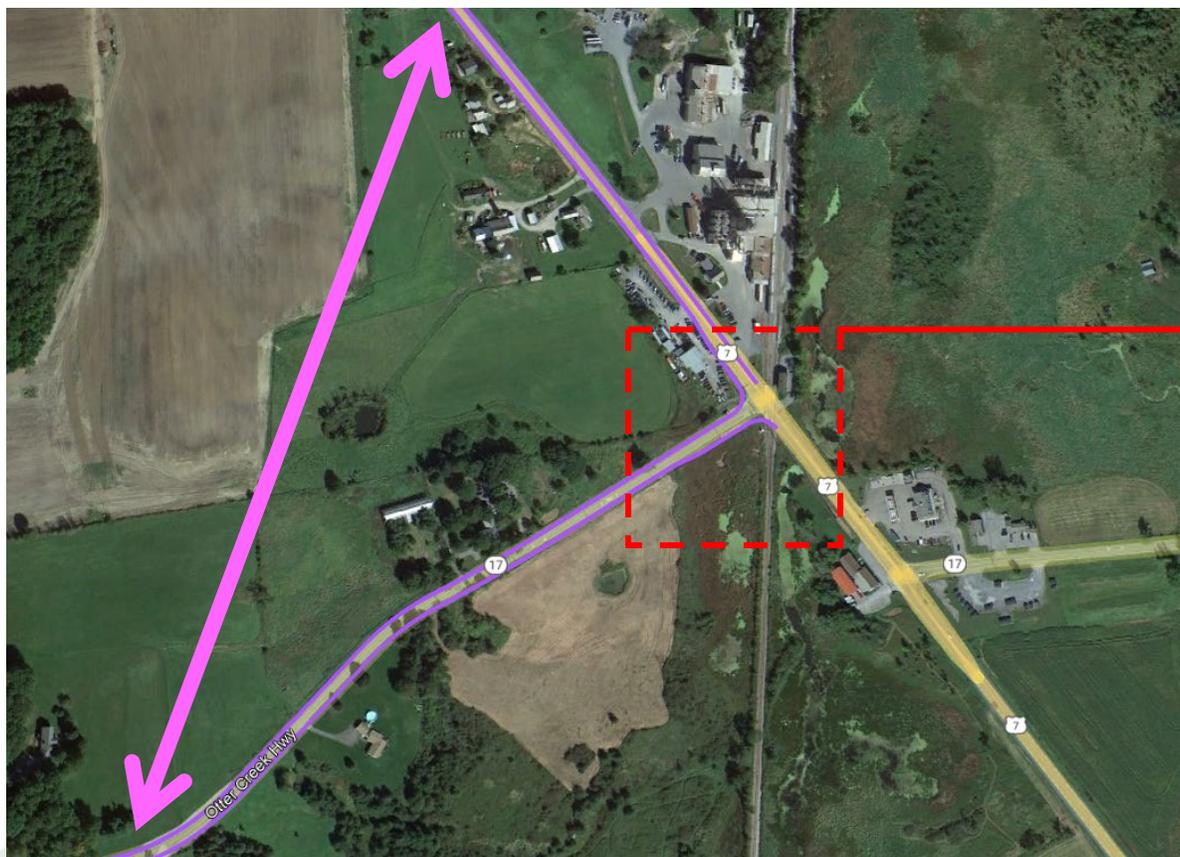
Purple Route

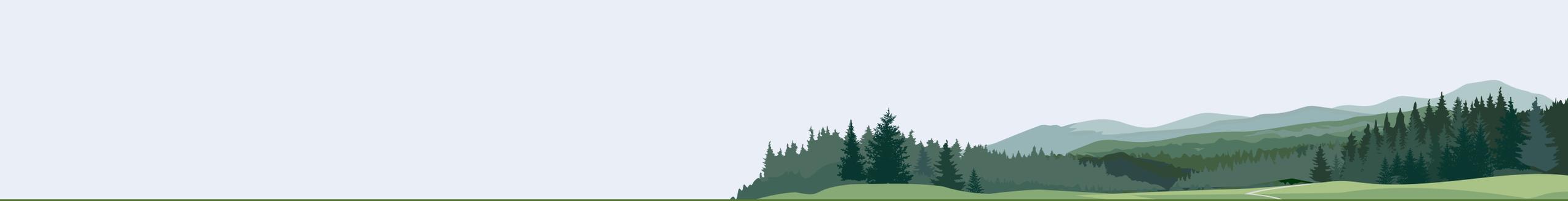
- Shift northbound truck traffic to Route 17 and U.S. Route 7 and maintain southbound truck trips on Route 22A
- Roadway widenings and intersection improvements along the existing right-of-way on Route 22A, Route 17, and Route 7
- Some intersections that will require more than widening
- Overall length of the proposed roadway improvements is 20.1 miles



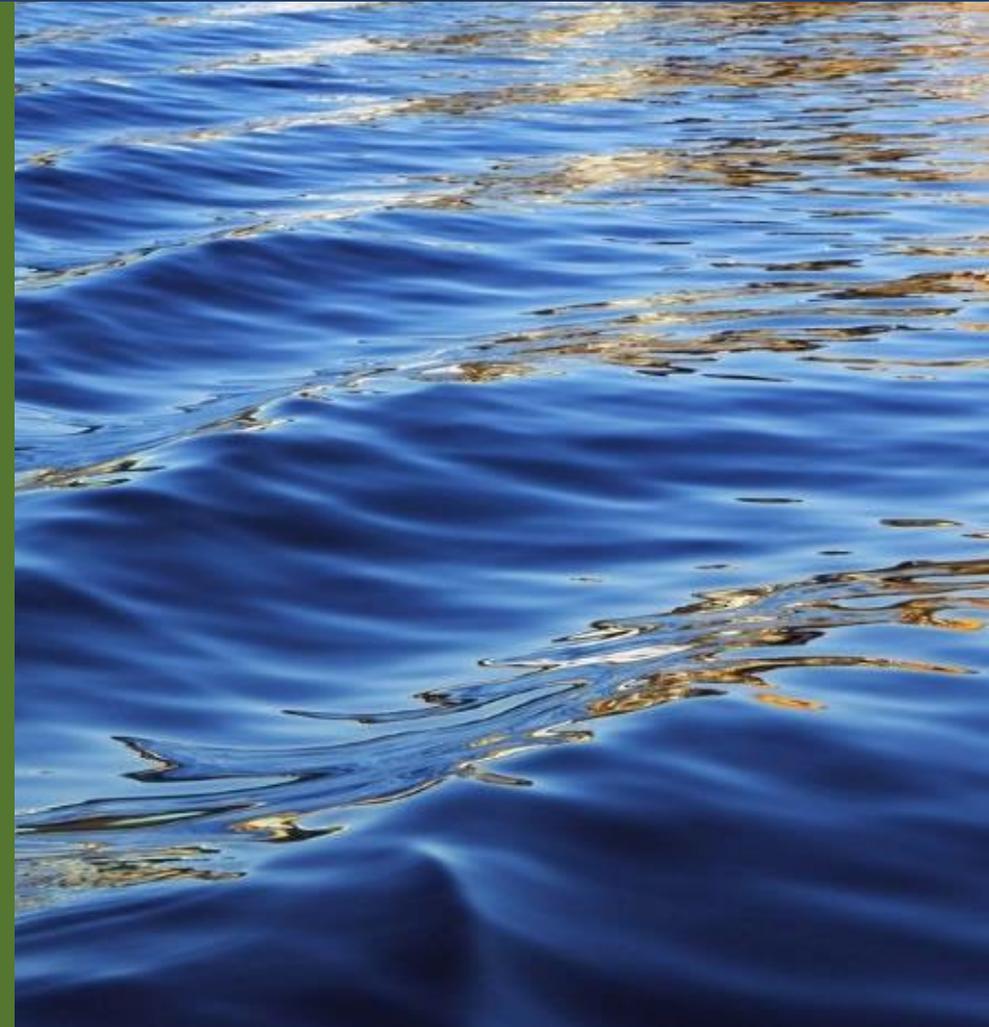
Purple Route

Intersection of US 7 and VT-17





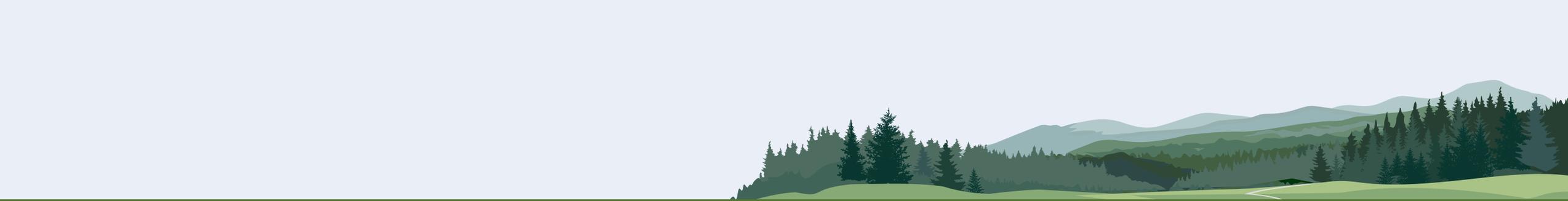
Land Use Visioning



Land Use Visioning



Would you like to be involved in the land use visioning work before the next Technical Committee meeting?



Public Outreach



Public Outreach

- Community Liaison
- Survey (late summer)
- Coordination meetings

Community Liaison Corner

Considering the Future of Vermont 22A An Introduction and an Update

June 2, 2023

Considering the Future of Vermont 22A An Introduction and an Update

This year and next will likely prove to be a pivotal period in the ongoing debate about how to reduce the impact of truck traffic traveling Vermont's Route 22A through Vergennes.

If you've been following the progress of the Vergennes PEL Study—PEL stands for Planning & Environment Linkages; we'll get into that in a future update—you'll be familiar with the general outline of the study but perhaps not with the full scope of the PEL process and the study team's goals in following this process.

And you probably have questions and concerns about the alternative roadways under consideration.

Your Community Liaison

My name is Jim Gish and I joined the team conducting the PEL Study in April to serve as your Community Liaison on the study. My job in essence is designed to ensure two things:

1. That all community members fully understand the goals and process of the PEL Study; and
2. That all community voices are heard by the study team.

JOIN THE EMAIL LIST

Contact us! For more information about the Vergennes PEL study, please contact the study team. If you would like to subscribe to our email list, please fill [out the contact form](#)

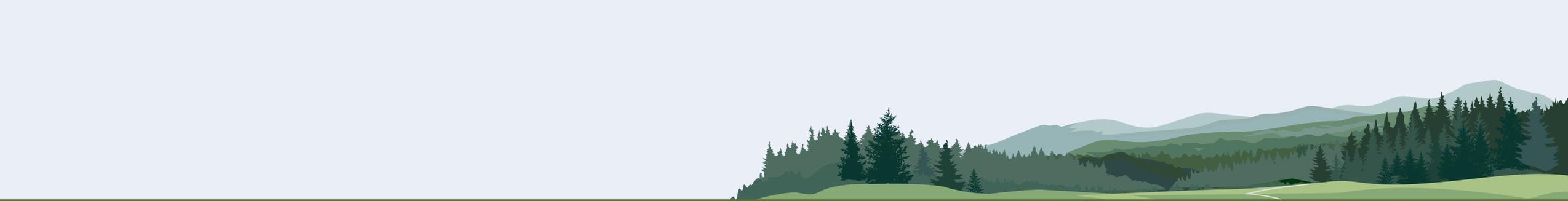
UPCOMING MEETINGS

Vergennes PEL Study Technical Committee & Coordinating Agencies Meeting

Time: June 21, 2023 1:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Via Zoom Meeting

*Meeting information available upon request, please email vergennespel@gmail.com.



Next Steps



Schedule

- Concept Design
- Land Use Visioning
- Alternatives Refinement



Updates and Announcements



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 for further information, to submit comments or to contact the study team.

Reminder – Please send additional comments by email by July 10, 2023



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