VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Strategic Plan

Partners and Stakeholders Meeting – May 25, 2021

https://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/bbsp
Welcome and Introductions
Project Team

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
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

• 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 what we’re doing well and what we can improve upon
Focus Groups

• 7 Theme Areas:
  • Education
  • Encouragement
  • Enforcement
  • Engineering
  • Transit Connectivity
  • Emerging Technology
  • Prioritization and Selection
Key Aspects of the Plan
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.
Bicycle and Pedestrian Strategic Plan Purpose

- 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

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.

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

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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 1</strong></td>
<td>Fund, promote, and implement appropriate infrastructure which will encourage people to walk or bike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 2</strong></td>
<td>Utilize existing VTrans initiatives (e.g., NPS, LCQ, Corridor Plans, VPSP2, etc.) to further improve conditions for people walking and bicycling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 3</strong></td>
<td>Empower a broad range of VTrans staff to have the technical knowledge to regularly incorporate improvements for bicycling and walking into all VTrans activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 4</strong></td>
<td>Educate external partners about the needs of people walking and bicycle so they can be integrated into planning, designing and maintaining facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 5</strong></td>
<td>Use a wide variety of methods to educate the public on the safety and needs of people walking and bicycling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 6</strong></td>
<td>Incorporate walking and bicycling considerations into the planning and design of transit facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 7</strong></td>
<td>Develop new and increased collaborations with groups outside VTrans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 8</strong></td>
<td>Promote the health, economic, and environmental benefits of recreation and active transportation opportunities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 9</strong></td>
<td>Identify existing or develop future, data sources to measure the prevalence, safety, and health of people walking and bicycling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 10</strong></td>
<td>Inform external partners and the general public of VTrans' efforts, opportunities, and limitations related to providing infrastructure for people walking and bicycling</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
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:

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
Performance Indicators:

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:

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.
Performance Indicators:

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
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 partners presentation
Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator

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
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)
Other VTrans Roles

Activities to continue:
• Administration of Bicycle and Pedestrian grant program
• 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
• Use Local Concerns Questionnaire as input to project scope
• Develop New Project Summaries
• And many others!

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
• Establish a regular stakeholder group coordination meeting that builds upon stakeholders of the BPSP
• Re-run Bicycle Level of Comfort (BLOC) analysis annually
• And many others!
RPCs/ Transportation Planning Initiative

Activities to continue:
• Bicycle and pedestrian counts
• Participation in New Project Summaries and Local Concerns Questionnaires
• And many others!

New Task in FY2022 TPI Workplan Guidance

Specific tasks to focus on 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 State Agencies

Activities to continue (by agency):
• ACCD - Better Connections Program support
• 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
• And 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
Vermont Highway Safety Alliance

Specific tasks to focus on within the next year:
• Increase collaboration with Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator
• Start discussion with DMV about potential changes to driving test
• Increase coordination on safety messaging
Local Motion

Activities to continue:
• Safe Routes to School Clearinghouse
• Technical assistance to municipalities
• Bike Smart Trailers and implementing its curriculum
• And several others!

Specific tasks to focus on within the next year:
• Educate towns about what is possible to improve conditions for walking and bicycle through various VTrans programs
Municipalities

Activities to continue:
• Continue to explore projects to improve bicycling and walking in town, including through demonstration projects
• Apply for grants to fund planning and infrastructure projects
• And several others!

Specific tasks to focus on within the next year:
• Identifying examples of municipal collaboration that benefit bicycling and walking
• Learn more about Complete Streets
• Work with RPCs to improve zoning, subdivision regs, municipal planning, design and construction practices, etc
Next steps
BPSP Next Steps

• Start to implement the plan!!

• Website - https://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/bbsp
  • 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