



Vergennes Planning and Environment Linkages Study

Technical Committee and
Agency Partners

December 13, 2024



Agenda

1. PEL Study Background
2. Alternatives Evaluation
 - Purpose and Need Statement
 - Route Alternatives Map
 - Recommended Alternatives
3. Committee Consensus Point
4. Next Steps

V E R G E N N E S

Planning & Environment Linkages (PEL) Study



Zoom Orientation

VIDEO:
On/Off
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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

Show Non-Video Participants

Fullscreen

Mute Stop Video

Security

Participants 1

Chat

Share Screen

Record

Reactions

End

Technical Committee

VOTING members

- **Chair:** Matthew Arancio, Transportation Planning (VTrans)
- John Bull, Municipal Public Works (Town of Ferrisburgh)
- Alysha Kane, District Maintenance (VTrans)
- Shannon Haggett, Land Use (City of Vergennes)
- Fred Kenney, Economic (Addison County Economic Development)
- Jim Larrow, Municipal Public Works (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)
- Amanda Holland, 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 - 2024

Task 4: Alternatives/Concept Refinement

Task 5: Integrated Transportation & Land Use Alternatives

Task 6: Alternatives Evaluation & Recommendations



2024 - 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



Current & Upcoming Tasks

- Land use visioning
- Conceptual design
- Concept Evaluation
- Implementation Plan
- Finalize report



Future steps if the study concludes construction is needed:

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 needed.

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 comments and ask questions on alternatives evaluation
- Approve alternative evaluation technical memorandum
- Confirm the consultant team's recommendation

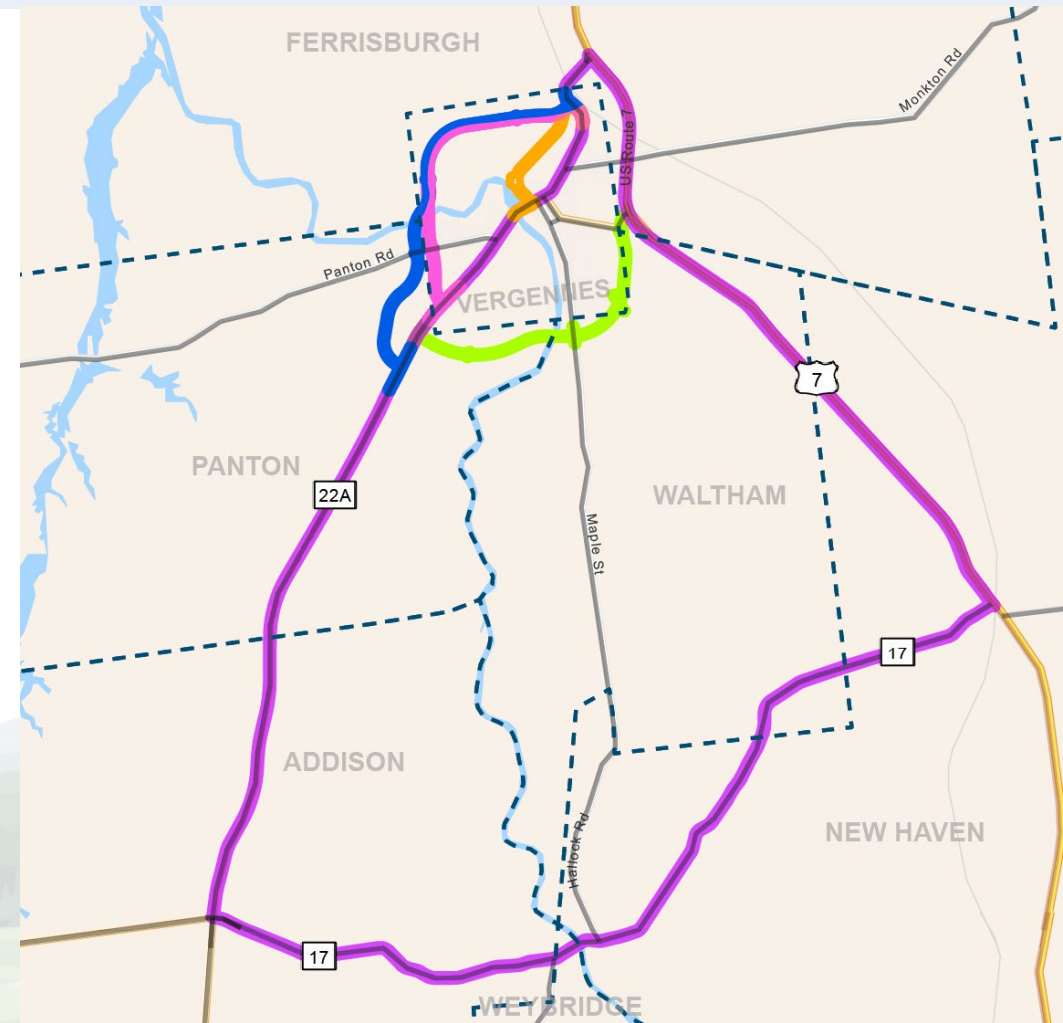


Alternatives Evaluation



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.

Pending Edits

- Additional historic and cultural resources assessment
- Review of construction cost estimate
- Addition of development costs



Route Evaluation

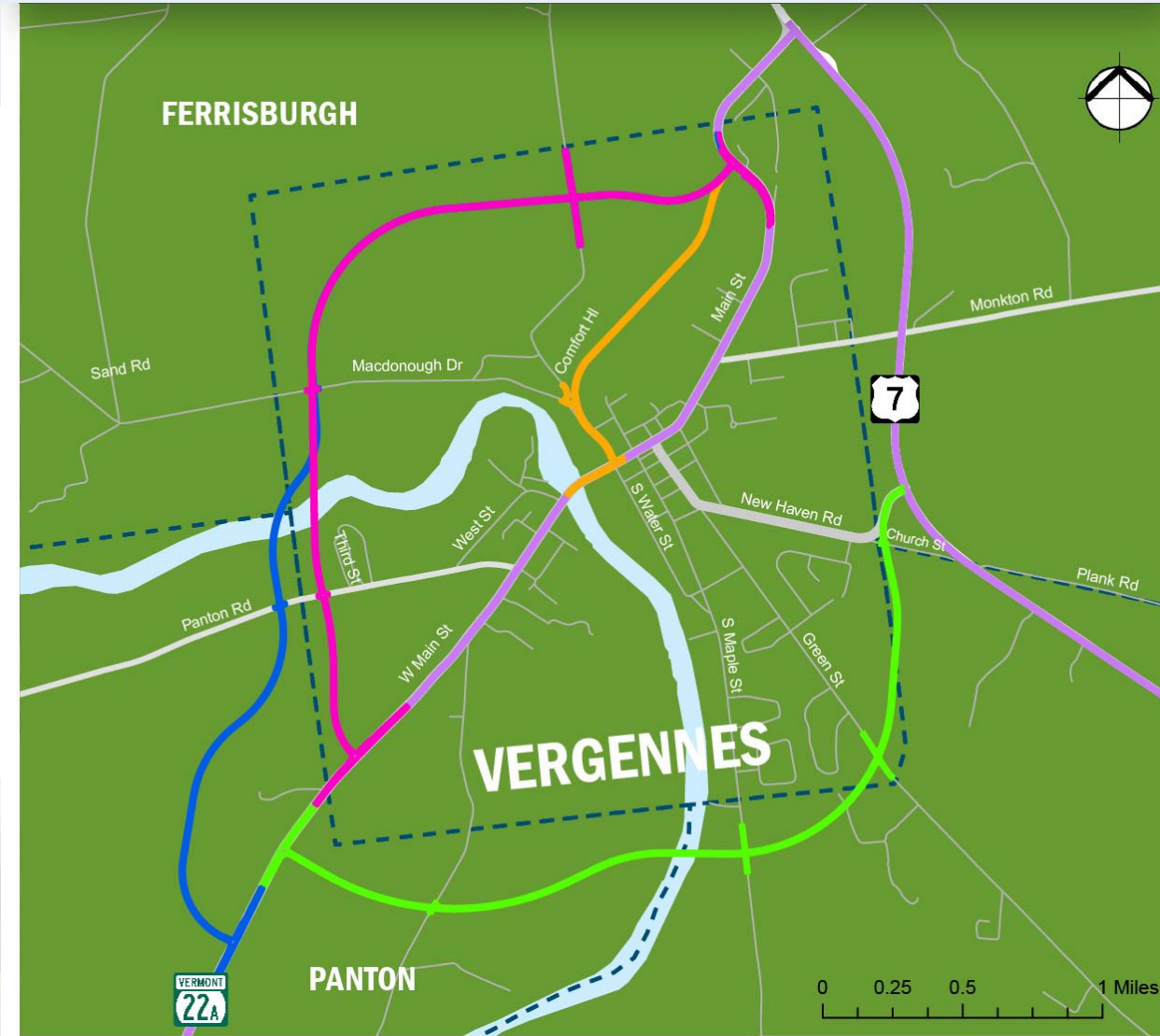
	PURPLE ROUTE ALTERNATIVE	BLUE ROUTE ALTERNATIVE	PINK ROUTE ALTERNATIVE	GREEN ROUTE ALTERNATIVE	ORANGE ROUTE ALTERNATIVE
Transportation Impacts	-6	5	5	1	3
Local and Regional Issues	-3	5	3	-2	-5
Environmental Resources	-16	-17	-17	-15	-13
Total	-25	-7	-9	-16	-15
Construction Cost Estimate	\$54 M	\$107 M	\$132 M	\$103 M	\$19 M

Recommended Route Alternatives

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

- Blue Route Alternative
- Pink Route Alternative

- No Build Alternative will continue as per NEPA



Consensus Point (for Technical Committee)

- ***Consensus point:*** Based on your review of the Alternatives Evaluation Technical Memorandum, do you confirm the recommendation for the Pink and Blue Route Alternatives
- Additional comments due by **December 27**
- ***Note:*** Consultant team will touch base with Technical Committee if there are any notable changes because of the Policy Committee meeting.

Technical Committee Members (for reference)

- **Chair:** Matthew Arancio, VTrans
- John Bull, Town of Ferrisburgh
- Alysha Kane, VTrans
- Shannon Haggett, City of Vergennes
- Fred Kenney, Addison County Economic Development
- Jim Larrow, City of Vergennes
- Bruce Martin, VTrans
- Joel Perrigo, VTrans
- Katie Raycroft-Meyer, ACRPC
- Jeff Ramsey, VTrans
- Mike Winslow, ACRPC



Next Steps



What Comes Next?

Technical Work

Evaluation of Concepts

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



Final PEL Report

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

Meetings and Outreach

Committee Meetings

Public Informational Meeting



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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 2022
- 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.

Route Evaluation

	PURPLE ROUTE ALTERNATIVE	BLUE ROUTE ALTERNATIVE	PINK ROUTE ALTERNATIVE	GREEN ROUTE ALTERNATIVE	ORANGE ROUTE ALTERNATIVE
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Local and Regional Issues	-3	5	3	-2	-5
Environmental Resources	-16	-17	-17	-15	-13
Total	-25	-7	-9	-16	-15
Construction Cost Estimate	\$34 M	\$65 M	\$71 M	\$59 M	\$18 M

Evaluation Matrix

- [OPEN EVALUATION MATRIX]

