



Apr 11, 2024

Dear Chair Kitchel & Members of the Senate Committee on Appropriations,

On behalf of the Transportation for Vermonters Coalition (T4VT), we would like to ask the Committee to prioritize funding for the [Better Places](#) program.

As a cross-sector coalition dedicated to building a sustainable and accessible transportation system for our rural state, programs like Better Places are critical to our goal of supporting communities in their efforts to strengthen their Main Streets and neighborhoods through “placemaking” projects that contribute to safe, productive, and people-oriented streets.

Better Places, managed by the Department of Housing & Community Development in partnership with the Vermont Department of Health and the Vermont Community Foundation, has proven to be a cost-effective tool for communities seeking to build community resilience and wellbeing. By enabling towns to apply for community “crowd-funded” projects, Better Places has helped to leverage the recent infusion of federal and philanthropic support for this concept.

T4VT advocated for the creation of Better Places, and the program has continued to be identified by coalition members as a key policy priority each year since. Community-driven placemaking projects around Vermont have helped to:

- Make places more walkable and bikeable;
- Support local businesses and economic recovery; and
- Strengthen community identity.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. Thank you for your consideration.

Kati Gallagher

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