



Thank you, Senator Mazza/Representative Brennan and all the members of the committee. I appreciate the opportunity to share with you some of what Local Motion has accomplished this past year. This isn't going to be your typical legislative testimony, though. In the next ten or fifteen minutes, I'm going to share a few stories about biking with you. Here we go.

[click]



We're going to start with Bike Smart. As you might remember, it was a TE grant that got Bike Smart off the ground nearly a decade ago, and it was another round of funding a year or so back that is allowing us to double the capacity of the program -- from 6000 kids per year to 12,000 -- as of 2018.

Here's a WCAX piece featuring one of our smallest schools: Isle La Motte Elementary. It's from a couple of years back, but this school does Bike Smart every year. And boy, do they do it right. Watch.

[start video]



An inspiring story from a really small school. But they are far from alone. The fact is, there are kids all over Vermont -- thousands and thousands of them -- who get to fall in love with biking. Here are just a few of them: determined, proud, joyful. Thanks to Local Motion -- thanks to you -- kids all over our state get a taste of what life on two wheels is like.

[click]



Now the same story, but in numbers. (Not every story has to be told as a video!)
Since the first VTrans grant that launched this program back in 2010, we've worked with:
14 = that's all of them!
60 = nearly 1 in 4 towns
73 = about 1 in 3 non-high schools
31K = about a third of student population (although these are not unique students)
148K = a whole lot of hours! (at a cost of about \$2 per training hour)



Let's switch gears now to a story about biking and Vermont that most of you have experienced for yourself: falling in love with the Island Line and the Bike Ferry. This is a true Vermont experience that we are proud to provide, and we are deeply appreciative of your support, year in and year out, for its making it possible.



"We enjoyed our ride so much and loved the information and enthusiasm of all the folks on the ferry. We have ridden in many countries and LOVED riding in Vermont. Thanks so much!"

April Green & John Long, Mill Valley, CA

	2014	2015	2016	2017 (Estimate)
Net operating income (loss)	\$ (66,008)	\$ (66,838)	\$ (29,302)	\$ (610)

The best part is, if you love the Ferry, you are now in very good company. This year, we hit 16,000 passengers for the first time ever! Here's what April Green, our 16,000th passenger, had to say about it.

[click]
[read her quote]

But again, good stories don't always have to be about people. Here's another story about numbers -- one that will make any finance manager's heart sing:

[click]

For the first time, the Ferry will end the year in the black. Not just from fares, mind you -- they paid about two-thirds of the cost of running the ferry. But with help from donors who give specifically to keep this amazing service running, plus the folks at VTrans and the Legislature who see how important a transportation resource this is, plus our sponsors who partner with us to put the Ferry over the top, we finally did it.

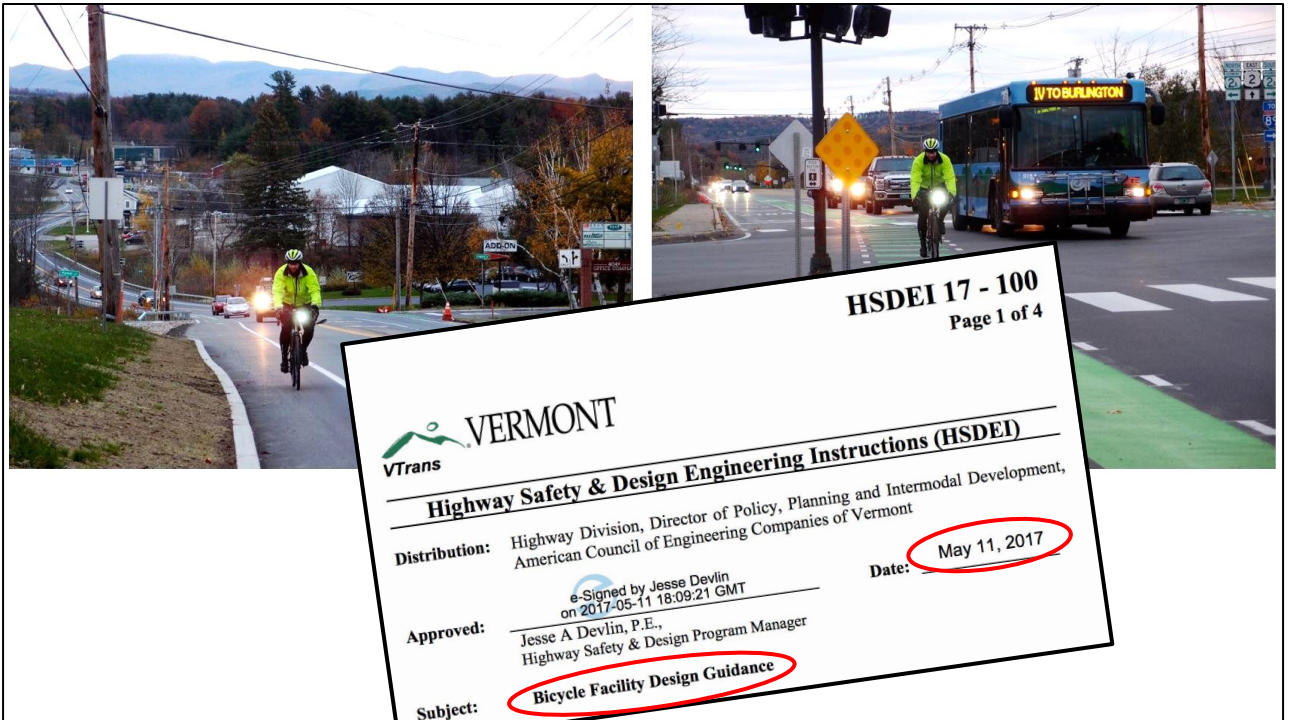


Now for a story about changing the rules and making life better for biking and walking -- on the ground, instead of on the lake.

For some people, biking is a lifelong love affair. This is certainly the case for Dr. Scott Luria of Williston, a physician who commutes by bike every day to his job at the UVM Medical Center. Dr. Luria estimates he has commuted by bike more than 200,000 miles in his lifetime. And with the new bike lanes on Williston Road—Dr. Luria's daily commuting route—his ride is much more relaxing than it used to be.

Behind Dr. Luria's story is another great story -- not as personal, but much more far-reaching. It is a story about engineers...

[click]



You see, before VTrans could build these beautiful green bike lanes into the design for Williston Road, they had to build bike lane standards into their Highway Safety & Design Engineering Instructions. It took a while (and a few pokes from Local Motion), but now that they have made this change, bike lanes will be showing up in state highway projects all across Vermont. You gotta love it when your state agency of transportation bakes some bike love right into their own operating instructions!

And it isn't just Williston Road. Local Motion has been working with VTrans to build safer biking and walking into how the agency does business across the board. Perhaps most exciting, we're working with top VTrans staff on a really important initiative with a really boring name -- the "Bike-Walk Working Group" -- whose goal is to help the Agency lay out in clear terms what kinds of walk & bike-related improvements are feasible in what kinds of VTrans projects.

We will then help them work with community groups and advocates to help them focus on improvements that can actually happen. Wide shoulders on Route 100 from Waterbury to Stowe? Absolutely! A separated path along Route 5 from Bradford to White River Junction? Not happening. This kind of thoughtful and structured collaboration is, as best I know, a first in the country, and it's going to make Vermont a lot more bikeable and walkable -- without breaking the bank.

[click]

KINGDOM ROADS



**Safer Walking and Biking in
Craftsbury, Greensboro,
Hardwick, and Barton Village**

I'd like to share another example of our on-the-ground community work with you -- one that is not Chittenden County. While Local Motion started in Burlington, we now work with communities all over the state to help them become better places to bike and walk. One of the projects I'm most excited about is one we call "Kingdom Roads." In 2016 and 2017, we worked with four communities -- Craftsbury, Hardwick, Greensboro, and Barton Village -- to help them do two things: create simple designs for making their villages safer and more inviting for walking, and identify a network of back roads to connect their villages by bike. All four communities have adopted the plan, and we are looking forward to working with them to help them get these ideas built.



Finally, something fun. Here's what happens when you go bike camping -- with your dog. (A hint: you have almost as much fun as the dog...)

[show video]

Thank you so much for taking the time to invite Local Motion in to share with you a few stories about what we do for Vermont. We are proud of our work and deeply appreciative of the partnerships that make it possible.

I've brought two of those partners with me today. I'd like to switch gears now, and share with you an exciting new partnership called Transportation for Vermonters that brings together organizations, businesses and institutions to create a sustainable, accessible transportation system in our rural state. The partnership exists to advocate for transportation programs and investments that improve Vermont's air quality, health, economic vitality, and mobility, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Local Motion is proud to be a member of Transportation for Vermonters, and proud to have representatives of two other members of this partnership here with us. Please welcome...

SENATE

Jennifer Wallace-Brodeur, Director of Transportation Efficiency, Vermont Energy Investment Corporation

Kate McCarthy, Sustainable Communities Program Director, Vermont Natural Resources Council

HOUSE

Tina Zuk, Senior Director of Government Relations, American Heart Association of Vermont

Jennifer Wallace-Brodeur, Director of Transportation Efficiency, Vermont Energy Investment Corporation