

PRELIMINARY WORK TO INSTALL TWO TEMPORARY BRIDGES IN DOWNTOWN MIDDLEBURY IS UNDERWAY

This summer the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) will replace two deteriorated bridges located in downtown Middlebury. They are on Main Street (VT Route 30, next to St. Stephen's Church) and Merchants Row (one-half block from the Main St bridge, down the hill from Town Hall Theater). These bridges will be replaced with temporary bridges in preparation for permanent bridges to be constructed in 2018 through 2020.

In the spring, each bridge developed full-depth holes in the sidewalk and pieces of concrete fell from the bridge. While the existing bridges are still safe to travel over, the Vermont Agency of Transportation has decided to replace the bridges with temporary bridges to avoid a sudden closure of either bridge.

Currently, preliminary work is being done (relocating a water line, reconfiguring catch basins, installing mini pile supports underneath the bridges) to prepare for the removal and replacement of the existing two bridges in late July/early August.

The ACTR bus hub has already been relocated from Merchants Row to So Pleasant Street. It will remain there until a permanent location is established.

While the traffic lanes have been shifted on Main Street during construction, two lanes have remained open. On Merchants Row motorists will only be able to travel east (uphill towards the Green) this week. Some parking spaces in the immediate construction area are occupied by construction equipment but parking is still available.

The contractor expects to wrap up current work activities within the next few days and shut down the work site until July 20 when work will start to demolish the existing rail bridges and replace them with two modular steel temporary bridges.

VTrans has established a project website, <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/projects/middlebury>, to provide information about the project. As VTrans Public Information Officer, I will send out weekly updates when construction is active and periodic updates on the status of the project.

The Town of Middlebury also has a Community Liaison, Jim Gish, who has a blog, www.middleburybridges.org. This summer Jim will provide a detailed description of construction activities that will occur each day and if there will be any impact on your trip to Middlebury.

Please note that there will be access to businesses at all times and they'll appreciate your continued support.

Best regards,

Jill

Jill Barrett

Public Information Officer
802.272.1248