

## Construction Continues! Middlebury Bridge & Rail Project



*Last Friday included a ribbon cutting on the corner of Main Street and Merchants Row to reopen the downtown roadways. Middlebury Selectboard Chair Brian Carpenter marked the occasion along with Secretary of Transportation Joe Flynn.*

[View the VTrans Video!](#)

**DATE:** Friday, September 25, 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, replaced two nearly 100 year old rail bridges in the center of Middlebury with a tunnel. The bridges were about 300 feet apart, with one located on Main Street/VT 30 and the other on Merchants Row.

### REOPENING A SUCCESS!

Last Friday was a huge milestone for this notable engineering project as hundreds of community members of Middlebury joined officials from the Town, VTrans, Kubricky, Vermont Rail, ECI, and VHB to celebrate the reopening of Main Street and Merchants Row. The reopening to motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists, as well as the downtown rail corridor to freight traffic, marked the end of the 10-week shutdown. Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate the reopening of downtown and the new rail tunnel!

### CONSTRUCTION UPDATE:

- Waters is working on the bump-out at the top of Merchants Row—small granite blocks will be placed on top of the poured cement—and then expects to pour sidewalks in front of St. Stephen's on Main Street and from Court Square down Merchants Row alongside the Town Green.
- Landshapes is installing granite stones in front of the Battell Block and Duclos building. They will begin placing the historic ashlar blocks as benches around the Triangle Park perimeter maple trees.

- Kubricky will pour the first 90 feet of the north cap walls on Monday. They will continue forming up and pouring the cap walls to the old at-grade crossing, across from Fire and Ice.
- ECI will pave Middle Seymour Street.

**TRAFFIC IMPACTS:**

- Main Street and Merchants Row are open to all travelers. Merchants Row remains a one-way road going uphill toward Court Square and South Pleasant Street.
- Expect alternating lane traffic on Middle Seymour Street to accommodate paving, although the specific timing is not yet known.

**PLANNED PROJECT COMPLETION: 2021**



*Above, Kubricky prepares a drainage pipe in a concrete water vault that will sit under Triangle Park. It will control operation of the park fountain.*

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