

Construction Update Middlebury Bridge & Rail Project Construction Update - week of May 25-30, 2020

DATE: Friday, May 22, 2020

PROJECT TYPE: Construction of Rail Tunnel

LOCATION: VT Route 30 (Main Street) & Merchants Row, in downtown Middlebury in Addison County, VT

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans), in collaboration with the Town of Middlebury, is undertaking a project to replace two nearly 100 year old rail bridges in the center of Middlebury with a tunnel. The two bridges are about 300 feet apart, with one located on Main Street/VT 30 and the other on Merchants Row.

CONSTRUCTION DURING THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK:

As part of Governor Scott's "[Work Smart, Stay Safe](#)" order, all construction crews are currently subject to safety restrictions and precautions.

TRAFFIC IMPACT:

Next week the construction site will be buzzing with activity that will impact travelers.

- Merchants Row will be **CLOSED** to thru traffic and remain closed until the tunnel construction is completed this summer. On Tuesday, May 26, the contractor will begin removal of the temporary bridge and sidewalk over the rail corridor. **The sidewalk in front of the Battell Block will remain open for people to access businesses.**
- Main Street (Route 30) will be reduced to **ONE-LANE** travel in downtown. Flaggers will direct one-lane alternating traffic through the work zone.
- Pedestrians will need to be on the lookout for **sidewalk closures**. Printers Alley will be closed a few days next week. In an unrelated project, National Bank is reconstructing its parking lot and work needs to be done on a utility line under Printers Alley. Also, the pedestrian bridge over the rail line on Main Street will be closed from time to time while work is being done in the vicinity of the bridge.
- Further west on Route 30 near the Cornwall town line, motorists will observe increased truck traffic as pre-cast concrete sections of the rail tunnel are delivered to Fifield Farm.

EXPANDED & HOLIDAY WORK HOURS:

In observance of the Memorial Day weekend, construction will shut down at Friday noon, May 22, and re-open Tuesday a.m. (May 26)

Construction crews will work 12-hour shifts and Saturdays.

PROJECTED PROJECT COMPLETION: 2021

[Project Website](#)

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