



## **VTTrans Maps Ancient Roads**

Over the last 11 years, staff from the VTTrans Mapping Section has worked diligently on crafting legislation, providing guidance to municipalities on Act 178 and Act 158, answering questions, transcribing surveys from the 1700 and 1800's, running the traverses to add highways and trails to the master road centerline data layer, and generating the Town Highway Maps to reflect changes. This has been no small feat and one that has been a team effort.

On July 1, 2015, the VTTrans Mapping Section recognized the sunset of Act 178 of 2006 and Act 158 of 2008, which represent the "Ancient Road Laws". These two Acts have prompted municipalities to map all the class 1, 2, 3, and 4 town highways and legal trails within their boundaries. The Acts have also created a new category of highway, carved out of the class 4 town highway classification known as "unidentified corridors", which were not clearly observable laid out highways on the landscape that had not been discontinued. As of July 1, 2015, if an "unidentified corridor" had not been reclassified to class 4 town highway or trail, they were discontinued by statute and revert to the adjoining landowners.

Through this process, the following metrics give some insight to the volume of changes and mileage that was reviewed and processed by the Mapping Section:

- 144 municipalities of the 255 had mileage added or discontinued as a result of Act 178
- 592.02 miles of highway and trails added to the Town Highway Maps
  - 4.84 miles of class 3 town highway
  - 146.66 miles of class 4 town highway
  - 440.52 miles of legal trail
- Over 15 miles of discontinued town highways
- Full set of 316 Town Highway Maps produced in 2014 and 2015

The current Town Highway Map series can be found on-line at the following link:

<http://vtransmaps.vermont.gov/mapsftp/current.asp>