

Cross Vermont Trail Association

2014-02-27

Thank you for the opportunity to present information to the House Committee on Transportation about the construction of a new section of Cross Vermont Trail underway in East Montpelier.

We have been awarded nearly \$1.3 million in Federal funds for this project (including two Enhancement grants and an earmark secured by Senator Sanders), have raised over \$117,000 in local donations and in-kind contributions, and are on schedule to raise another \$107,000 of private funds. In addition, we are respectfully requesting the Committee consider allocating \$100,000 in State transportation money as the final portion of the remaining non-federal match needed to construct this project.

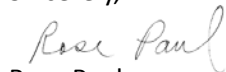
Ensuring a state portion of the matching funds now will help protect against the rescission of the federal money in future Congressional budgets keeping it to be spent **here in Vermont**. A portion of this construction money will be used to provide employment and training to Vermont youth hired by the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps.

The project is a 200 foot bridge over the Winooski River, and a long distance of related trail. It is a keystone piece in the growing four season regional trail network connecting cities and towns in the Barre-Montpelier area and beyond. It is also the most expensive and difficult to construct section of the proposed state wide Cross Vermont Trail route. Most of our trail is built with volunteers and simple methods. However, we do have experience carrying out large, federally funded projects - from 1999 to 2004 we successfully managed the construction of a trail underpass beneath I-91 in Newbury.

The Cross VT trail Association (CVTA) is a small non-profit that has been working since 1999 to establish a multi-use trail from Lake Champlain to the Connecticut River, following the Winooski River and Wells River valleys. To date, 30 miles of trail are built and 60 miles are routed on roads, signed and mapped (maps online at crossvermont.org). This trail provides family-friendly fitness and recreation, a safe route of travel for non-motorized, non-polluting transportation, and a real potential for economic development as services will be required for trail users, locals and visitors alike.

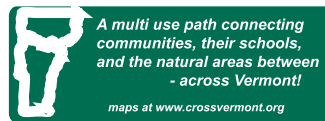
Thank you for your consideration. If the legislature will fund \$100,000 of the match required for the federal funds, CVTA can manage the remainder through private donations to create this alternative transportation route.

Sincerely,



Rose Paul

CVTA Board Chair



Cross Vermont Trail Association, Board of Directors and Staff:

*Rose Paul, Chair
Plainfield*

*Ben Rose, Vice-Chair
Williston*

*Rick Hopkins, Treasurer
East Montpelier*

*Jeff Cohen, Secretary
Jericho*

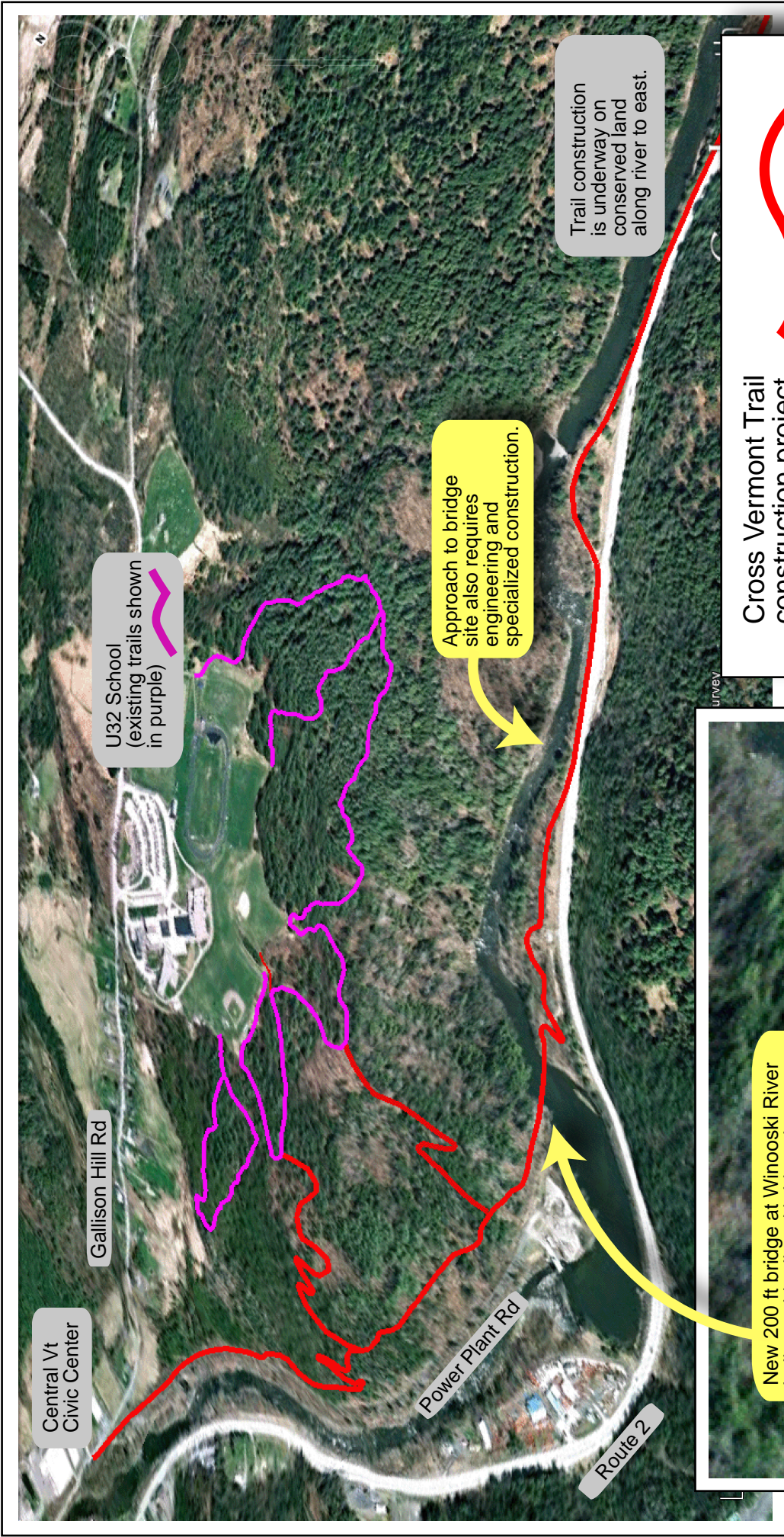
*Bill Merrylees,
East Montpelier*

Keith Swann, Plainfield

Mike Thomas, Wells River

*Greg Western,
Executive Director*





Central Vt
Civic Center

Gallison Hill Rd

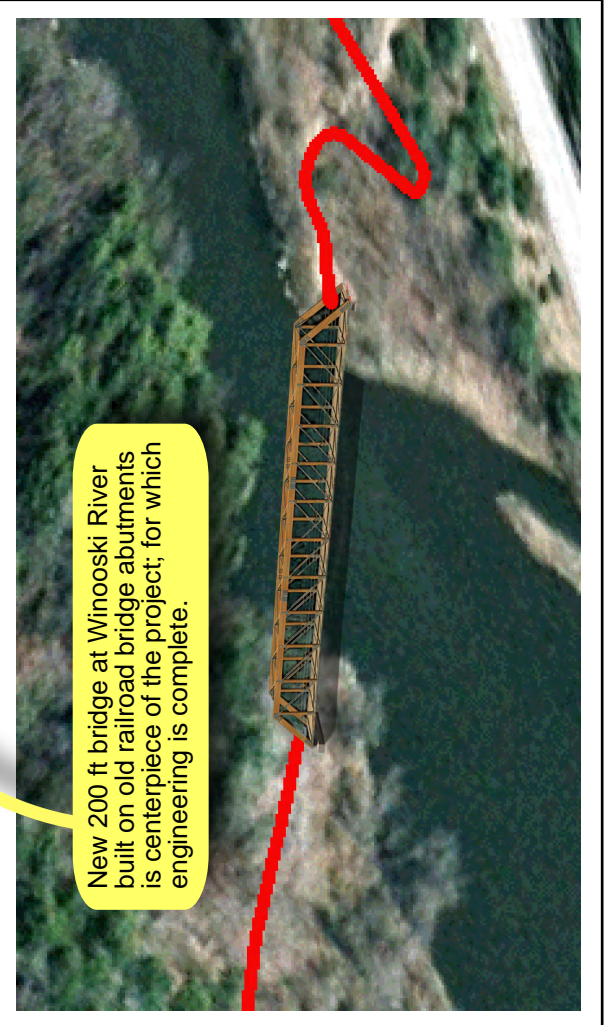
U32 School
(existing trails shown
in purple)

Power Plant Rd

Route 2

Approach to bridge
site also requires
engineering and
specialized construction.

Trail construction
is underway on
conserved land
along river to east.



New 200 ft bridge at Winooski River
built on old railroad bridge abutments
is centerpiece of the project; for which
engineering is complete.

Cross Vermont Trail
construction project
(shown in red).

In addition to bridge over Winooski and approach to bridge
along Rte 2, project includes over two miles of new trail
meeting universal accessibility guidelines.

A keystone project joining the planned Central Vt Path
to the west, East Montpelier Loop Trail to the north,
and Cross Vermont Trail to the east.

Creating safe, and scenic, alternative to what is
currently the most problematic on-road section along
Cross Vermont Trail state wide route.

Our partners expressing support today for continued work on the Cross Vt Trail.

Local youth employment and training during project construction: Vermont Youth Conservation Corps.

Municipalities: Montpelier, East Montpelier, Berlin, Plainfield.

Economic and Sustainable Development: Central Vt Regional Planning Commission, Vt Dept. of Tourism and Marketing, East Montpelier Trails, Inc., East Montpelier Village Committee, Local Motion, Catamount Trail Association, Waterbury LEAP, Vt Bicycle and Pedestrian Coalition.

Community health and vitality: Vt Dept. of Health, AARP, Plainfield Health Center.

Small business owners along the trail route: Central Vt Chamber of Commerce, Central Vt Artists Marketing Cooperative, Bob Watson (Montpelier), Amanda and Jason Thompson (Plainfield), Mark Simakaski (Groton).



Our mission.

groups, and management of a state of alternative natural

“Assist municipalities, recreation landowners in the creation and four-season, multi-use trail across the Vermont for public recreation, transportation, and awareness of our and cultural heritage.”

CVTA works extend local off road Chittenden,

with communities to promote, improve, and trails. The ultimate goal is a four season, network - complete state wide through Washington, Caledonia and Orange Counties.

Our budget.

PROJECT COSTS

- engineering (85% complete) \$285,000
- Winooski River bridge \$750,000
- other structures (in Rte 2 ROW) \$375,000
- storm water runoff treatment \$30,000
- miles of new trail in the woods, built by VYCC and volunteers \$160,000

Total cost: \$1,600,000

PROJECT FUNDING (updated 2014-02-07)

- federal funds awarded \$1,275,000
- non-federal match raised to date \$117,200
- CVTA will raise privately \$107,800

Requested from State: \$100,000



Cross Vermont Trail – The Challenge

Imagine: a multi-use, four-season off-road trail across the width of Vermont following the Winooski River & Wells River valleys, a 90 mile greenway for cyclists, skiers and walkers connecting communities, their schools, and the natural areas between. This vision has steadily moved toward reality through the quiet work of the Cross Vermont Trail Association.

The Cross Vermont Trail Association, formed in 1999, is an incorporated, private non-profit organization that is member-based and volunteer-driven. With part-time staff and donated office space, we are large enough to get things done, but small enough so that most of our funding goes directly into building new trails. We form partnerships with community organizations across the state to develop and expand local trails. Already 30 miles of Cross Vermont Trail are signed and open to the public. These 30 miles are complemented by our 60 miles of “on-road” route signs that identify the best roads people can use to link together existing trail sections. Meanwhile, we continue to work towards the ultimate goal of connecting all local trails into a continuous, statewide, off-road network.

How have we been building this trail? We use common sense, hand tools, and volunteers. We work with willing landowners to plan the best route for new sections of off-road trail. And over the years we have raised thousands of dollars of grant funds to secure easements, buy construction materials, and pay staff and youth crews. In time, we believe nearly all of the statewide route will be completed in this moderately scaled, incremental way. However, we currently face a challenge to complete a keystone piece of the trail by making an investment on a much larger scale.

Our Challenge:

- Build a 200-foot bridge, crossing the Winooski River at the center of the state, literally the keystone piece of the statewide trail.
- This is a bottleneck that we can't go around, but have to build through.
- We have agreements with landowners on either side of the river that will allow us to move the trail off 2.75 miles of US Route 2. Without a bridge, these agreements cannot be acted on.
- A 200 foot bridge spanning the river, and then another 600 feet of trestle bridge threading the needle between the river and Rte 2, cannot be built in our normal way. Extensive engineering and heavy construction contractors are needed. This will cost over one and a half million dollars. We have already raised \$1,392,200 and have \$207,800 to go.
- Route 2 here is a high speed road, unsafe for bicyclists and pedestrians. Help us get the trail off Route 2 and onto a path in the woods along the beautiful and scenic Winooski River.

OUR VISION: a multi-use, four season, off-road trail across Vermont from Lake Champlain to the Connecticut River.

- **Family friendly** recreation for people of all ages and abilities.
- **Safe travel** to school and work.
- **Convenient location** for daily exercise and healthy outdoor activity.
- **A permanent greenway** for easy local access to the natural world.

If ever there was a time to support the Cross Vermont Trail, it is now. We are working to build a legacy that will be a permanent addition to the Vermont landscape, creating a trail that will provide accessible opportunities for outdoor exercise, safe routes to work and school, and opportunities to enjoy Vermont's natural landscapes. Consider your involvement with the Cross Vermont Trail Association as an investment in your community's green infrastructure, well being, and physical health.

TOWN OF
EAST MONTPELIER, VERMONT
SELECTBOARD

Casey Northrup (2011 – 2014)
Steve Sparrow (2012 – 2014)

Kim Swasey (2013 – 2015)
Carl Etnier (2013 – 2016)
Chair, Seth Gardner (2012 – 2015)

February 17, 2014

Brian Searles, Secretary of Transportation
VT Agency of Transportation
One National Life Drive
Montpelier, VT 05633-5001

Re: Letter of Support for Cross VT Trail's Winooski River Bridge Project

Dear Secretary Searles:

As you probably know, the Cross Vermont Trail Association (CVTA) is requesting \$100,000 in VTrans funding to help reach the necessary match amount of a federal award to build a bridge across the Winooski River on the East Montpelier/Berlin line. This bridge is a vital component of Cross Vermont Trail, a multi-use path stretching across the state along the Winooski and Wells River valleys.

The Town of East Montpelier wholeheartedly supports this effort. The town has already provided seed funding for a part of the trail through the town, agreed to take over ownership of property with trail easements to lower CVTA costs, and continues to assist in the linkage of town trails to the Cross VT Trail to increase the opportunities for effective use of the trail.

The town would like to see the vision of this trail connecting so many Central Vermont communities come to fruition. We encourage you to look favorably on the CVTA funding request.

Sincerely,



Seth Gardner
Chair, East Montpelier Selectboard

2014-02-27

Jean Vissering, Vice-Chair
East Montpelier Village Committee
Town of East Montpelier

February 26, 2014

Chairman Patrick Brennan
House Transportation Committee
Statehouse
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

Dear Representative Brennan

I am writing on behalf of the East Montpelier Village Committee in support of funding for the Cross Vermont Trail Winooski River bridge. The bridge will be a critical link which could provide opportunities to connect East Montpelier village with Montpelier, providing both recreational and transportation opportunities.

Our seven-member committee is appointed by the East Montpelier Selectboard, and we are charged with promoting the development and enhancement of East Montpelier village as a place to live, work and do business. Our committee has worked successfully to provide sidewalks and crosswalks at the recently reconfigured intersection of Routes 2 and 14, and we now have a Bicycle/Pedestrian Grant to extend sidewalks throughout the village center. Creating links to the Cross Vermont Trail, which runs along the edge of the village is an important future goal.

As you know the bridge has been designed and federal grant money is available. Only \$300,000 of the \$1.6 million project is needed, much of which will come from private fund-raising. Our Committee urges the legislature to support state funding of \$100,000 through the Vtrans' budget toward the non-federal match for construction of the bridge.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.


Jean Vissering

EAST MONTPELIER TRAILS, INC.

--RECREATIONAL TRAILS ARE A GIFT TO OUR CHILDREN--

February 7, 2014
East Montpelier, VT 05602

Dear Rep. Lanpher,

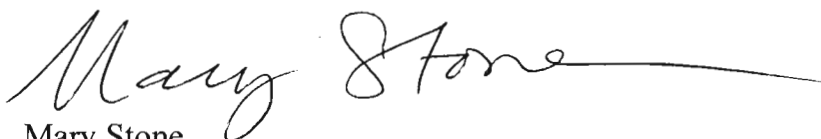
On behalf of East Montpelier Trails, I am writing to express strong support for the Cross Vermont Trail Association (CVTA) request for funding for the Winooski River Bridge and trail in East Montpelier, Berlin, and Barre Town. This project connects with the Montpelier Bike Path East, the Central Vermont Civic Center, and for us, it makes the all important intersection of the Cross Vermont Trail with the proposed eastern terminus of the 17-mile East Montpelier Loop Trail, of which 12 miles is already completed and fully utilized by the Central Vermont communities.

The Winooski River bridge planning and construction is a project with a lot of local support behind it, and East Montpelier Trails is very excited about progress here. We have collaborated with CVTA for over a decade on this section's planning and design, and now the timing and opportunity are right. We are hopeful that they will be able to secure the additional funding in order to access the federal "earmark" funds.

In November of 2013 East Montpelier Trails participated in the closing of a conservation easement on the Clark family farm, negotiated by the Vermont Housing Conservation Board. This land abuts the U32 property and will connect our network of trails through the U32 trail system to the CVTA bridge and from there on to the Cross Vermont Trail, west to Montpelier and east to Plainfield. The bridge clearly is critical to making the connection to the other communities. The success of this CVTA project will be a big step forward in our collective efforts. It is not only important to East Montpelier Trails, but to the Town of East Montpelier and Union-32 school board and staff, all of which have a long history of supporting these trail efforts. The volunteer support of parents, students, staff and citizens to build this trail has been, and continues to be very strong.

Please contact us if we can provide any more information at all. And thank you for serving in the legislature.

Sincerely Yours,



Mary Stone
President, East Montpelier Trails

2014-02-27



TOWN OF BERLIN, VERMONT
Washington County

Berlin Conservation Commission
Berlin Town Office
108 Shed Road
Berlin, VT 05602

Chairman Patrick Brennan
House Transportation Committee
Statehouse
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

February 24, 2014

Dear Representative Brennan,

I am writing on behalf of the Berlin Conservation Commission to support the request by the Cross Vermont Trail Association for funding to build a 200-foot bridge (the Powerdam Bridge) over the Winooski River in East Montpelier and two miles of new, accessible trail. The Powerdam Bridge and two miles of trail will be the keystone project linking the planned Central Vermont Path with the Cross Vermont Trail.

The Powerdam Bridge will provide access to a section of the Cross Vermont Trail in the Town of Berlin parallel to Rt 2. Furthermore, the Central Vermont Path will connect the Cross Vermont Trail to Montpelier. The vision for the Central Vermont Path is to connect Montpelier, Berlin, Barre and Barre Town. Both the Trail and the Path have some built segments and other segments in various planning or design stages. Berlin has most recently hired a firm to design a bike/pedestrian plan to connect the businesses and residents in the commercial center of the Barre-Montpelier Road.

The Powerdam Bridge is a vital link in the growing network of safe, family-friendly off-road paths in the Barre, Berlin and Montpelier area. Each link that is built in this network helps make our local communities more vibrant by supporting healthy choices for our residents and increasing the potential for tourism dollars generated by visitors to the Capitol district who may enjoy a bike ride, a walk, and some local shopping along our inviting network of bicycle and pedestrian paths.

Please consider supporting the Powerdam Bridge and trail project to help make this vision a reality for central Vermont.

Sincerely,

Andrea Chandler
Berlin Conservation Commission
andreachandler@ymail.com

Chairman Patrick Brennan
House Transportation Committee
Statehouse
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

February 10, 2014

Dear Representative Brennan,

The Plainfield Selectboard would like to express our support for the request by the Cross Vermont Trail Association for state funding for the 200-foot Powerdam Bridge over the Winooski River in East Montpelier and two miles of accessible trail.

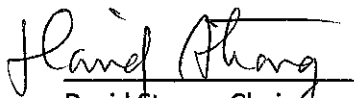
The Cross Vermont Trail has been one of the goals in the Plainfield Town Plan for years. Our current Plan includes the Cross Vermont Trail in Strategies for Recreation and Transportation, stating: "Support the extension of the Cross Vermont Trail through Plainfield." (p. 55, Plainfield Town Plan November 2007)

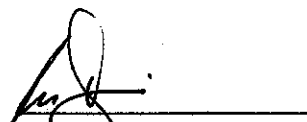
The trail, which passes through our lower village, offers healthy lifestyle choices to village and rural residents-to take a walk, ski, or bike ride. Our newly installed information kiosk at Mill Street Park includes a statewide map of the Cross Vermont Trail with an inset showing access points from Plainfield village, as well as information about bicycle safety. There are bicycle-parking racks at this park and at the trailhead at the Park and Ride, which is serviced by the GMTA US 2 Commuter. The Selectboard believes that folks passing through our village on the trail will stop to patronize our local businesses (most notably two food providers, two local artisan gift shops, and a fine used bookstore).

The planned Powerdam Bridge will increase the safe, off-road connections for residents of Montpelier, East Montpelier, and Berlin to take a pleasant bike ride into Plainfield village, have a bite to eat, and enjoy some shopping at our unique downtown businesses. We encourage you to support the Powerdam Bridge and trail project to strengthen the vitality of Plainfield's businesses and residents.

Sincerely,

The Plainfield Selectboard


David Strong, Chair


Bram Towbin


Alice Merrill



Chairman Patrick Brennan
House Transportation Committee
Statehouse
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

February 12, 2014

Dear Representative Brennan,

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission supports the completion of the Cross Vermont Trail.

The Cross Vermont Trail furthers the goals of the Regional Transportation Plan by encouraging a shift to under-utilized travel modes. In particular, by retaining an abandoned railroad rights-of-way for transportation uses such as trails and bike paths (Goal 3); and by promoting projects that limit conflicts between motor vehicle traffic and pedestrians (Goal 6).

All together, the trail and bike facility projects recommended by the plan serve to create a region wide opportunity for people to walk or bike to their destinations. The benefits of this are stated in the plan and include reduction of need for vehicles on roads, reduction in use of fossil fuel and pollution, increase in community health, and economic benefits.

Bicycling and walking are increasingly used in the region for commuting purposes (as shown by Census journey-to-work data.) Separated shared use paths are off road facilities useful to make connections between destinations when the existing road network isn't suitable. Route 2 between Montpelier and East Montpelier is a high traffic, high speed road, and a truck route, not suitable for bicycle/pedestrian use by younger, older, or less physically mobile individuals. The proposed Cross Vermont Trail project would provide an functional alternative route for these people (and for any person simply seeking to be away from road traffic.)

The Cross Vermont Trail Winooski River bridge would form a central, connecting piece in a region wide trail network, including the Central Vermont Regional Path to the west and south, the East Montpelier Loop Trail to the north, and the continuation of the Cross Vermont Trail itself to the east through the villages of East Montpelier, Plainfield, Marshfield, Groton, South Ryegate, and Wells River.

Sincerely,

Steve Gladczuk
Senior Transportation Planner

Cross Vt Trail Assoc.
2014-02-27

February 24, 2014

Chairman Patrick Brennan
House Committee of Transportation
Montpelier, Vermont

Dear Chairman Brennan and Committee:

Local Motion strongly supports the request by the Cross Vermont Trail Association for state funding of \$100K to leverage \$1.2 million of federal dollars and complete a critical trail section over the Winooski River in central Vermont. This proposal will connect central Vermont communities with a beautiful off-road bike path traversing forests and farmlands, providing non-motorized transportation that is healthy for individuals and the environment.

This will also be healthy for the local economy, as illustrated by the study, *Economic Impact of Walking and Biking in Vermont*, published by VTrans and Local Motion in March 2012. This study provides a one year (2009) "snapshot" of the total economic and environmental benefit - including direct, secondary and spin-off benefits - of bicycle and pedestrian facilities and activities, including tourism, environmental, real estate values, health, reduction in demand on the transportation systems, and other economic benefits. Below are some of the findings:

- In 2009, the building and maintaining bicycling-pedestrian facilities and bicycle-pedestrian program and planning activities in Vermont generated a total employment of 233 direct and indirect workers with total labor earnings of \$9.9 million.
- Bicycle-pedestrian-oriented businesses in Vermont generated a total of \$56.3 million in output and supported 1,025 direct and indirect jobs with \$26.3 million in labor earnings.
- Bicycle-pedestrian-related visitor expenditures were obtained for over 40 major running and bicycling events taking place across Vermont in 2009. These 40 major events attracted over 16,000 participants. Combined with associated family and friends, these visitors spent over \$6 million in the state.
- Combined, these bicycle-pedestrian oriented segments contribute \$82.7 million of total output and support 1,418 direct and indirect jobs with \$40.9 million in labor earnings.
- The state budget fiscal impact from bicycle and pedestrian activities in 2009 amounted to a net positive of \$1.6 million of tax and fee revenues for the State of Vermont.

A 2008 study of the economic impact of the Burlington Bike Path showed that tourists spent between \$1M and \$2.5M in our area in a 5 month period that year. This doesn't even count the public health and quality of life benefits of the trail. **Facilities like these enrich our state immeasurably and are important to support.**

We are thrilled that the Cross Vermont Trail Association continues to work on making the connections in the Cross Vermont trail. The state can make a real difference by authorizing the funding to leverage federal dollars to build this bridge.

Yours in Motion,



Charlene Wallace
Co-Interim Executive Director

Island Line Trail
Causeway Bike Ferry
Bike Recycle Vermont
Safe Routes to School
Online Trail Finder
Trailside Center



1 Steele Street #103
Burlington, VT 05401
(p) 802.652.2453
(f) 802.861.2700
info@localmotion.org
www.localmotion.org



Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce

Cross Vt Trail Assoc.
2014-02-27

At Beaulieu Place

“Where Business and Technology Meet”

PO Box 336 • 33 Stewart Rd. • Barre, VT 05641

Responsibly improving the climate for doing business in the Central Vermont Community.

To: House Committee on Transportation, Patrick Brennan, Chair
From: Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce
Date: 2/25/14
Re: Transportation Bill, Cross Vermont Trail, Winooski River Bridge

The Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce is pleased to share with members of the House Committee on Transportation its insights into the importance of tourism to our region, and the exciting role that biking plays in relation to the hospitality industry.

The Central Vermont Chamber is a private, not-for-profit, voluntary association of roughly 300 businesses and organizations operating 400 locations throughout Central Vermont. The Chamber serves the same geographic area as the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission and the Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation.

Bicycling in Central Vermont has become and continues to be increasingly popular among locals and tourists alike. The Central Vermont Back Road Bike Tour guide is the Chamber's most requested publication. A collaborative project of the Chamber and CVRPC, it was first published more than two decades ago as a booklet on newsprint. It was dramatically expanded and republished a decade later as a four-color, rack-sized (and back pocket sized) guide. At the same time, it was posted as a multi-page section of the regional website.

Requests for the publication surged and bike tours became the most heavily visited section of the website. As the focus on fitness and healthy recreation continues to intensify, biking has been ever more popular.

Of the \$2 billion visitors spend annually in Vermont, \$123 million goes to entertainment and recreation that includes bicycling. Central Vermont enjoys about 10 percent of those expenditures, and biking is a huge contributor that will only be enhanced and enriched by completion of the cross-Vermont trail.

The Chamber not only wants tourists to come to Vermont to spend money and have a good time, but we also want them to be safe. Separating the bikers from vehicular traffic protects both and greatly enhances the biking experience.

On behalf of the region's business community, we'd like to extend our thanks for the many steps the legislature and the Vermont Department of Transportation have taken to improve safety and promote biking.

The Chamber encourages resident to enjoy “stay-cations” and weekend adventures by taking advantage of the attractions and amenities that visitors travel hundreds or thousand of miles to enjoy. Recreational paths, bike trails, and extreme biking facilities fall in that category, and we ask legislators to keep in mind that dollars “retained locally” are just as important as those brought into the state by tourists.

Your continued investment in all facets of Vermont's transportation infrastructure is appreciated.

Chairman Patrick Brennan
House Transportation Committee
Statehouse
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

February 12, 2014

Dear Representative Brennan,

I am the owner of Capitol Grounds, a coffee shop and restaurant located on State Street in Montpelier. My customers are often bicyclists, runners and even skiers stopping in during or after their exercise.

The route of the Cross Vermont Trail goes right in front of my restaurant. I understand they are requesting funding from the Legislature to help them construct a bridge over the Winooski River in East Montpelier. I think my restaurant will benefit if this bridge is built because more bicyclists will probably ride past, and stop in, at Capitol Grounds.

I have helped to support the Cross Vermont Trail in recent years by donating coffee and bagels for their annual fundraising ride in June. I think this is a worthy project and I urge you to support them as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Watson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bob Watson
Capitol Grounds

2014-02-27

**Blinking Light Gallery
Central Vermont Artists Marketing Cooperative
16 Main Street
P.O. Box 25
Plainfield, Vermont 05667**

Chairman Patrick Brennan
House Transportation Committee
Statehouse
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

February 12, 2014

Dear Representative Brennan,

The board members of the Blinking Light Gallery, a local artisan's collective gallery and gift shop located in Plainfield village, would like to express our support for the Cross Vermont Trail and the Winooski River bridge project.

Plainfield village is a wonderful destination for visitors because our small village has several quality choices for shopping and eating. The proposed bridge will likely make it easier for bicycle riders from the Capitol District to take a pleasure ride out to Plainfield where they will be delighted by what the Blinking Light Gallery has to offer. Increased visitor traffic to Plainfield village will benefit our business, and the Cross Vermont Trail is one good way to bring visitors into the village.

We encourage you to support the Powerdam Bridge and trail project to benefit our business and our neighboring business owners.

Sincerely,



Helen Rabin, President
Blinking Light Gallery Board of Directors

Chairman Patrick Brennan
House Transportation Committee
Statehouse
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

February 10, 2014

Dear Representative Brennan,

We are the new owners of Maple Valley Cafe, a year-round restaurant and gift shop located in Marshfield, Vermont on Rt. 2. Despite our Marshfield location, we are actually just on the edge of Plainfield village. We would like to express our support for the request by the Cross Vermont Trail Association for state funding for the 200-foot Powerdam Bridge over the Winooski River in East Montpelier and two miles of handicap-accessible trail.

The Cross Vermont Trail will benefit our business because it will bring more visitors into Plainfield Village. The Powerdam Bridge will likely encourage more bicycle riders to take a recreational ride from Montpelier, Berlin and East Montpelier, and we think the riders will find that our restaurant is a perfect destination for breakfast or lunch within easy riding distance from their homes. Maple Valley's casual atmosphere will be welcoming to bicycle travelers who can find tasty, tempting and healthy choices on our menu.

We encourage you to support the Powerdam Bridge and trail project to benefit our business and our neighboring business owners.

Sincerely,

Amanda and Jason Thompson
Maple Valley Cafe

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized 'A' and 'J' followed by a horizontal line, representing Amanda and Jason Thompson.



Mr. Greg Western
Cross Vermont Trail Association, Inc.
29 Main Street
Suite 4
Montpelier, VT 05602

12 February 2014

Dear Greg,

Please accept this letter of support for the Cross Vermont Trail Association and your efforts to provide a year-round, multi-use trail that highlights the diversity of Vermont's landscapes. The Cross Vermont Trail directly impacts our business by providing a steady stream of trail users that not only pass through Groton but also wander off trail to visit our meadery and ice cream stand.

The trail itself is a resource that is recognized by our community as an asset that should be protected and expanded. As former chair of Groton's planning commission, we recognized that the Cross Vermont Trail provides a pleasant and safe corridor for outdoor activities and is recognized in the Groton Town Plan as a resource for alternative transportation and as a significant scenic road.

I look forward to the results of the hard work of the Cross Vermont Trail Association as well as enjoying the benefits of having this asset in our back yard.

Thank you,

Mark Simakaski
Owner, Artesano



February 22, 2014

Chairman Patrick Brennan
House Transportation Committee
Statehouse
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

RE: Letter of support for the Vermont Natural Resource Council's "Community Solar" Proposal

Dear Representative Brennan,

I am writing on behalf of Waterbury LEAP (Local Energy Action Partnership) to express our strong support for the request being made by Cross Vermont Trail Association (CVTA) for funding to support the CVTA Winooski River Bridge

Waterbury LEAP is one of the state's most active and productive local energy committees. Our stated goal is to turn Waterbury into the greenest town in Vermont by 2020. Since 2007 our nonprofit has completed dozens of projects that have moved us much closer to that achievement.

One of LEAP's projects is called Waterbury in Motion, and that initiative strives to build a web of trails and paths throughout our community and the surrounding area to support and expand bicycle and pedestrian access and activities.

In recent years we have worked closely with CVTA, and they have provided us with considerable guidance and hands-on assistance as we have expanded and enhanced the section of the Cross Vermont Trail that runs through Waterbury behind the Waterbury State Complex.

Trails and paths continue to expand in Waterbury and the surrounding area, and as they do more and more people make our town a destination for biking and hiking. As CVTA continues to expand their trail across Vermont, I expect that we will see an even greater expansion in recreation and tourism-related visits just as they have around the Kingdom Trails near Burke. Once a continuous, safe and scenic trail is established across Vermont many people will enjoy traveling on part or all of that trail. The Winooski River Bridge is a key piece that is needed to make that vision a reality.

We hope the House Transportation Committee will support this support this important project. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Duncan McDougall, *Chair*
Waterbury LEAP (Local Energy Action Partnership)
1536 Loomis Hill Road
Waterbury Center, VT 05677
802-244-0944 www.waterburyleap.org

Catamount Trail Association

“The Length of Vermont on Skis”



February 24, 2014

Chairman Patrick Brennan
House Committee on Transportation
Montpelier, Vermont

Dear Chairman Brennan and Committee Members,

I am writing in support of the Cross Vermont Trail's efforts to construct a multi-use trail from West to East across the state of Vermont, and in particular, to support its work to build a 200 foot bridge across the Winooski River in East Montpelier. This bridge will allow trail users to avoid traveling on US Route 2 with fast moving traffic and numerous trucks, improving their safety, and their experience of the trail and Vermont.

Just as the VAST trails bring snowmobile enthusiasts to Vermont in the winter, and Kingdom Trails brings mountain biking enthusiasts to Vermont in the warmer months, other significant trail systems are part of Vermont's recreational economy. The Catamount Trail and the Cross Vermont trail bring out-of-state enthusiasts here with their skis, hiking boots, and bikes, ready to enjoy the outdoors and contribute to the local economy.

The Catamount Trail Association has worked with many community partners over the years to provide backcountry skiing opportunities across the state, and in the past, has benefitted from several state appropriations. By providing this special allocation to the Cross Vermont Trail, you will be supporting their efforts to welcome more recreational users to Vermont throughout the year, provide better connectivity between local communities, and draw additional business to Vermont villages and towns.

I encourage you to give CVT's allocation request careful consideration and to offer it your financial support.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Amy Kelsey

Amy Kelsey
Executive Director



The Health Center

P.O. Box 320 • Plainfield Vermont 05667-0320 • (802) 454-8336

Chairman Patrick Brennan
House Transportation Committee
Statehouse
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

February 19, 2014

Dear Representative Brennan,

The Health Center located in Plainfield, Vermont is a federally qualified community health center offering a full range of medical and dental services for communities throughout northeast Washington County. We have a Health and Wellness Coordinator who is available to all our patients to help them achieve healthy lifestyle goals for smoking cessation, exercise and diet. We also have a dietitian who is a Certified Diabetes Educator on our staff. We offer a range of wellness classes to the communities we serve in keeping with our emphasis on prevention.

We believe the Cross Vermont Trail, which passes through many of the towns we serve, is a wonderful option for our community members to engage in exercise at their own pace including bicycle riding, walking, cross country skiing and horseback riding. The Cross Vermont Trail provides a safe alternative to riding on public roads such as Route 2 and people of all abilities and ages can take advantage of the trail where it passes through their community.

We encourage you to support the Powerdam Bridge and trail project in East Montpelier and Montpelier. The bridge will make the trail more accessible to a greater number of people and encourage people to take longer walks and rides. We encourage our patients to engage in exercise for their health and well-being, and the Cross Vermont Trail provides a safe enjoyable exercise option for central Vermonters.

Sincerely,

Linda Bartlett
Chief Operations Officer



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February 24, 2014

Chairman Patrick Brennan
House Committee of Transportation
Montpelier, Vermont

Cross Vt Trail Assoc.
2014-02-27

Chairman Brennan and Committee Members:

On behalf of AARP-VT we are supportive of the request by the Cross Vermont Trail Association for funding to build a 200-foot Powerdam bridge over the Winooski River in East Montpelier and two miles of new, accessible trail. This proposal will support our efforts to promote more livable communities across the state by increasing mobility options and opportunity to facilitate personal independence and the engagement of residents in physical and social life.

AARP-VT has been working to build awareness about the infrastructure, and the community design needed to maintain a high quality of life in order to reduce isolation, foster connection, and increase active living for people of all ages. The proposal before the House Committee of Transportation will enhance overall livability. The Powerdam Bridge is a vital link in the growing network of safe, family-friendly off-road paths in the Barre, Berlin and the Montpelier area. The Cross Vermont Trail will provide access for bicyclists, walkers, cross country skiers and snowshoers to travel off-road from Lake Champlain down the Winooski valley to the New Hampshire border. This will be a valuable resource to commuters and tourists alike. Each link that is built in this network helps our vibrant local community by supporting healthy choices for our residents and increasing the potential for tourism.

Vermont is the second oldest state in the country and we're getting older. A strong determinant in "successful aging" is the ability of a person to interact with the community, friends, and family in a variety of activities. Please consider supporting the Powerdam Bridge and trail project to help make this vision of active ageing a reality for central Vermont residents.

Sincerely,

Kelly Stoddard Poor,
Director of Outreach
kstoddardpoor@aarp.org