

VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Strategic Plan

March 2021



Executive Summary

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. Additionally, the BPSP:

- Identifies key partnerships with external stakeholders that will result in improved conditions for bicycling and walking.
- Assists VTrans in understanding where to focus limited resources towards bicycle and pedestrian improvements and allow better integration into Agency projects and activities.
- Includes performance indicators that build upon two key outcomes of the VTrans On-Road Bicycle Plan Phase 1 (the VTrans Bicycle Corridor Priority Map) and Phase 2 (the Bicycle Level of Comfort (BLOC) map).



Students walking to school

(Source: Vermont Safe Routes to School)

VTrans and its partners do great work which can be built upon. The following programs and collaborations are already incorporating the needs of people walking and bicycling, or have useful lessons to draw from. Many of these programs and processes are mentioned in specific strategies:

- Vermont Bicycle and Pedestrian Program
- Vermont Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Program
- Transportation Alternatives Program
- Local Concerns Questionnaires
- New Project Summaries
- Safe Routes to School
- Transportation Planning Initiative
- Better Connections Program

VTrans actively works with many external partners who are vital to the success of implementing the BPSP. The following are some of the existing partners who provided input for the BPSP and are part of various strategies for implementing the BPSP:

- Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs)
- Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD)
- Vermont Department of Health (VDH)
- Vermont Highway Safety Alliance (VHSA)
- Local Motion
- Municipalities
- And many others!

Vision, Mission & Goals

The vision and goals were developed to identify VTrans' commitment to vulnerable users as well as guide the BPSR recommendations.

The vision defines the desired condition for people walking and bicycling in Vermont after the goals, objectives, and strategies have been accomplished. Accomplishing the vision

requires the efforts of many different VTrans sections as well as coordination with external organizations and stakeholders throughout Vermont.

The goals provide a framework for strategy development and start to identify how VTrans can reach its vision.

Vision & Mission



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.

Goals



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.

Recommendations

The BPSP outlines the recommended strategies to achieve the vision and goals. These 51 strategies are grouped into 10 overarching objectives. Strategies include details about who would be responsible for implementation and partnership opportunities, as well as a timeframe and level of effort required for implementation.

The plan also identifies performance indicators to track VTrans progress on BPSP implementation and effectiveness. A dashboard will be created to share these indicators.

Objective 1 Fund, promote, and implement appropriate infrastructure to 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 bicycling 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 and vehicles

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

High Priority Strategies

The following 9 strategies have been identified as a high priority*:

Strategy 1.2: Annually rerun the Bicycle Level of Comfort model (developed in Phase II of the On-Road Bicycle Plan) for the Vermont state road network as relevant datasets are updated for the purpose of tracking progress towards a more friendly road network for people on bicycles

Strategy 1.5: Evaluate how existing VTrans programs and grants can become more equitable, particularly as it relates to high-need and marginalized communities

Strategy 2.1: Complete New Project Summaries (NPS) for all Highway projects to ensure Project Managers are aware of potential design considerations for people walking and bicycling

Strategy 2.2: Continue to include an opportunity in the New Project Summaries and Local Concerns Questionnaires to discuss projects with Towns and RPCs. These discussions should include topics such as planned bicycling or walking networks, transit service, etc.

Strategy 2.3: Continue to include the needs of people walking and bicycling in corridor management plans developed for state highways

Strategy 2.7: Continue to utilize the Local Concerns Questionnaires in bridge/culvert projects early in the project definition process to gather information about planned walking and bicycling networks and improvements; expand their usage to other highway modes, including paving, roadway, safety and traffic signals; continue to integrate Local Concerns Questionnaires into the NPS process as it expands

Strategy 3.1: Conduct design workshops to educate VTrans engineers, designers, landscape architects, planners, maintenance staff, and project managers on best practices regarding the needs of people walking or bicycling

Strategy 4.3: Maintain the online portal where external partners and VTrans staff can easily access nationally recognized pedestrian and bicycle best practice guidelines and manuals (e.g., FHWA, AASHTO, NACTO etc.) as well as state-specific guidelines

Strategy 10.1: Develop and distribute materials which highlight successful collaboration efforts with municipalities to promote the collaboration process with other municipalities

 **For more information about the BPSP visit:** <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/PLANNING/BPSP> 