

V E R G E N N E S

# Planning & Environment Linkages (PEL) Study

*Addison Selectboard  
Presentation  
October 12, 2021*

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Katharine Otto, VTrans

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# Planning & Environment Linkages (PEL) Study

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## 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.

## Addison Policy Committee Members:

- Jeff Nelson, Addison

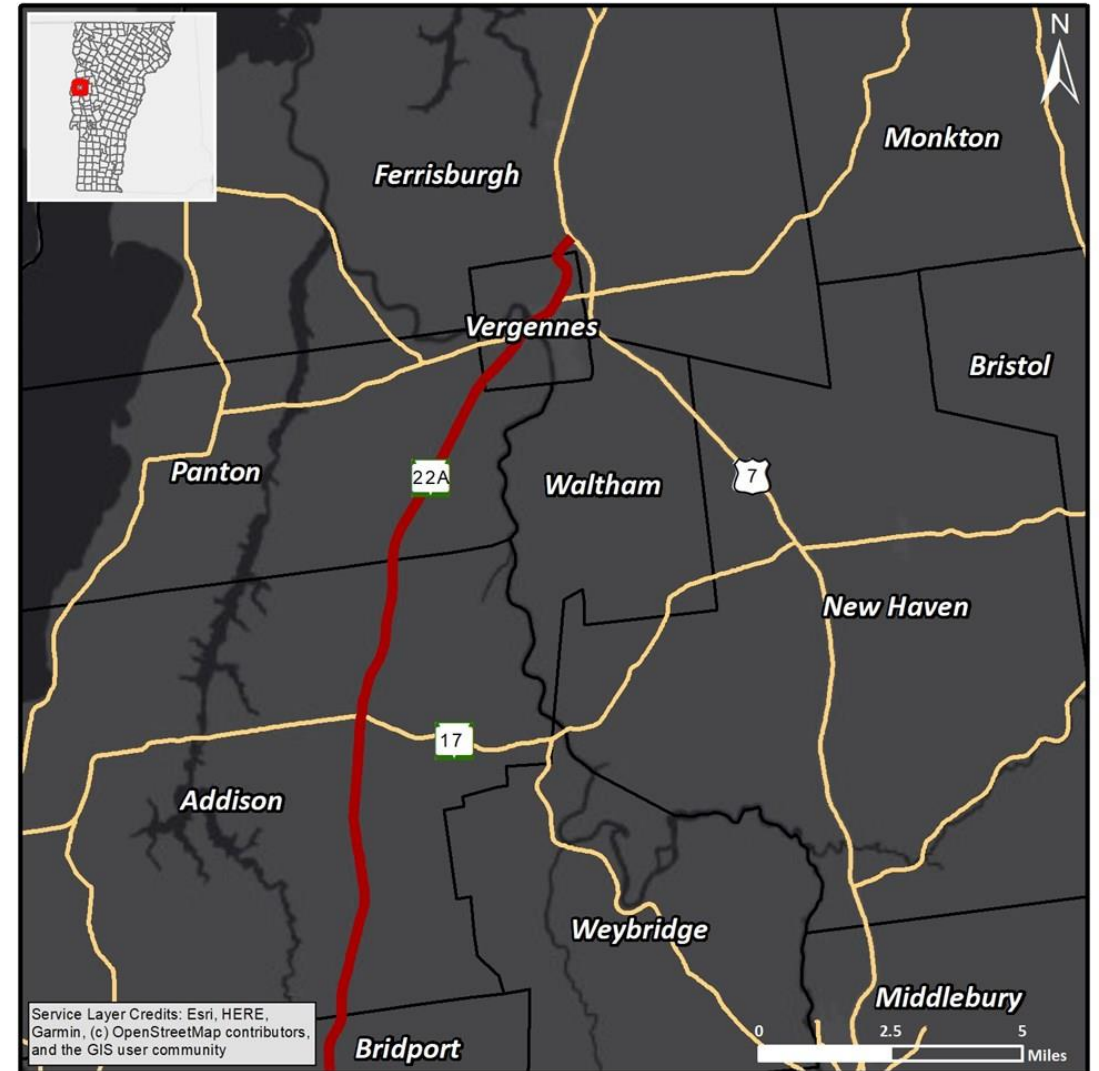


# Vergennes PEL Study Purpose

To reduce impact (noise, vibration, fume and dust) of large truck traffic on VT Route 22A and Downtown Vergennes, while seeking ways to enhance the quality of life and economic vitality for residents in the City and surrounding towns.

## Priorities:

- Maintain a high level of service for the movement of freight in the region;
- Minimize and/or mitigate truck and traffic impacts to other transportation corridors;
- Coordinate transportation investments with local land use plans
- Minimize property and environmental resource impacts in neighboring communities;
- Support the continued movement of non-truck traffic through downtown Vergennes; and
- Provide a cost-effective use of resources.





# Vergennes PEL Study Project Outcomes

- Purpose and Need
- Screening of all reasonable alternatives
- Detailed Evaluation of Most Promising Alternatives
- Land Use Plans in most affected municipalities
- Identification of Short List of Alternatives for Federal Environmental Review





# What are the benefits of PEL?

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**Streamlines efforts  
from Planning  
into NEPA**

**Shortens timelines for  
NEPA review and  
project delivery**

**Stimulates the  
development of  
new tools**

**Helps identify  
stakeholders early  
in the process**

**Fosters relationships  
among agencies and  
the public**

**Engages non-  
transportation agencies  
in decision-making**

**Creates better real-  
world outcomes for  
the community**

**Improves planning  
products that improve  
the NEPA process**



# Committee Roles and General Membership

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## Management

VTrans Project Managers –

Joe Segale and Katharine Otto

ACRPC Assisting –

Mike Winslow and Adam Lougee

## Technical Committee

### Role

- Guide, review and validate the consultant's methods, analyses, findings, and recommendations on which the Policy Committee will provide input

### Members

- Subject Matter Experts from VTrans, the Region & Municipalities

## Policy Committee

### Role

- Endorsement of key assumptions and recommendations to VTrans

### Members

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

# Agency Involvement

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## State and Federal

- The Vergennes PEL Study is managed by VTrans Planning staff with coordination assistance from the Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC)
- Study is funded using state and federal transportation funds provided through the VTrans Capital Program

## Local and Regional

- City of Vergennes
- Town of Addison
- Town of Ferrisburgh
- Town of New Haven
- Town of Panton
- Town of Waltham
- Town of Weybridge
- Addison County Regional Planning Commission

# Stakeholder Involvement

**Focus Group** meetings planned for the following themes:

1. Environmental
2. Economics
3. Equity
4. Mobility

**One on One Interviews** will be conducted either as a result of focus groups or for those who may not be able to participate





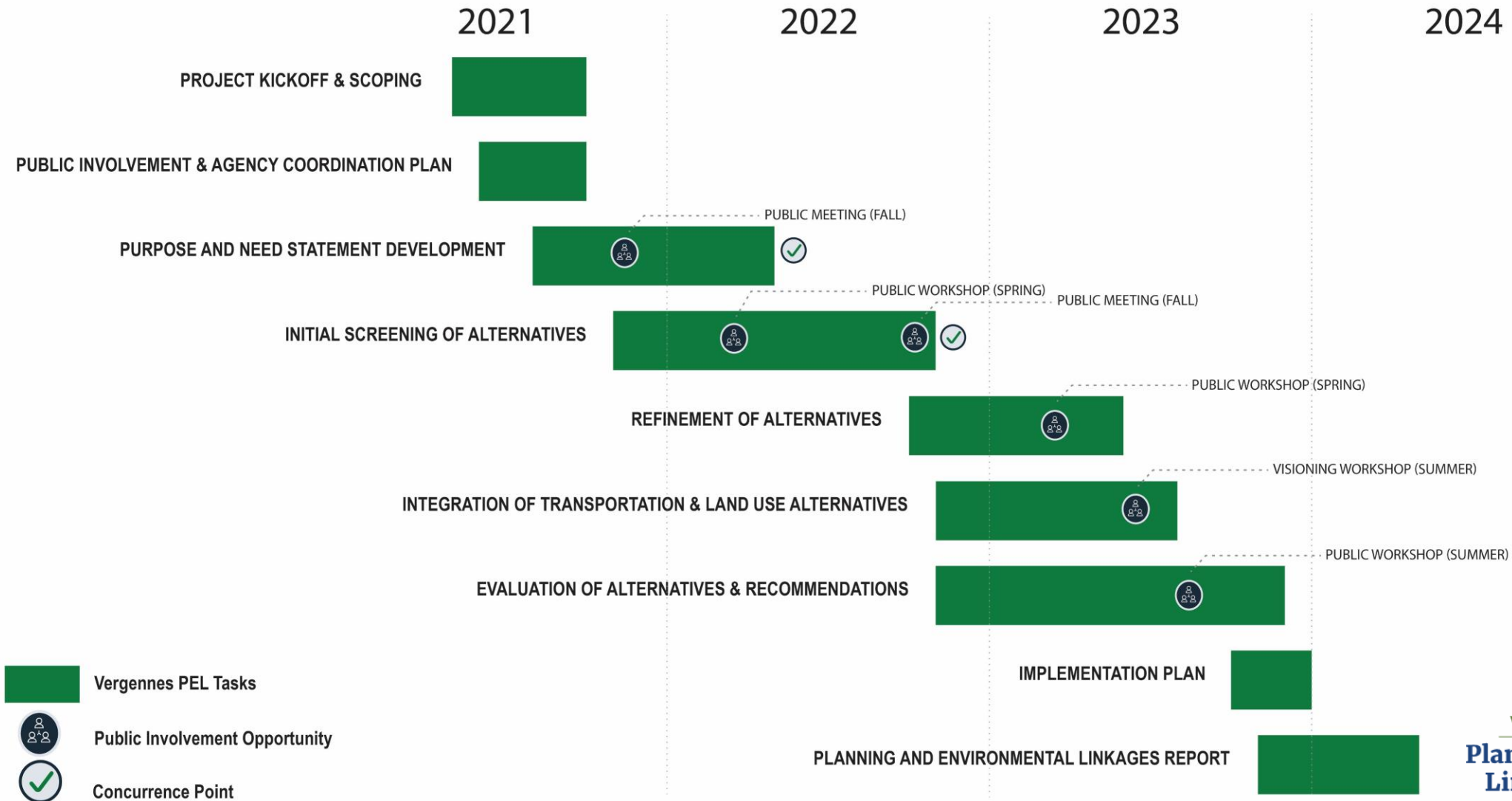
# Stakeholder Involvement

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An initial list of groups to approach for targeted outreach includes:

- Mobile home park residents in Vergennes
- The Vergennes Partnership
- The Addison Chamber of Commerce
- The Addison County Economic Development Corp.
- Conservation Law Foundation (CLF)
- Vermont Natural Resource Council
- Vermont Public Interest Group (VPIRG)
- Vermont Chapter of AARP
- ACRPC Transportation Advisory Committee
- Local Motion
- Addison County Farm Bureau
- Champlain Valley Farmer's Watershed Alliance
- Champlain Valley Crop & Soil Pasture Team
- Addison County Walk-Bike Council
- Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity
- John Graham Housing and Services
- Addison County Community Trust (ACCT)
- The Open Door Clinic
- Addison County Parent Child Center
- Vermont Truck and Bus Association and other freight users within the area

# Study Schedule Overview



# Contact and Next Steps

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We welcome input and appreciate your feedback!

Please visit [www.vergennespel.com](http://www.vergennespel.com) for information and to submit comments/contact the project team.

## Save the Date!

**Vergennes PEL Study Public Meeting**

**Nov 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 – 8:00pm**



# Discussion

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## Questions:

1. What do you see happening in your community today?
2. What drives the need for action in the corridor?
3. What are the issues we want to solve?
4. What goals or outcomes are important to your community?
5. What are your areas of focus, interest, or concern related to this study?
6. Who are your town's preferred contacts for updates related to the study?