



PRESENTED TO
Town of Middlebury Selectboard

PRESENTED BY
VTrans and VHB



Meeting with you tonight

- **Wayne Symonds, PE**, Structures Program Manager, VTrans
- **Joel Perrigo**, Project Manager, VTrans
- **Aaron Guyette, PE**, Design Project Manager, VHB
- **Jeff Nelson**, Environmental Services Director, VHB



National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

- Federal Law that requires federal agencies to assess the environmental impacts of their proposed actions prior to undertaking major federal actions
- Levels of NEPA environmental review
 - Categorical Exclusion (CE)
 - Environmental Assessment (EA)
 - Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)



Project Environmental Permitting

- Separate from NEPA Process
- Permits/Resource coordination underway
 - US Army Corps of Engineers
 - US Fish & Wildlife Service
 - Vermont ANR/DEC
- Timeline is partially concurrent with EA process



Changes to NEPA Environmental Review

- Original NEPA review was a CE
- Requirement to re-evaluate the NEPA document
- Elevate the review to an EA
- EA evaluations are currently underway by resource professionals



Environmental Assessment Process

- Purpose and need
- Alternatives considered
- Resource evaluations
- FHWA determination options
 - Finding of no significant impact
 - Significant impact





Environmental Assessment Steps

- Draft EA
- 30-day public review and comment period
- Public hearing
- Response to comments
- Final draft EA
- FHWA determination





Purpose and Need

- Replace bridges on Main Street and Merchants Row
- Reconstruct rail through the project area
- Address existing drainage concerns of the rail line



General map of project area



Resource Evaluation

- Land use
- Traffic
- Wetlands
- Surface waters
- Groundwater and drinking water resources
- Floodplains and floodways
- Wildlife
- Threatened and endangered species
- Air quality
- Noise and vibration
- Parks, recreation, and conservation land
- Historic resources
- Archeological resources
- Acquisitions (ROW)
- Soil quality
- Social and economic concerns
- Cumulative impacts
- Section 4(f) resources



Environmental Assessment Milestones

- Complete draft environmental assessment document: **April 2017**
- 30-day public review and comment period: **May 2017**
- Public hearing: **May 2017**
- Response to comments: **June 2017**
- Final draft environmental assessment document: **June 2017**
- FHWA determination: **August 2017**

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021



Bridge Maintenance Issues

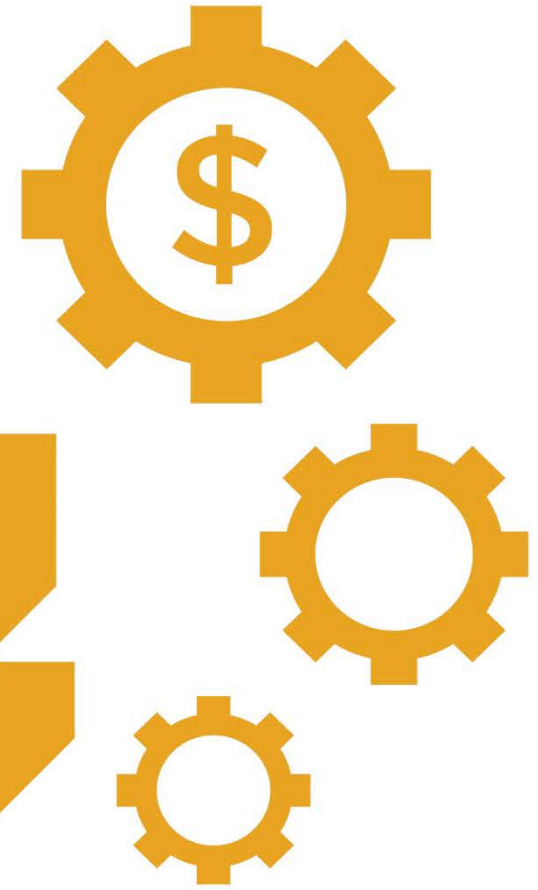
- Safety concerns for both Main Street and Merchants Row
- Temporary patching on both bridges
- Debris on railroad tracks
- Evaluating further actions





Current Project Cost Estimate

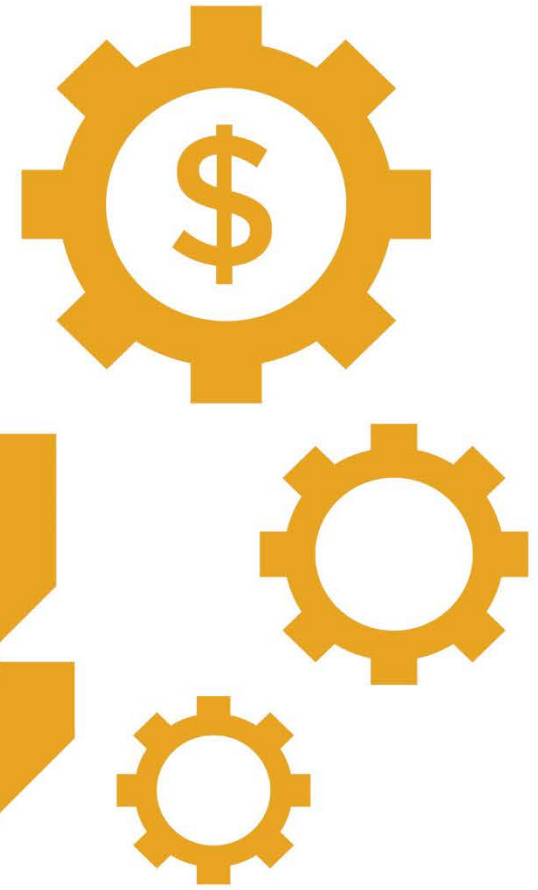
- Preliminary Engineering \$4,875,000
- Right-of-Way \$400,000
- Construction
 - Contract 1 (drainage) - \$2,500,000
 - Contract 2 (bridge replacement) - \$37,500,000





Independent Cost Estimating

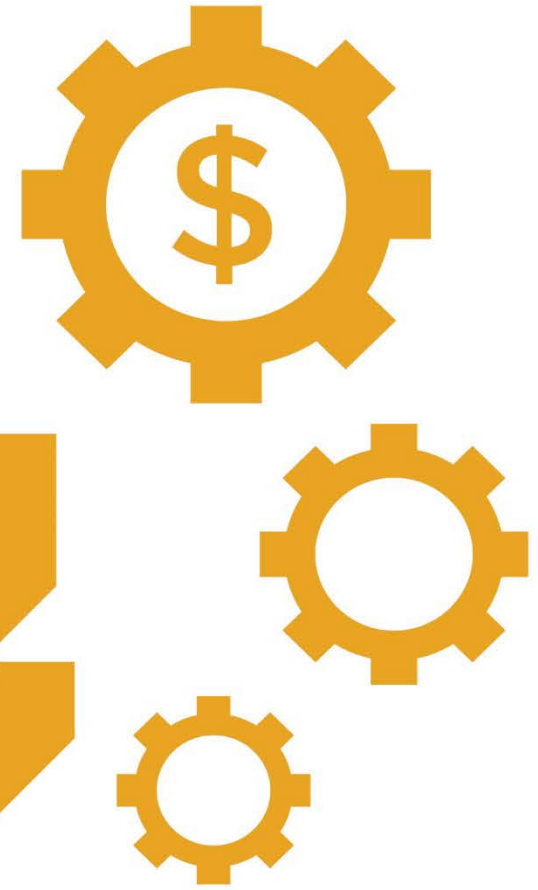
- Estimate may be adjusted
 - Independent cost estimate is in progress
 - Look for cost savings due to accelerated bridge construction
- CMGC process will look for efficiency and cost savings
- Preliminary work by independent cost estimator validates the \$40 million construction





Railroad Detour Costs

- Very preliminary estimate \$12,000,000
 - Extended work windows in year 2 and year 3
 - 10 week train detour
- Capital track and facility improvements
- Reimbursement for RR costs incurred
- ICE estimates without RR accommodations construction cost would be \$82,000,0000





Project Timeline Update

- Schedule was previously presented as 2017–2020
- Current schedule dependent on NEPA process outcome
- Revised target schedule 2018–2021

2018

2019

2020

2021



Questions?