

# Revising the Vermont State Standards

MULTIMODAL DEVELOPMENT AND DELIVERY (M2D2)

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# Purpose of the Project

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To initiate a process to **revise the Vermont State Standards (VSS)** with input from a broad group of stakeholders.

Revising the VSS will help:

- Keep pace with the national **state of the practice in highway engineering**
- Ensure that Vermont transportation facilities are designed to **meet current state and community needs** and accommodate a variety of users of the transportation network

# Purpose of the Vermont State Standards

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1. To provide **clear technical direction** to the designers of transportation projects in Vermont
2. To achieve transportation designs which provide **access, mobility** and **safety** for users, and which are also sensitive to the social and environmental **context of Vermont**

# 2014 Legislation

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\* \* \* Vermont Design Standards \* \* \*

2014 Transportation Bill, Act 167, Sec. 26. RECOMMENDATIONS  
TO UPDATE VERMONT STATE DESIGN STANDARDS

(a) Establish a **multi-disciplinary Stakeholders Group** consisting of representatives of **public and private sector** entities from **the various modes** of transportation affected by the Vermont State Standards to provide the Agency with critical input in revising the Standards.

# M2D2 Objectives

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To explore the needs and expectations for each transportation mode and identify ways to **balance those needs and modes collectively**.

To understand **barriers, gaps, and opportunities** that exist in the VSS and other current practices, standards and guidance to address the needs of all modes, as well as other state and community needs and goals.

# M2D2 Process

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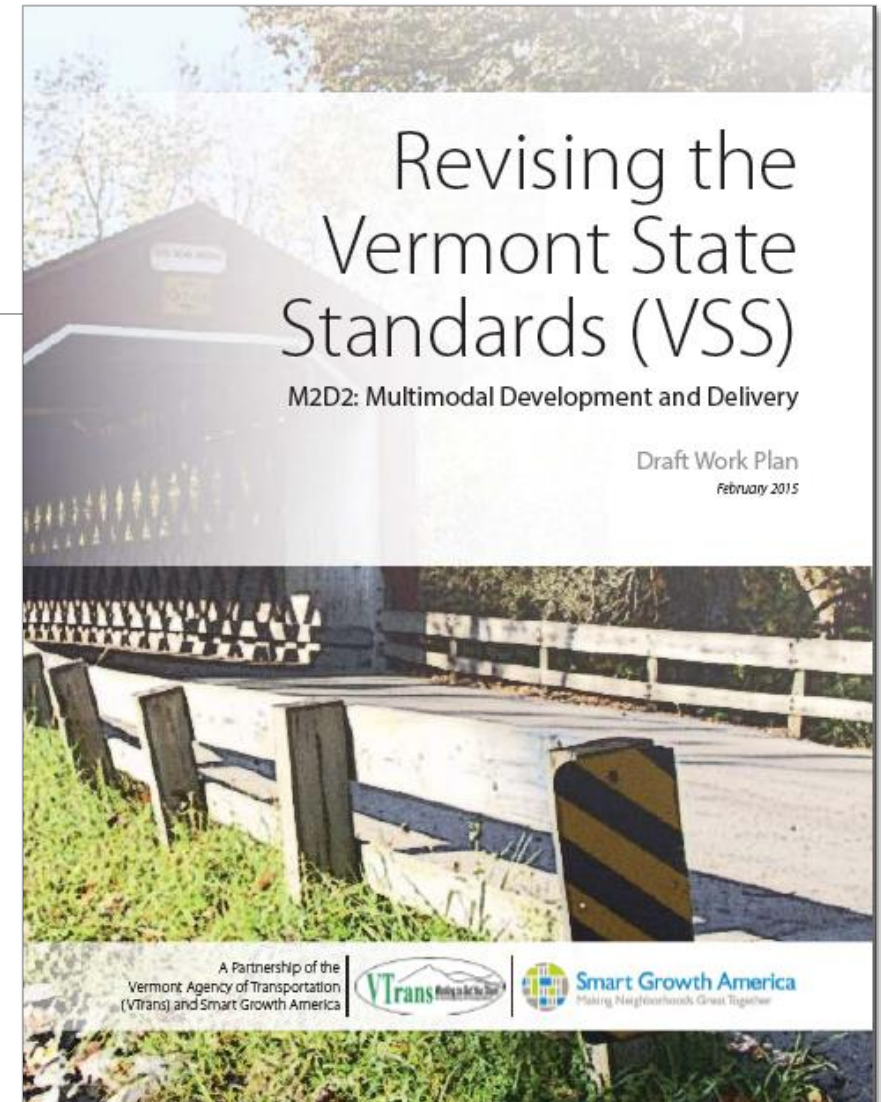


- 50+ Stakeholders Involved
- Gap Analysis
- Series of Workshops

# M2D2 Product

**Work plan** providing a detailed framework and process for:

- **Revising** the VSS and other related documents and practices,
- **Communicating** with internal and external partners throughout the revision process, and
- **Providing ongoing training** on the revised VSS to VTrans staff and external partners



# 2022 Legislation

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\* \* \* Plan to Update Vermont Design Standards \* \* \*

Act 184, Section 19. PLAN TO UPDATE VERMONT STATE STANDARDS

(a) The Agency shall **develop a plan for updating the Vermont State Standards** for the Design of Transportation Construction, Reconstruction and Rehabilitation on Freeways, Roads, and Streets (C.V.R. 14-010-019) (Vermont State Standards) to create **context sensitive, multimodal** projects that support **smart growth** as recommended in the Revising the Vermont State Standards (VSS) M2D2: Multimodal Development and Delivery Work Plan, March 2015 (State Standards Work Plan), prepared in accordance with 2014 Acts and Resolves No. 167, Sec. 26.



# 2022 Legislation (cont.)

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## \* \* \* Plan to Update Vermont Design Standards \* \* \*

(b) As recommended in the State Standards Work Plan, the Agency of Transportation shall also prepare a plan to update documents, standards, guidance, and procedures related to the Vermont State Standards.

(c) The Agency shall budget for the plan to update the Vermont State Standards and related documents in the Proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Transportation Program.

(d) The Agency shall make staff available to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation for an oral presentation on the plan to update the Vermont State Standards and corresponding budget beginning on January 15, 2023.

# Recommended Revisions

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- **Develop** a user-friendly online interface
- **Integrate** other national and VTrans design guidance to create a centralized point of entry for accessing design resources



# Recommended Revisions

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- New chapter - **Design decision-making framework**
- **Context-based** roadway classification system to complement existing functional classification
- Guidance on **selecting appropriate design users** and balancing **needs of all modes** (trucks, transit, maintenance, bicycles, pedestrians, others)
- **Range of design options** for different contexts and provide **illustrations**

# Current Status

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- Carrying funding for SFY'24 and SFY'25
- Refining **Request for Proposals** seeking national expertise
- **Regular meetings** with stakeholders to discuss progress

# Next Steps

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- Issue RFP by June 2023
- Select Consultant team to begin work in SFY'24
- Anticipated Timeline – 2-3 Years
  - Phase 1 – Existing Conditions and Policy Considerations
  - Phase 2 – Goal Setting and Outreach
  - Phase 3 – Plan Development
  - Phase 4 – Implementation and Training



# Complete Streets Guidance

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- VT Law in 2011 - VTrans Complete Streets Guidance 2012
- Trainings/Awareness
  - ACCD Municipal Days, Transportation Advisory Committees, Regional Planning Commissions, Low-Cost Bike/Ped Improvement Training, VT Local Roads, Walk/Bike Summits (2016, 2018, 2022), Complete Streets Training for engineering staff in 2022...



# Complete Streets Guidance

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- [2021 Bike/Ped Strategic Plan](#) – Objective to “Educate external partners...” with 4 specific actions
- Updated Complete Streets guidance coming Summer 2023!

