

What's Happening in Downtown Middlebury?



If you're visiting our town you may be wondering, what's up with all the construction?

The short answer is that the Vermont Agency of Transportation, in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration and the Town of Middlebury, is replacing the two bridges behind you on Main Street and Merchants Row and rebuilding a 3,500-foot section of the rail line that passes through downtown Middlebury.

Why?

Those two bridges, built in the early 1920s, reached the end of their safe life and were temporarily replaced in 2017 with the modular truss bridges you see today. Those, in turn, will be replaced in 2020 by a precast concrete tunnel that will restore the Town Green to its original dimensions before the railroad arrived in the 1840s.

Rebuilding the rail line through Middlebury will improve rail safety, clean up the environment, pave the way for providing Amtrak service between Middlebury and New York City, and prepare for future freight needs.

In 2019, construction will focus on Support of Excavation and installation of new town water, sewer, and stormwater lines in the rail corridor. See map on the right for details.

A Glimpse of the Future

Replacing the Main Street and Merchants Row bridges with a tunnel will restore Middlebury's Town Green to its original size, significantly expanding the area known as Triangle Park with new green space and hardscape for public events. In addition, Printer's Alley will be a completely rebuilt gateway between Main Street and the Marble Works. The new green space will be named Lazarus Park in honor of the Lazarus family whose department store for 50 years occupied the Duclos Building on Main Street (now the National Bank of Middlebury) and whose annex sat alongside Printer's Alley.



Looking Back & Ahead

Just across the railroad tracks from where you're standing is the area known as Printer's Alley (local newspaper The Addison Independent once operated out of the building at the bottom of the alley). In Summer 2018 the site's marble ledge was excavated to a depth of 35 feet to install new drainage structures to manage stormwater from downtown streets and the rail line (left photo). By 2021 the area will be transformed into a vibrant new gateway connecting Main Street and the Marble Works (right photo).

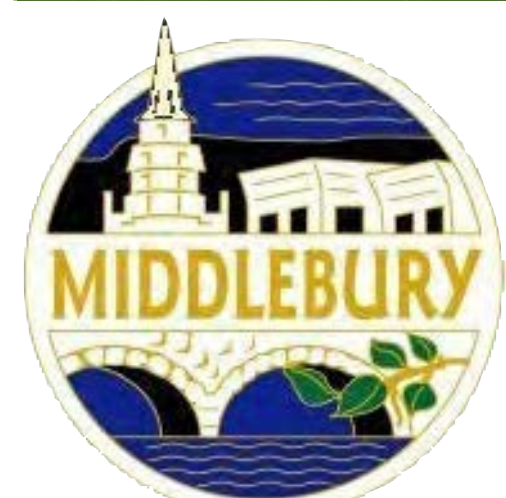


Neighbors Come Together

A group of Middlebury stakeholders has been working from the outset to maintain Middlebury's health and vitality during and beyond the construction project. Over the next two years, Neighbors, Together — in partnership with the Better Middlebury Partnership — will work to drive local business revenue through marketing and promotions and by engaging the community in supporting its downtown.

On tap in 2019 are a downtown block party on Main Street, two concerts in the Marble Works, weekly walks around town promoting health and wellness, extensive digital media marketing, downtown public art and flowers, and a pop-up storefront, Bundle @ 60 Main, that offers unique workshops, classes, and displays of the work of local artisans and artists. Details available at www.experiencemiddlebury.com.

The efforts of Neighbors, Together are fully funded by a grant awarded to the Town of Middlebury from the Vermont Agency of Transportation in the amount of \$228,750. The grant will fund the Neighbors, Together marketing/outreach initiatives and programs in support of the downtown and beyond as the project enters its most intensive phases in 2019 and 2020.



vtrans.vermont.gov/projects/middlebury

Questions or comments?

Contact Middlebury Community Liaison Jim Gish
Email: jgish@townofmiddlebury.org Blog: www.middleburybridges.org



2019 Construction Plan



- ✓ Install support of excavation to stabilize rail abutments
- ✓ Install new Town water, sewer, and stormwater lines in central downtown
- ✓ Remove bedrock in railroad corridor with targeted blasting
- ✓ All work is designed to prepare for replacing the downtown bridges and rebuilding the downtown rail corridor in Summer 2020

7:00 AM – 9:00 PM, Monday – Friday

Overnight work on 4 weekends:

- » Sept. 13 - 16
- » Oct. 11 - 14
- » Nov. 8 - 11
- » Dec. 6 - 9



Spotlight on Support of Excavation

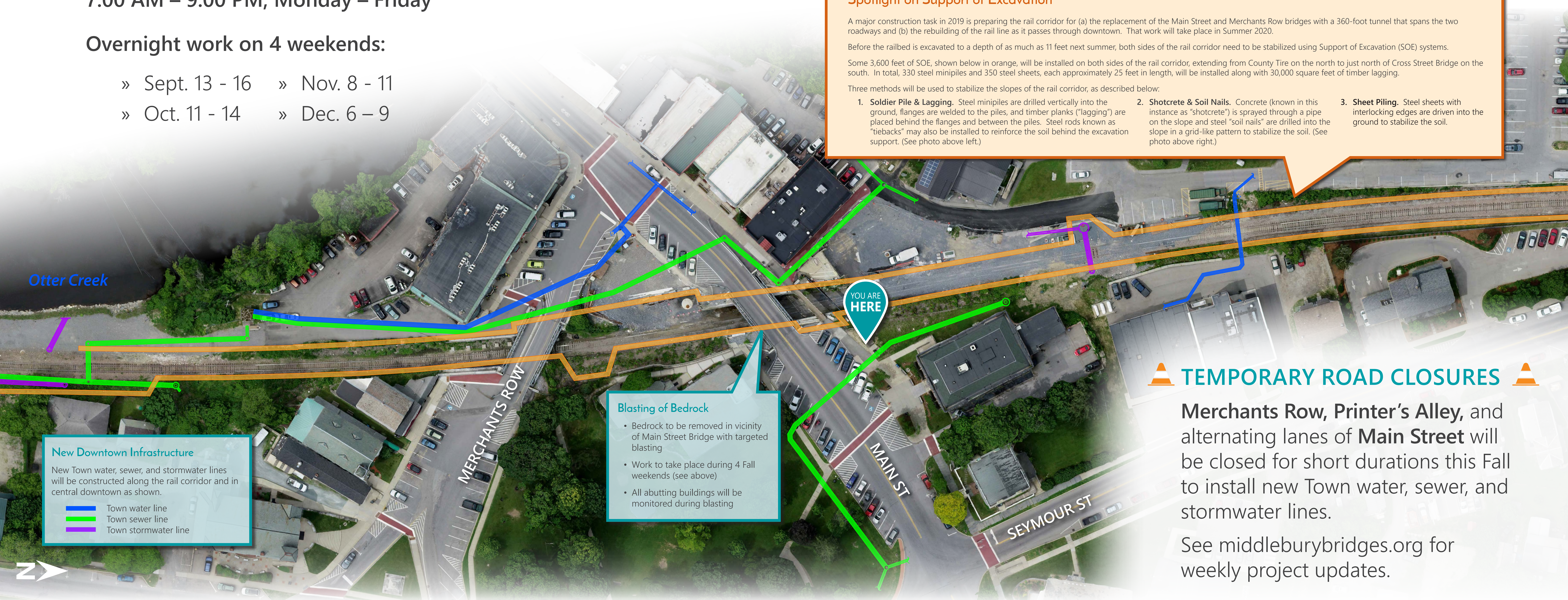
A major construction task in 2019 is preparing the rail corridor for (a) the replacement of the Main Street and Merchants Row bridges with a 360-foot tunnel that spans the two roadways and (b) the rebuilding of the rail line as it passes through downtown. That work will take place in Summer 2020.

Before the railbed is excavated to a depth of as much as 11 feet next summer, both sides of the rail corridor need to be stabilized using Support of Excavation (SOE) systems.

Some 3,600 feet of SOE, shown below in orange, will be installed on both sides of the rail corridor, extending from County Tire on the north to just north of Cross Street Bridge on the south. In total, 330 steel minipiles and 350 steel sheets, each approximately 25 feet in length, will be installed along with 30,000 square feet of timber lagging.

Three methods will be used to stabilize the slopes of the rail corridor, as described below:

1. **Soldier Pile & Lagging.** Steel minipiles are drilled vertically into the ground, flanges are welded to the piles, and timber planks ("lagging") are placed behind the flanges and between the piles. Steel rods known as "tiebacks" may also be installed to reinforce the soil behind the excavation support. (See photo above left.)
2. **Shotcrete & Soil Nails.** Concrete (known in this instance as "shotcrete") is sprayed through a pipe on the slope and steel "soil nails" are drilled into the slope in a grid-like pattern to stabilize the soil. (See photo above right.)
3. **Sheet Piling.** Steel sheets with interlocking edges are driven into the ground to stabilize the soil.



Otter Creek

New Downtown Infrastructure
New Town water, sewer, and stormwater lines will be constructed along the rail corridor and in central downtown as shown.

- Town water line
- Town sewer line
- Town stormwater line

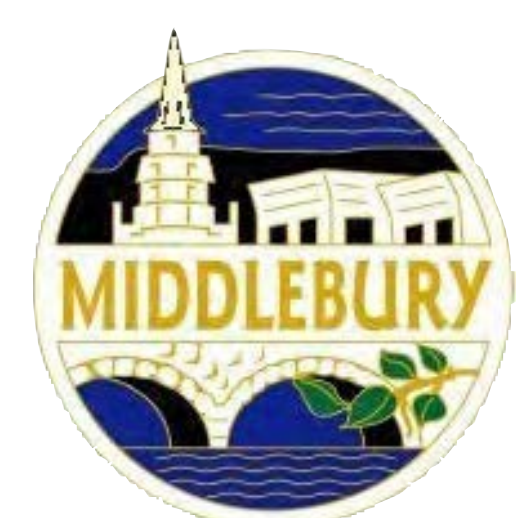
Blasting of Bedrock

- Bedrock to be removed in vicinity of Main Street Bridge with targeted blasting
- Work to take place during 4 Fall weekends (see above)
- All abutting buildings will be monitored during blasting

▲ TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES ▲

Merchants Row, Printer's Alley, and alternating lanes of Main Street will be closed for short durations this Fall to install new Town water, sewer, and stormwater lines.

See middleburybridges.org for weekly project updates.



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