Route 9 Corridor Management Plan Stakeholder Meeting

Thursday, December 3, 2020 at 6:30pm (Also for the 11/9 WRC and 12/8 BCRC TAC meetings

Online only (due to Covid-19 restrictions)

Today's presentation and additional materials are available at

https://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/projects-programs/corridor-management/vt9-Bennington-Brattleboro

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Welcome and Agenda

- Introductions and roll call
- Background
- Goals of this meeting
- Overview of the Route 9 Corridor
- Comments and feedback about the Route 9 Corridor
- Next Steps

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Quick Poll using the "Raise Hand" function

What words do you associate with the Route 9 Corridor?

- Snow
- Steep grades
- Cycling
- Scenic
- Traffic
- Wildlife
- Trucks
- Flooding

Others? Please type a word or two into the chat box!

The raise hand function is in the middle of the toolbar.

- Click once to "raise" your hand
- We will count the responses
- Then we will ask you to click again to "lower" your hand

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Introductions

VTrans staff presenting today

- Project lead - Katharine Otto - Planning Coordinator
- Joe Segale - Policy, Planning and Research Bureau Director
- Kevin Marshia – Budget and Programming

Background

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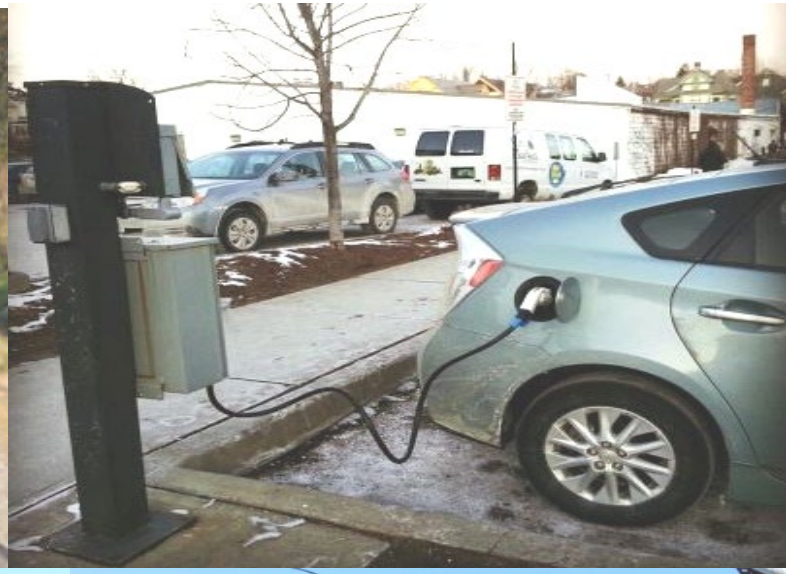
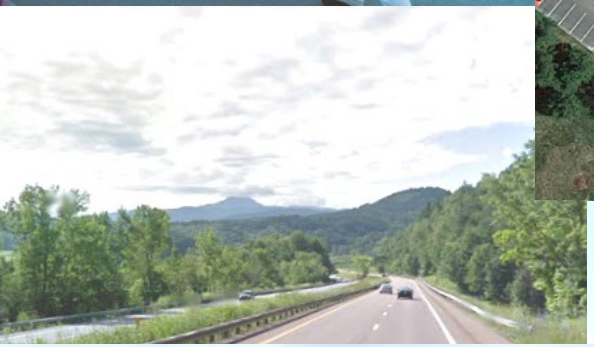
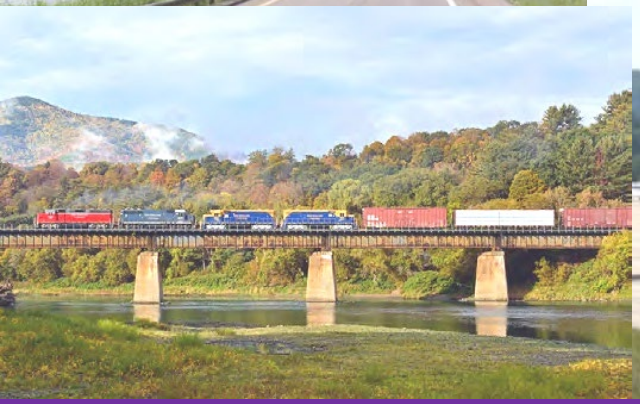
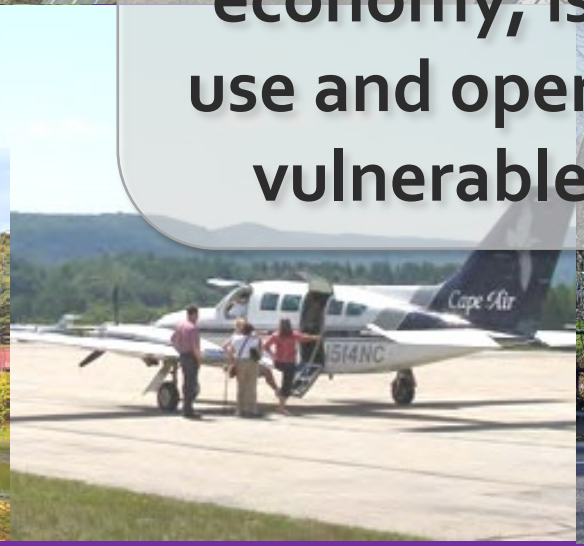
What are we trying to achieve?

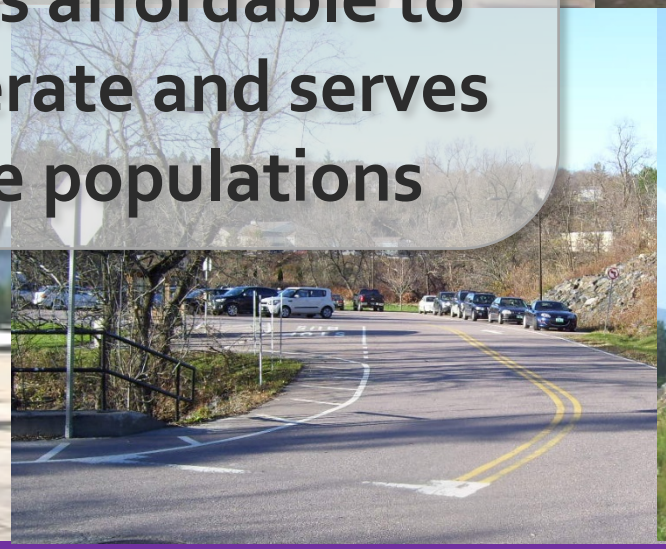


A safe, reliable and multimodal transportation system that grows the economy, is affordable to use and operate and serves vulnerable populations









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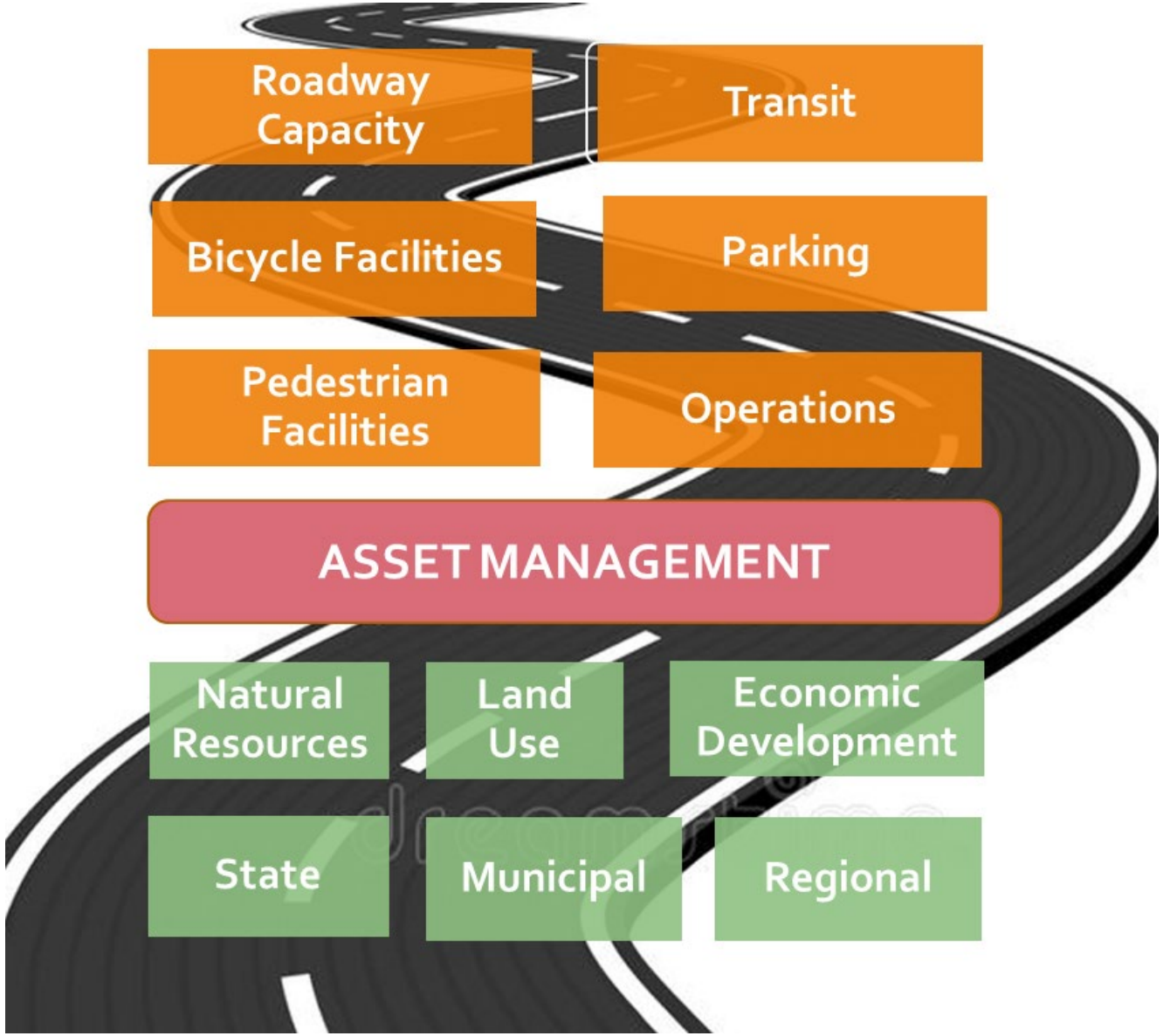
Corridor Management Objectives

- Incorporate local needs in a focused and effective way
- Coordinate & Leverage Asset Management Investments
- Identify practical, short term projects
- Identify longer term needs
- Integrate into maintenance, projects and permitting
- Annual Status Meetings to monitor progress and changes



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Goals

Project Goal

- Identify practical recommendations that are possible to implement in the short-term in combination with asset management investments such as paving and bridge projects
- Identify longer-term needs that may be addressed through other AOT and municipal programs.

Goal for Today's Meeting

- Share information already collected about the Corridor
- Share brief overview of improvements included in the 2021-2022 Paving Project
- Gain additional knowledge about the corridor from Stakeholders

Why am I here? Three types of input

1. **VTrans** data and staff

2. **Partners** – other state agency, town, RPC or other similar entity which can help us to identify issues along the corridor, and may also be a ***partner*** is helping to address some of the issues
   - ANR, VEM and others
   - Southeast Vermont Transit and GMCN
   - BCRC and WRC
   - Towns on the corridor
   - Green Mountain National Forest

3. **Stakeholders** – people who use the corridor
   - Towns near the corridor who use it often
   - Businesses near and along the corridor
   - Residents near and along the corridor
   - Advocacy groups near and along the corridor
   - Members of the WRC and BCRC Transportation Advisory Committees (TACs)

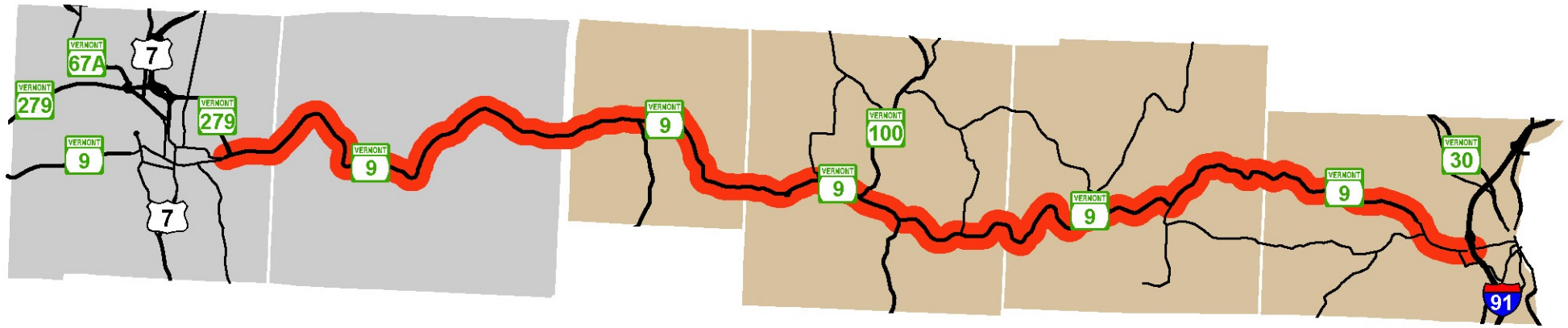
Vermont Route 9 – Orientation and history

- Key east-west connector
- Officially named "Molly Stark Trail" in 1967
- Key communities – Bennington, Wilmington, Brattleboro

Major projects

- Major reconstruction between Searsburg and Wilmington in early 2000s
- Installation of chain up areas on western side

Study Area for Vermont Route 9 Corridor Management Plan in 2020



Bennington Woodford Searsburg Wilmington Marlboro Brattleboro

Bennington County Regional Commission Windham Regional Commission

And now the upcoming paving project…

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Paving Project

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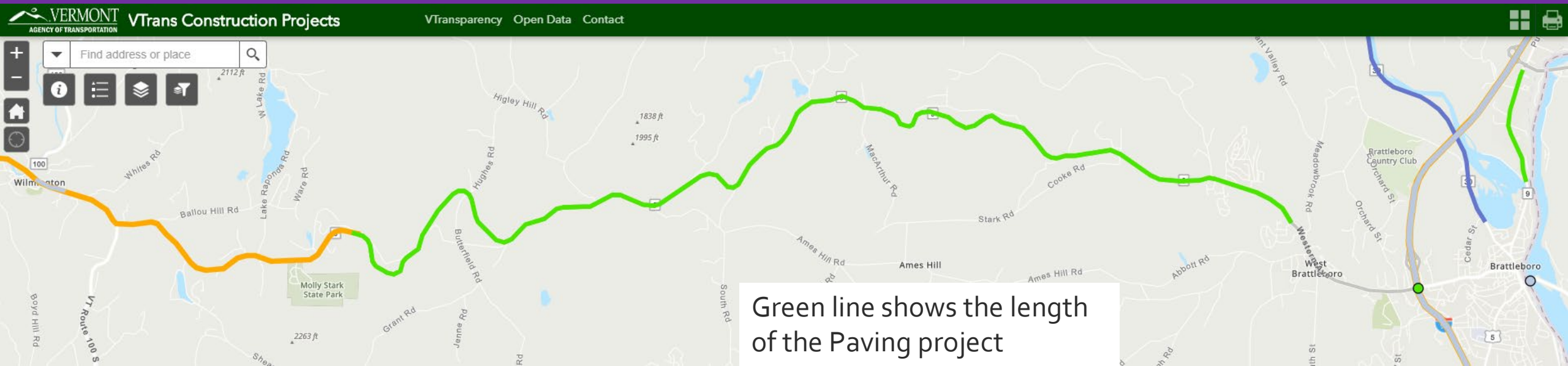
Paving project (Wilmington to Brattleboro)

- Bid in Winter 2021
- Construction over 2 seasons:
  - Drainage and ancillary work in 2021
  - Reclaim paving in 2022

- For information on the project visit https://resources.vtrans.vermont.gov/factsheet/default.aspx?pin=16V105
- For interactive map and information about other construction projects visit https://vtrans.vermont.gov/vtransparency



What is included in the project?

- Road being reclaimed (grind up the pavement and some of the subbase, then rebuild the pavement on top)
- Working on drainage for all but the last mile of the project in Brattleboro
- Shoulders being addressed where possible
- Road slant (banking) issue will be dealt with along most of the paving project

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Notable improvements included

South Rd intersection (Marlboro)

- Left-turn lane being installed

Area near Marlboro Elementary School

- Truck climbing lane length evaluated
- Better signage
- Remove sight distance issues in state ROW
- Recommendations for sight distance improvements outside state ROW

Turners Corner near Hamilton Rd (Marlboro)

- Road slant (banking) issue addressed
- New signs installed
- Centerline rumble-strips will likely be installed
- Tree clearance and minor slope work where possible
- Partner opportunity – could Hamilton Road be one way or closed at the western end?

West Brattleboro (Sunset Lake Rd to Edward Heights Rd)

- Speed limit change (40 – 35mph) approved by VTrans Traffic Committee
- Bike lanes will be marked
- Crosswalk to be installed near Winding Hill Rd
- Evaluated crosswalk near Cumberland Farms/ Dunkin Donuts but not being installed
- Flashing beacon (RRFB) proposed near Edward Heights

Key themes along the Route 9 Corridor

Where can I find out what you already know?

More detailed information is available on project website. See links for the Partners Meeting.

4 digit ID (3001, 3012, etc) can help you to cross reference between items in the StoryMap

Local name - Let us know if we've missed a name or way to describe the location!

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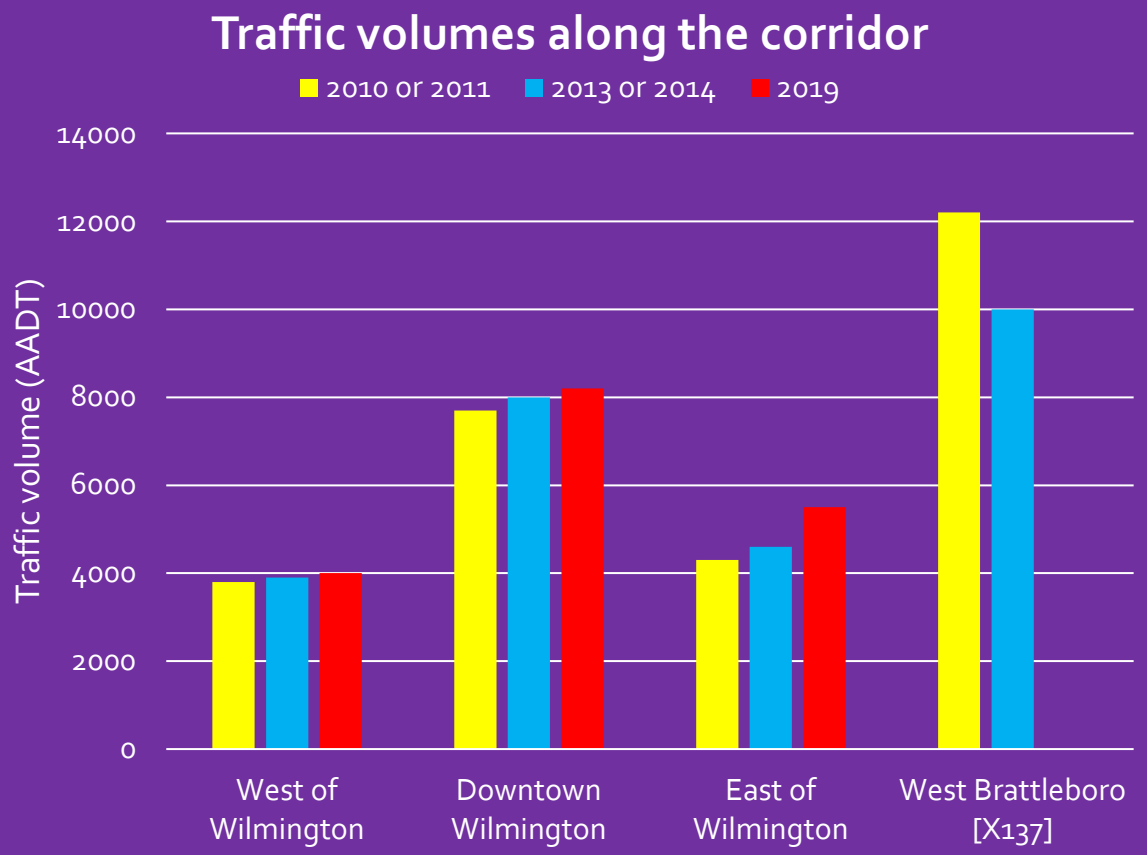
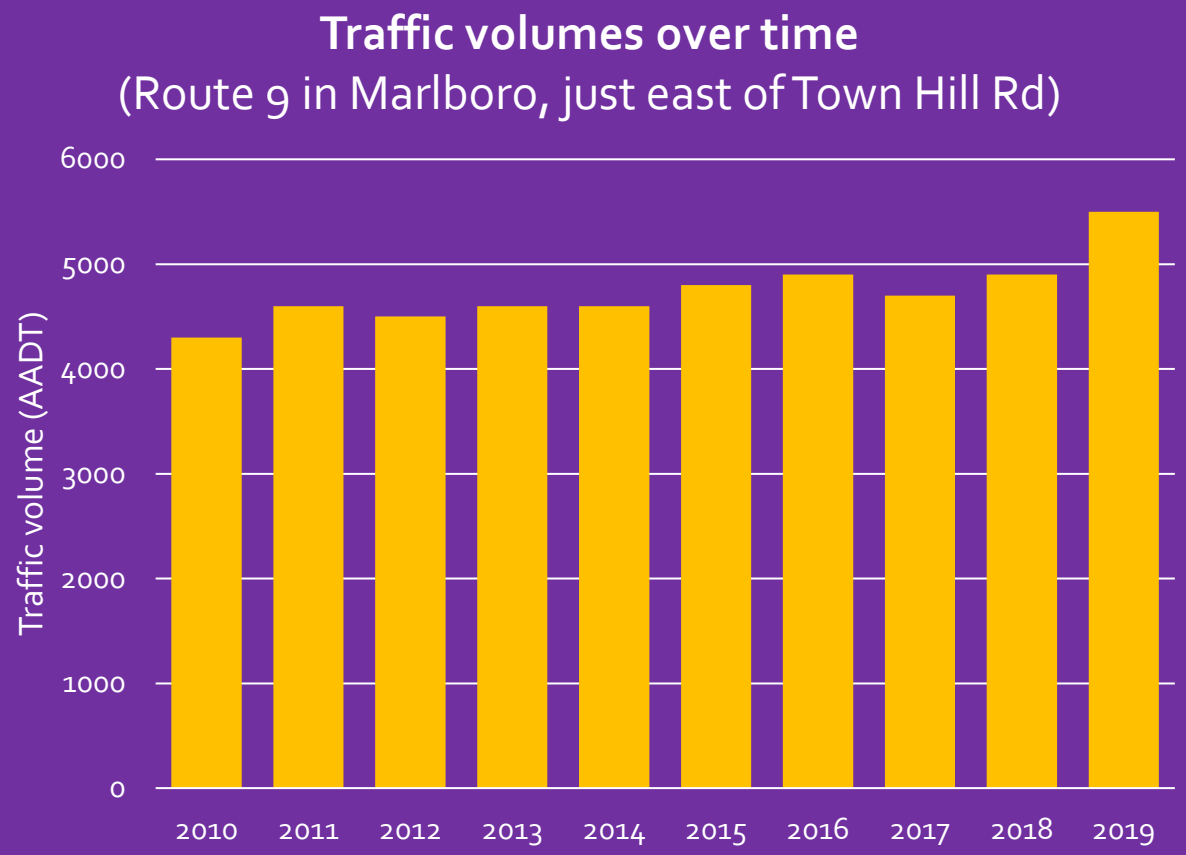
Traffic





"AADT" – Annual Average Daily Traffic – i.e. On a typical day, XXX vehicles are expected to travel on the road

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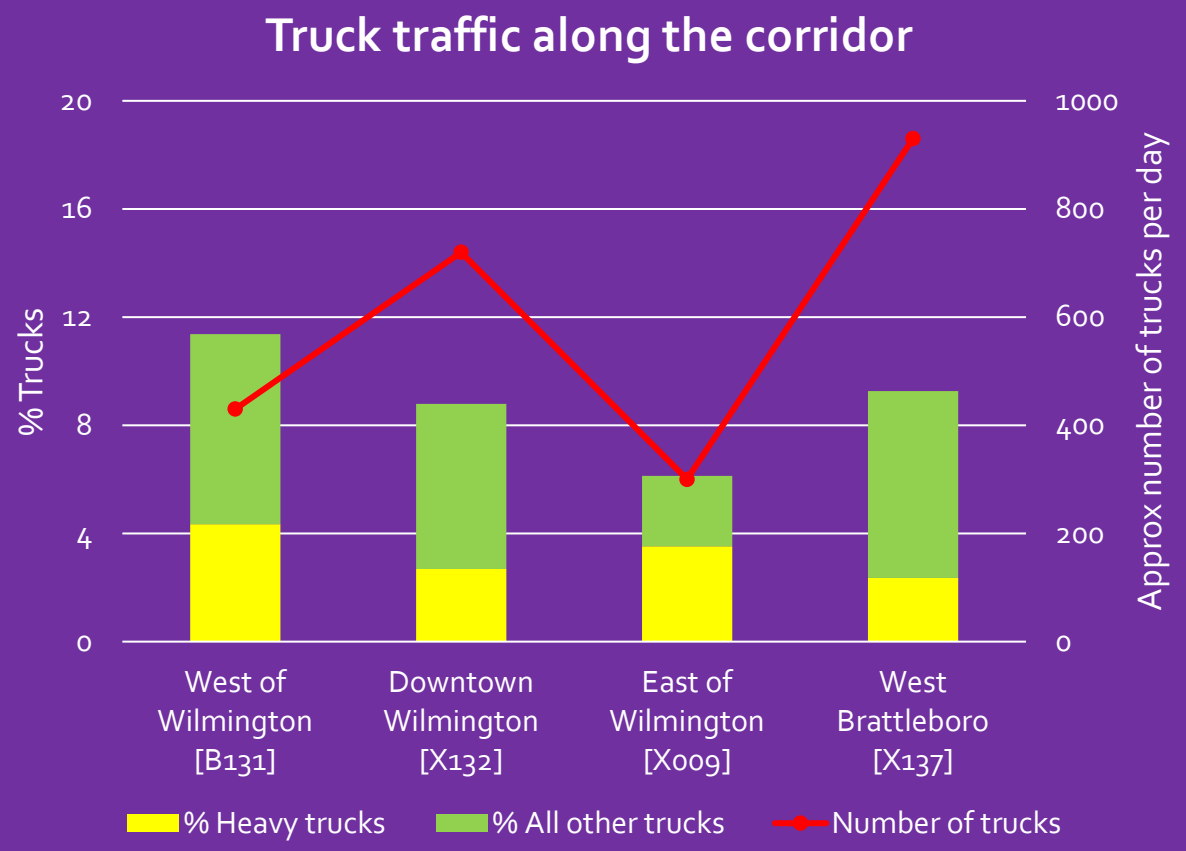
Traffic

Winter traffic* has considerable variations with highs on Fridays

- Average daily traffic – 4,100
- Highest traffic - Fridays - 5,100
- Friday of President's Day weekend - 5,800
- Lowest traffic - Tuesdays - 3,600



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Congestion

Places of notable concern

- Route 100 North intersection in Wilmington (3003)
- Route 100 South intersection in Wilmington (3005)
- Augur Hole Road and other local roads used as detours (3016)

Route 100 North intersection Route 100 South intersection Local road detours

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Safety

Places of notable concern

- Hogback Mountain (3007)
- Woodford Rock Cut/ Ledges (3001)*
- Turners Corner in Marlboro (3009)
- South Road intersection in Marlboro (3010)*
- Section near Marlboro Elementary (3011)*
- Bridge 54 in W. Brattleboro (3012)

** denotes location where a project is due to address some of the concerns within the next few years*

Photo by Jeff Nugent, WRC

Natural Resources

- Stormwater improvement needed near Dunkin Donuts in W. Brattleboro (3017)
- Wildlife improvement needed for large culvert in Searsburg (3020) and other locations
- Resiliency improvement needed at Marlboro/ Brattleboro townline (3039)
- Bridge 51 near Westgate Drive in W. Brattleboro (3014)

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Next steps

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What comes next?

Visit website and explore the corridor

- Interactive maps
- More info about what's already been identified

Provide input using the Public Comment Tool or by email

- Comments due by Friday, December 18th

Winter 2021 - VTrans consider issues and potential ways to address issues

Spring 2021 - VTrans share the draft Corridor Management Plan with Partners and Stakeholders

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Provide feedback

Comments due by Friday, December 18, 2020

- Use Public Comment Tool to submit comments if possible.
  - Will be demonstrated in a few moments
- Otherwise, please submit to Katharine – Katharine.otto@vermont.gov or 802-917-3451

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Go to StoryMap

A link to this StoryMap can be found at

https://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/projects-programs/corridor-management/vt9-Bennington-Brattleboro

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