VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Strategic Plan

VTrans Staff Lunch-and-Learn – May 27, 2021

https://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/bpsp

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Welcome and Introductions

Project Team

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VTrans Project Managers:

- Jon Kaplan, Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Mgr.
- Katharine Otto, Planning Coordinator, PPID
- Sommer Bucossi, Asset Mgmt. Bureau (formerly PPID)

Consultants:

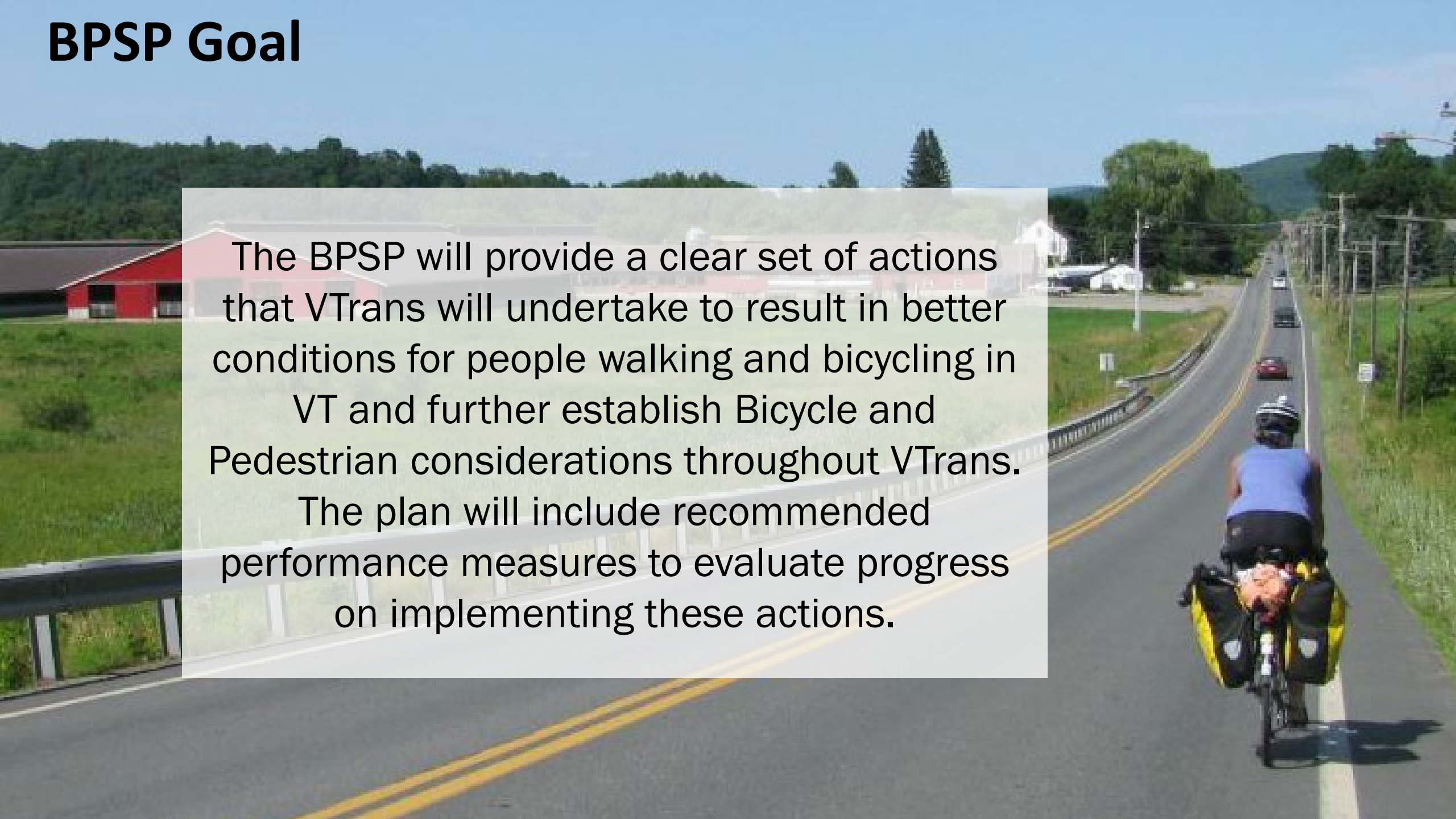
- Laura Byer, Alta Planning + Design
- Erica Wygonik, Resource Systems Group

alta PLANNING + DESIGN

RSG

About the Plan and the Process

BPSP Goal



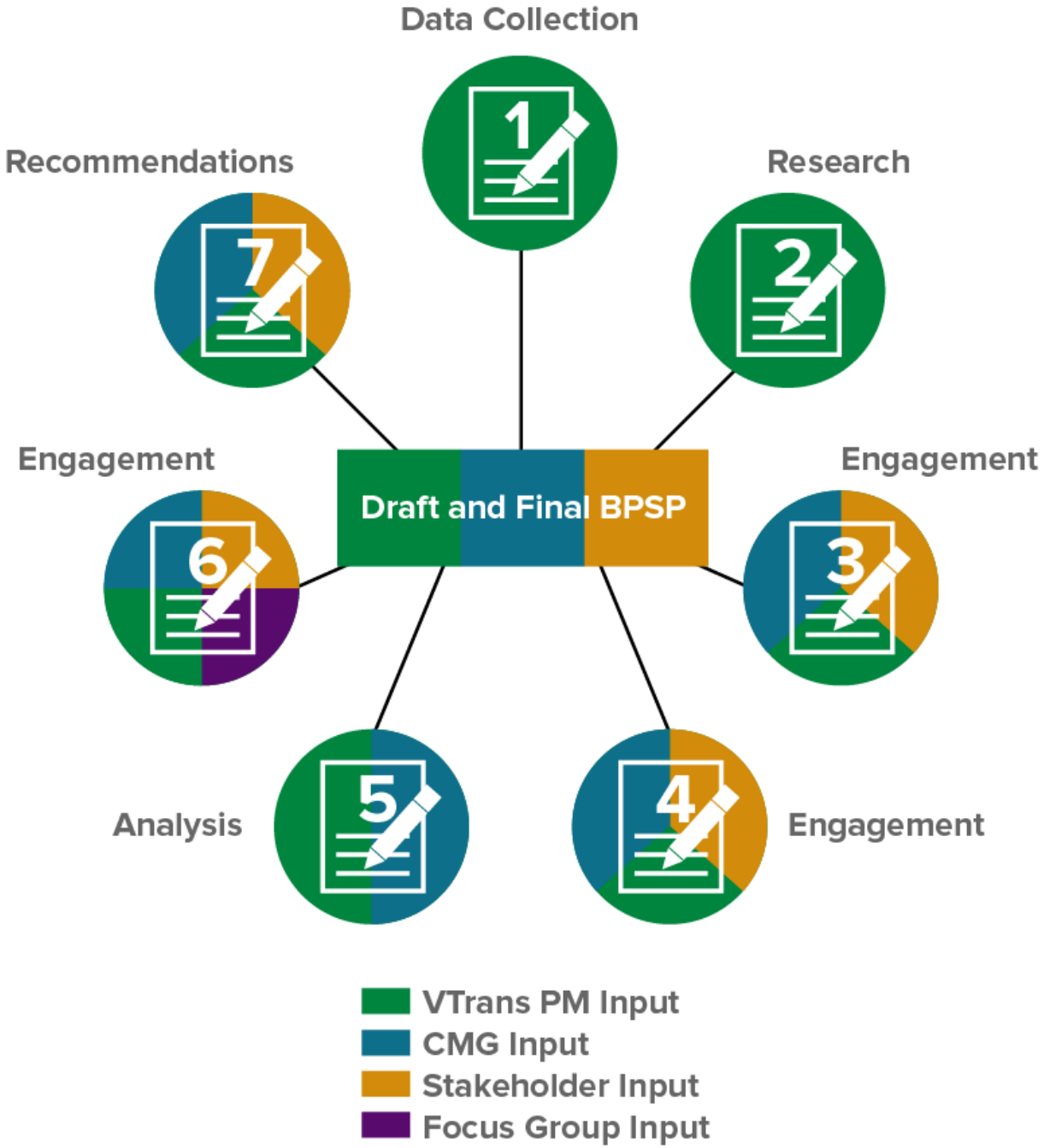
The BPSP will provide a clear set of actions that VTrans will undertake to result in better conditions for people walking and bicycling in VT and further establish Bicycle and Pedestrian considerations throughout VTrans. The plan will include recommended performance measures to evaluate progress on implementing these actions.

Process

Project initiated in Fall 2019

- 7 Memos
  - #1 – Document Review
  - #2 – Best Practice Comparison
  - #3 – Engagement Strategy
  - #4 – Vision and Goals
  - #5 – Progress To-Date Report
  - #6 – Comprehensive Evaluation
  - #7 – Draft Strategies
- Draft and Final BPSP
  - Consolidate Memos #1-7

Plan completed Spring 2021



Levels of Involvement

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- **VTrans PMs:**
  - Regular contact with consultant team and staff
- **Core Management Group:**
  - Internal steering committee – reps from key VTrans Bureaus/Sections
- **Stakeholders**:
  - Provide high-level guidance throughout the project
- **Focus Groups**:
  - Help us evaluate us what we're doing well and what we can improve upon

Focus Groups

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- 7 Theme Areas:
  - Education
  - Encouragement
  - Enforcement
  - Engineering
  - Transit Connectivity
  - Emerging Technology
  - Prioritization and Selection

Key Aspects of the Plan

Vision & Mission

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The needs of people walking and bicycling of all ages and abilities will be considered in all VTrans activities.

VTrans staff will continue to work collaboratively internally and with external partners to improve safety, connectivity, and access to promote walking and bicycling.

MISSION: Safety, health, economic, environmental, and quality of life benefits resulting from an increase in walking and bicycling will be achieved through education and training, innovative planning and design practices, the consideration of community needs, and effective communication. Clearly define expectations for VTrans staff of the importance of creating equitable and maintainable transportation networks.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Strategic Plan Purpose

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- Broaden inclusion of people walking and bicycling
- Identify key partnerships
- Identify where to focus limited resources
- Strategies and performance indicators
- Build on Phases I and II of the VTrans On-Road Bicycle Plan

BPSP Purpose

The overall goal of the VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Strategic Plan (BPSP) is to identify strategies that will broaden the inclusion of bicycling and walking throughout VTrans projects and activities.

Goals

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Safety & Network Improvement

Invest in readily maintainable infrastructure to ensure safety, mobility, accessibility, and comfort for those walking and bicycling within available resources. Prioritize network improvements which emphasize safety as well as stimulate outdoor recreation, environmental benefits, tourism, economic growth, productivity, and competitiveness for Vermont businesses.

Education & Innovation

Educate VTrans staff and external partners about the needs of those walking and bicycling and promote innovative practices that improve the safety and performance of existing and future walking and bicycling networks.

Inclusion & Integration

Develop and foster a culture where the needs of those walking and bicycling are considered in all VTrans activities.

Communication & Collaboration

Identify the needs and resources of those walking and bicycling through frequent and effective communication and collaboration regarding VTrans activities.

Effectiveness, Accountability, & Community Needs

Improve VTrans' effectiveness in implementation of strategies for those walking and bicycling through clear employee expectations, greater accountability, and consideration for the desires of local communities.

Objectives

- Represent common themes in grouped strategies
- Provide a framework for implementation

Objective 1 Fund, promote, and implement appropriate infrastructure which will encourage people to walk or bike

Objective 2 Utilize existing VTrans initiatives (e.g., NPS, LCQ, Corridor Plans, VPSP2, etc.) to further improve conditions for people walking and bicycling

Objective 3 Empower a broad range of VTrans staff to have the technical knowledge to regularly incorporate improvements for bicycling and walking into all VTrans activities

Objective 4 Educate external partners about the needs of people walking and bicycle so they can be integrated into planning, designing and maintaining facilities

Objective 5 Use a wide variety of methods to educate the public on the safety and needs of people walking and bicycling

Objective 6 Incorporate walking and bicycling considerations into the planning and design of transit facilities

Objective 7 Develop new and increased collaborations with groups outside VTrans

Objective 8 Promote the health, economic, and environmental benefits of recreation and active transportation opportunities

Objective 9 Identify existing, or develop future, data sources to measure the prevalence, safety, and health of people walking and bicycling

Objective 10 Inform external partners and the general public of VTrans' efforts, opportunities, and limitations related to providing infrastructure for people walking and bicycling

Strategies

- 51 total strategies
- 9 High Priority strategies
- **VTrans' Role**
    - Primary, Joint, Secondary
- **Implementation**
    - Party responsible
- **Timeframe**
    - In Process, Short-Term, Medium-Term, Long-Term
- **Level of Effort**
    - Low, Medium, High

Downtown Newport waterfront boardwalk

Performance Indicators:

Infrastructure and Maintenance

- For high priority bicycle corridors, increase the percentage of roadway miles that are in either Bicycle Level of Comfort (BLOC) Categories 2 or 3
- For high priority bicycle corridors, decrease the percentage of roadway miles that are in BLOC Category 4
- For high priority bicycle corridors, increase the percentage of roadway miles that have shoulder widths of four feet or more on both sides of the road

Performance Indicators:

Infrastructure and Maintenance – cont.

- For high priority bicycle corridors, increase the percentage of roadway miles that have bicycle lanes on both sides of the road
- Sweep all high priority bicycle corridors by May 31st each year
    - Long-term: Sweep all high priority bicycle corridors and curbed areas by May 31st each year
- Sweep all state highways by June 30th each year
- Number of bicycle parking spaces at Park and Ride lots
- Increase the number of VTrans signals inventoried for pedestrian accessibility
    - Long-term: Increase the number of pedestrian signals that are fully accessible

Performance Indicators:

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Pedestrian and Bicyclist Activity

- Commute mode share for walking or biking (National Household Travel Survey or American Community Survey)
- Number of pedestrian and bicyclist counts entered into the UVM database annually

Students walk to school in Windsor

Performance Indicators:

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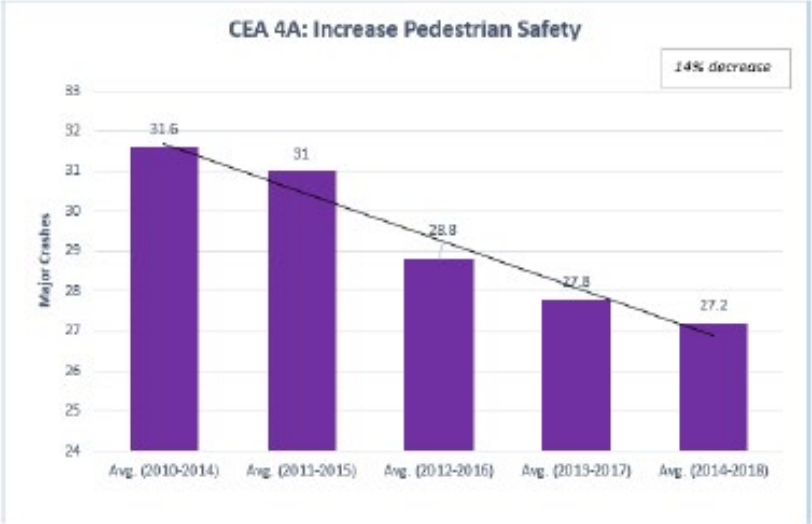
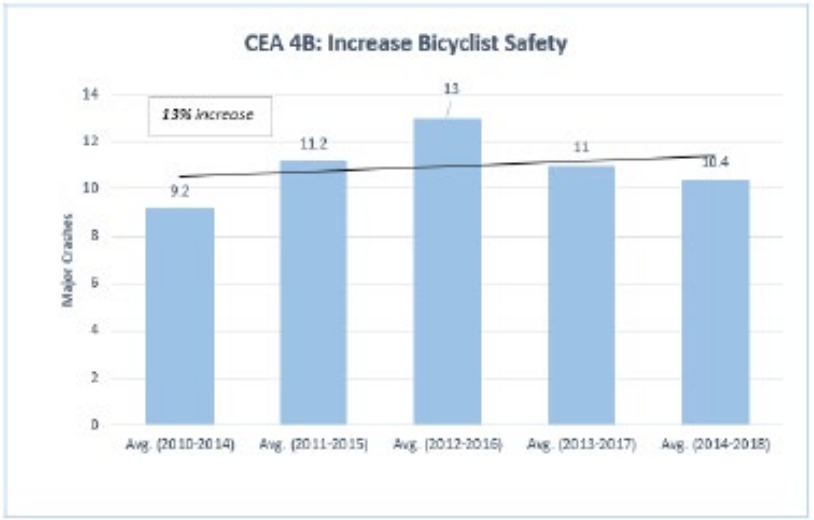
Safety

- Number of bicyclist-involved major crashes, as defined in the SHSP five-year rolling averages
- Number of pedestrian-involved major crashes, as defined in the SHSP five-year rolling averages





Performance Indicators:

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Education

- Long term: Increase the number of people who have taken one or more trainings that are part of the envisioned Vermont Bicycle and Pedestrian Curriculum.

Green Streets Challenge Bike Event in Rutland

(Source: Local Motion)

Performance Indicators:

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Transit Connectivity

- Increase the number of transit stops inventoried for bicycle parking and sidewalk facilities
    - Long-term: Increase number of transit stops with sidewalk access
    - Long-term: Increase number of transit stops with bike parking
- Increase percentage of buses with bicycle racks

Link Express bus

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9 High Priority Strategies

- **1.2**: Annually rerun Bicycle Level of Comfort model
- **1.4**: Evaluate how existing programs and grants can become more equitable
- **2.1**: Complete New Project Summary for all Highway projects
- **2.2**: Continue to include an opportunity in the New Project Summary to discuss projects with Towns and RPCs
- **2.3**: Continue to include walking/bicycling needs in corridor management
- **2.6**: Continue to utilize the Local Concerns Questionnaires early on for bridge/culvert projects; integrate Local Concerns Questionnaires into the New Project Summary process
- **3.1**: Conduct design workshops to educate VTrans staff
- **4.3**: Maintain the online portal with best practice guidelines, manuals, and state-specific guidelines
- **10.1**: Develop and distribute materials which highlight successful collaboration efforts with municipalities

VTrans and Partner Roles

For VTrans presentation

Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator

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Activities to continue:

- plan reviews
- technical assistance within and external to VTrans
- collaborating with external partners on safety initiatives
- providing training on bike/ped planning and design (including ADA requirements)
- developing engineering guidance and standards,
- research projects on bike/ped facilities
- providing feedback to the legislature on bike/ped-related laws,
- overseeing the bike/ped count program.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator (continue)

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Specific tasks to focus on within the next year:

- *Overall task - Guide activities to implement BPSP with internal and external partners*
- Establish a regular stakeholder group coordination meeting that builds upon stakeholders of the BPSP
- Improve coordination with the Traffic Signal section
- Increase participation with Road Safety Audits
- Direct support of the Traffic Operations/Mobility section
- Assist with the Highway Safety Improvement Program
- Integrate of the bike/ped count program within the Data Management Unit
- Start to identify possible sources of information that can quantify bicycling and walking habits in Vermont (eg surveys)

Municipal Assistance

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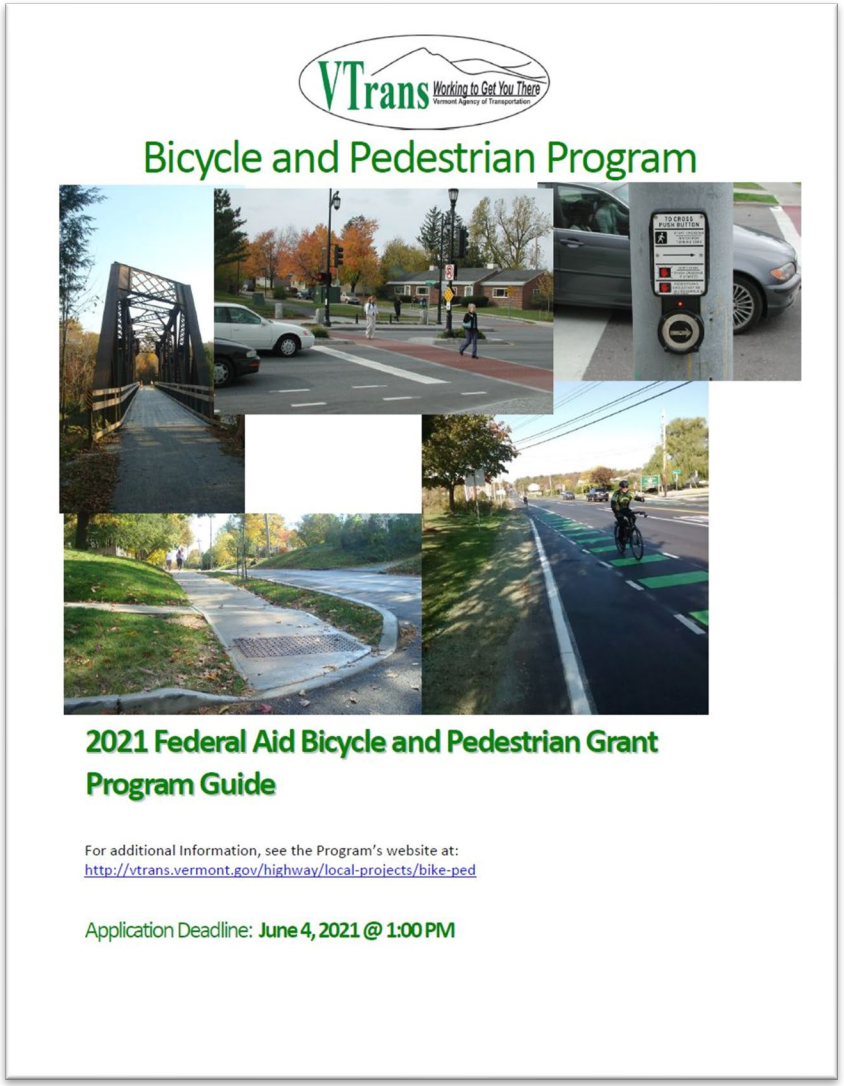
Activities to continue:

- Administration of Bicycle and Pedestrian grant program

Specific tasks to focus on within the next year:

- Determine how to better consider equity in grant process
- Integrate/coordinate grant program with VTrans VPSP2 project selection and prioritization process



Operations and Safety

Activities to continue:

- Develop and refine guidance for safe crosswalks
- Incorporate state of the practice features at pedestrian signals
- Consider needs of people walking and bicycling in Road Safety Audits

Specific tasks to focus on within the next year:

- Consideration of walking and bicycling within the Highway Safety Improvement Program

Project Delivery

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Activities to continue:

- Provide paved shoulders and bike lanes as elements of road projects
- Provide sidewalks on bridges when appropriate for the context
- Provide pedestrian signals
- Use Local Concerns Questionnaire as input to project scope

Specific tasks to focus on within the next year:

- Update the Complete Streets guidance and checklist
- Assess accessibility of all pedestrian signals under state jurisdiction
- Encourage and support staff training on bicycle and pedestrian design

Asset Management

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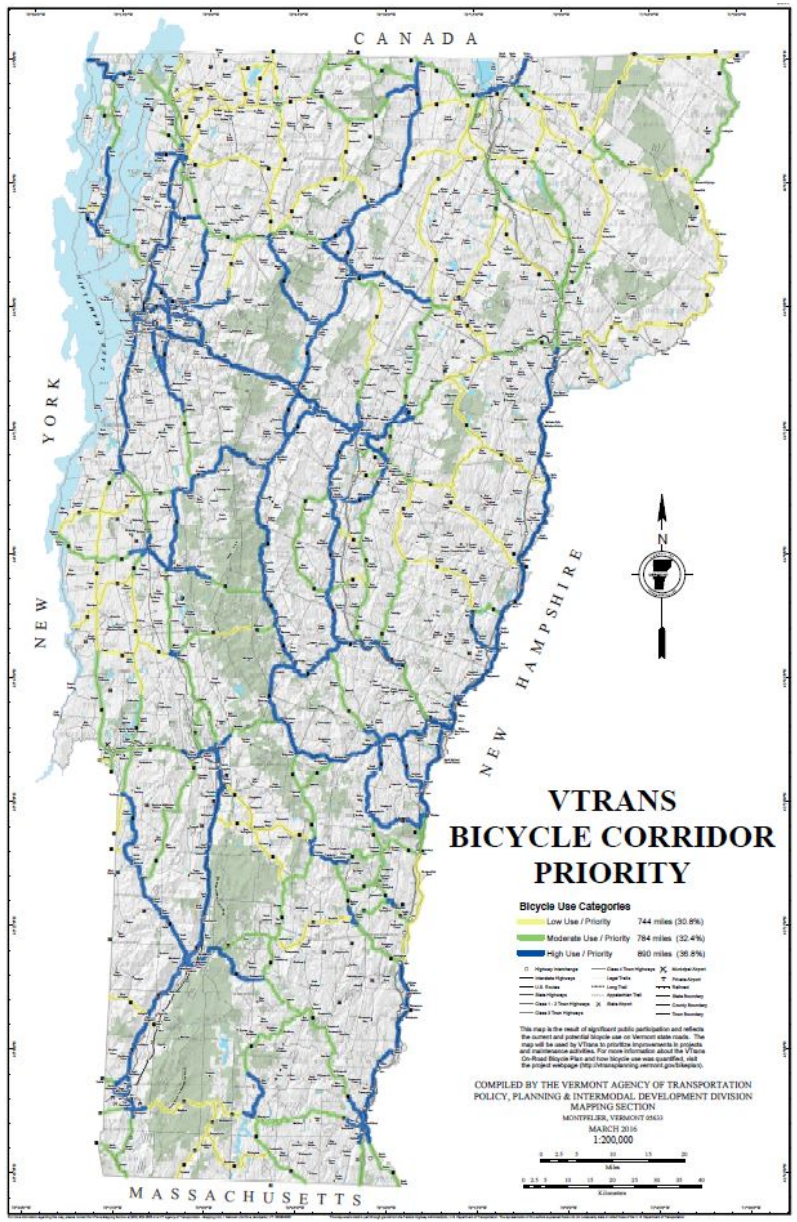
Activities to continue:

- Develop New Project Summaries
- Consider needs of people walking and bicycling in corridor management plans

Specific tasks to focus on within the next year:

- Work with Municipal Assistance on integration of bicycle and pedestrian grants with VPSP2
- Expand use of NPS to all Highway projects



Districts

Activities to continue:

- Assist municipalities with vetting projects in state highway ROW
- Maintenance of facilities e.g. shoulder sweeping, pavement markings, signs

Specific tasks to focus on within the next year:

- Adopt Standard Operating Procedures regarding maintenance of bicycling and walking facilities
- Determine best way to assess maintenance implications of infrastructure for walking and bicycling

Vermont Local Roads and VTTC

Activities to continue:

- Provide training to internal and external partners

Specific tasks to focus on within the next year:

- Assist with developing/ tracking/ hosting a bicycle and pedestrian training curriculum
- Share the curriculum with RPCs and Municipalities
- Begin work on Complete Streets materials and training

Planning

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Activities to continue:

- Assist RPCs as needed
- Incorporate RPC tasks into TPI Workplan Guidance
- Participation in New Project Summaries and Local Concerns Questionnaires
- And many others!

Specific tasks to focus on within the next year:

- Establish a regular stakeholder group coordination meeting that builds upon stakeholders of the BPSP

Context – Includes working with RPCs on their activities within the next year:

- Identifying examples of municipal collaboration
- Work with municipalities to improve zoning, subdivision regs, municipal planning, design and construction practices, etc
- Outreach to towns on Complete Streets educational materials

Other VTrans Roles

Activities to continue:

- Ongoing research projects – RRFB effectiveness, Case Studies of bike/ped friendly towns under 10K

Specific tasks to focus on within the next year:

- Public Transit Section – lead effort to inventory bus stops statewide
- Research – Identify and develop research topics
- Planning/Environmental Policy – Include contributions of walking and bicycling to combat climate change
- Mapping – re-run Bicycle Level of Comfort (BLOC) analysis annually

Some External Partner Roles*

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Activities to continue:

- ACCD - Collaborate on grant application reviews (eg DTF, BP, TAP)
- ACCD - Continue coordination on placemaking
- Dept of Health - Coordination on promotion of bicycling and walking
- Local Motion - Safe Routes to School Clearinghouse
- Local Motion - Bike Smart Trailers and implementing its curriculum
- And many others!

Specific tasks to focus on within the next year:

- Dept of Public Service – Coordinate to include bicycling and walking within the Comprehensive Energy Plan Update
- Tourism and Marketing – Collaborate on programs that promote bicycle tourism
- VHSA - Increase coordination on safety messaging

**See Planning Slide for info on RPC activities. For more details about all Partner Roles, see presentation on website https://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/bpsp*

Next steps

ROAD CLOSED
TO
THRU TRAFFIC
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT INC.
800 763.3999

BPSP Next Steps

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- Start to implement the plan!!
- Website - https://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/bpsp
  - Plan documents
  - Recording of this webinar
- Develop a dashboard to hold the performance indicators later in 2021
- Session at 2022 Vermont Walk-Bike Summit

Questions and Comments

Approximately 20 minutes

If you have follow up questions, please reach out to Jon Kaplan – jon.kaplan@vermont.gov