



Statewide Rail Trails Program

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House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development
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Program Introduction

- Program created in 2022
- As of July 1, 2022, VTrans is responsible for local/regional coordination, maintenance, marketing, communications, and general oversight of:
 - Beebe Spur Rail Trail (BBRT) – 6 miles
 - Delaware & Hudson Rail Trail (DHRT) – 19 miles
 - Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail (MVRT) – 26 miles
 - Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT) – 93 miles

Program Overview

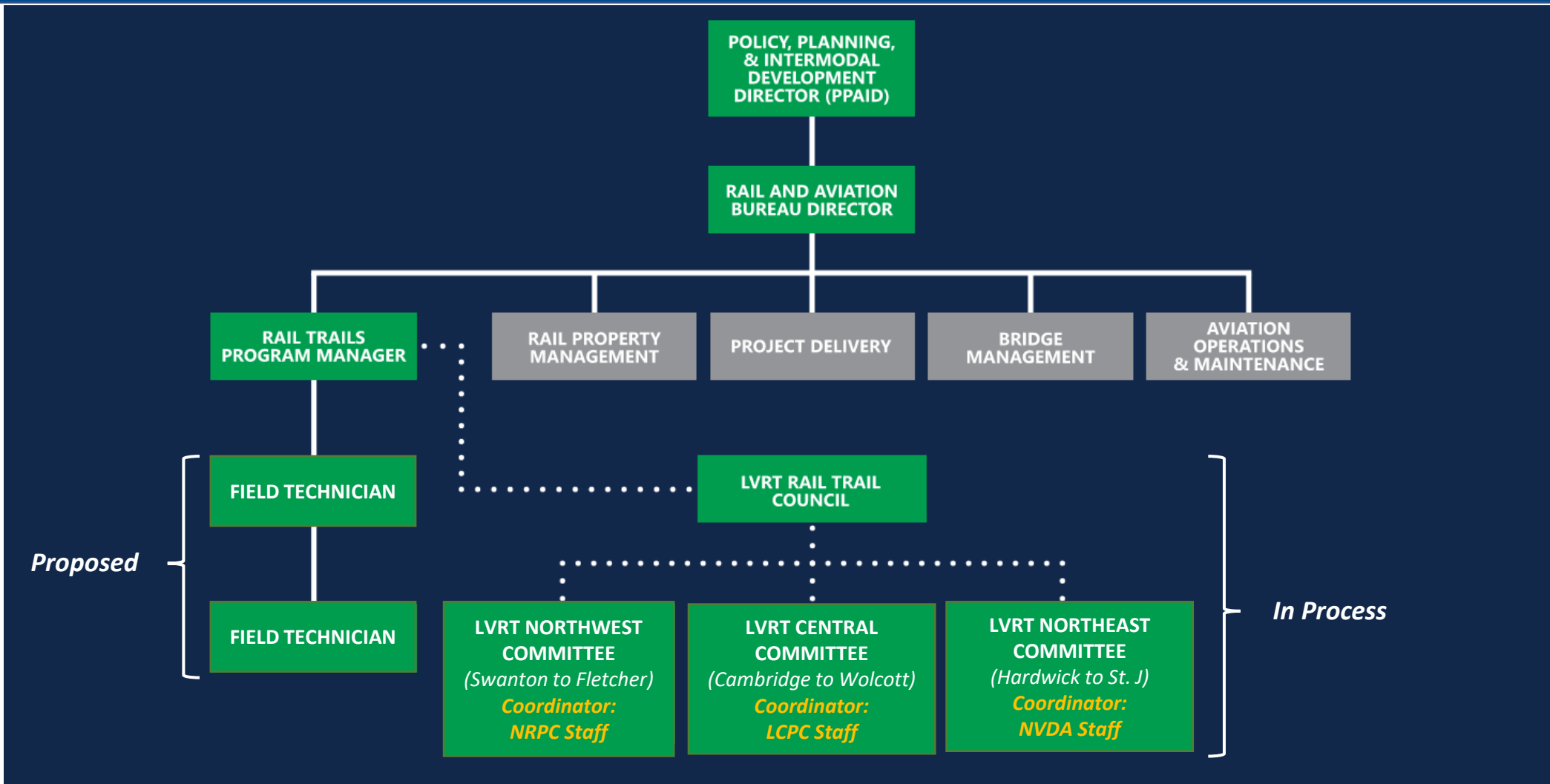


- Program Management
- Trails Maintenance & Operations
- Supporting economic development and community connections

Figure 6. Trail Assets and Feature Highlights



Program Management





GOALS

OBJECTIVES



**Support the Economic
Vitality of Northern Vermont
Communities**

- Promote LVRT locally and regionally to draw visitors to the trail and trailside communities
- Improve connections to villages and town centers to encourage exploration of trailside communities
- Complement existing economic development plans in trailside communities



**Cultivate Community,
Culture, and History along
the Trail and in Trailside
Communities**

- Foster trail stewardship opportunities to promote sense of community pride
- Encourage inclusive and respectful trail use
- Promote rural heritage, history, and educational programming



**Promote Healthy and
Connected Communities**

- Encourage healthy and active lifestyles
- Provide meaningful opportunities for connection with the scenic, natural, and agricultural landscape
- Promote development and improve connections to recreational opportunities proximate to the LVRT
- Improve connections to alternative transportation networks and trail systems



**Preserve the Corridor and
Maintain Trail Condition**

- Provide for routine asset condition assessment, maintenance, and preservation activities
- Support well-maintained facilities for health and safety
- Provide convenient trail access points along the LVRT with clear directional signage and well-maintained parking areas



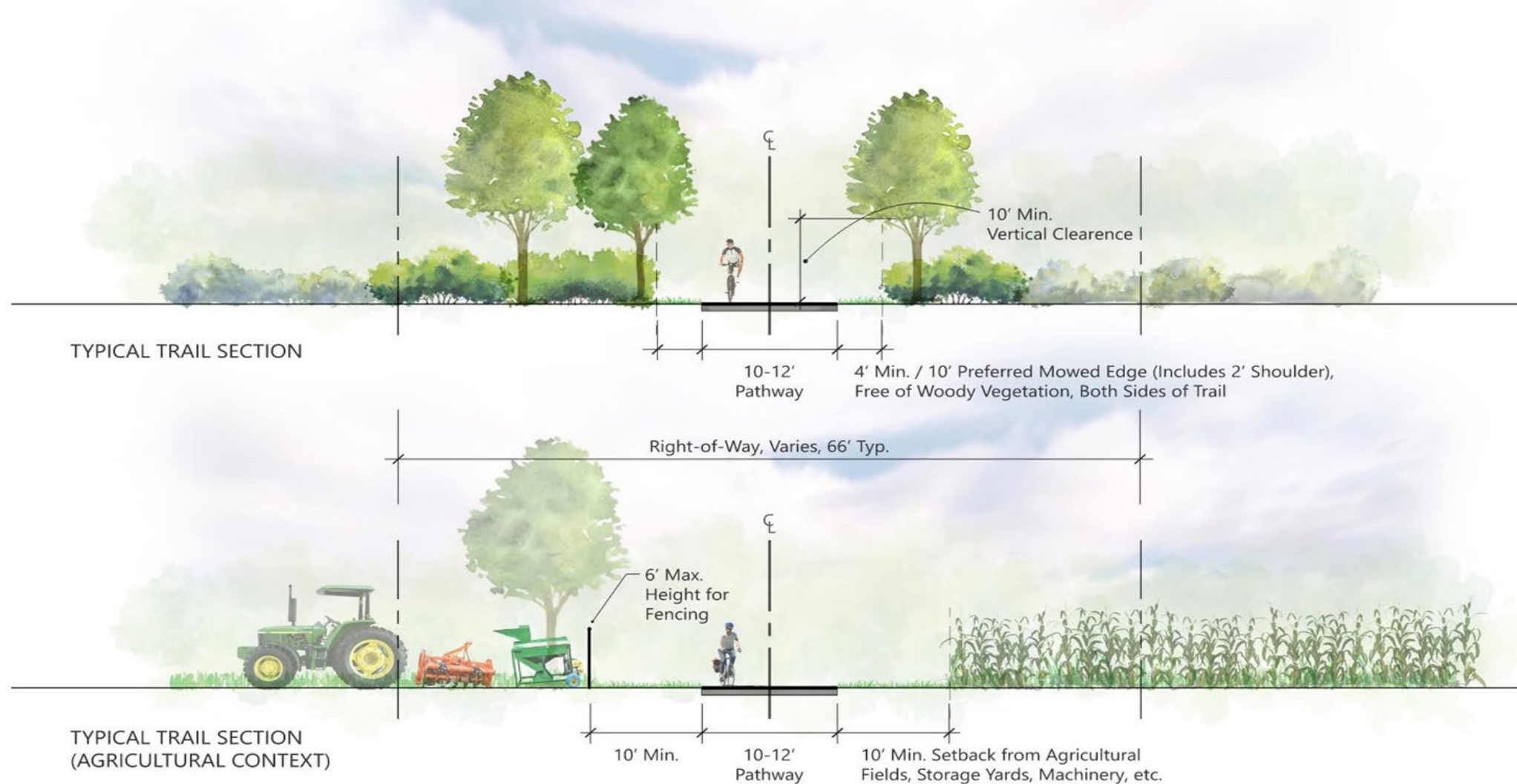
**Establish a Well-Managed
Trail System**

- Support and coordinate proactive trail management, maintenance, and operations activities
- Identify stable sources of funding for management, maintenance, operations, enhancements, and programming

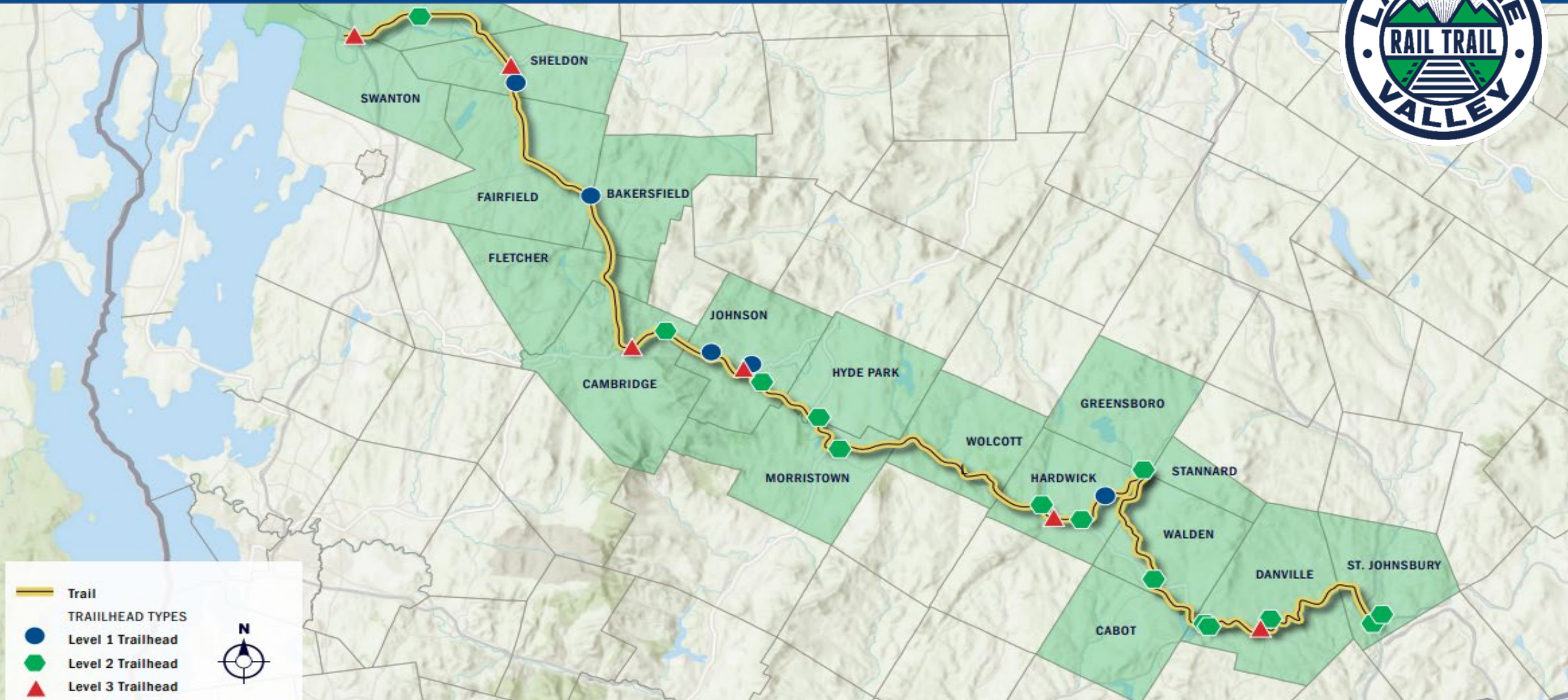
Trail Maintenance



Trail Operations



Economic Development & Community Connections

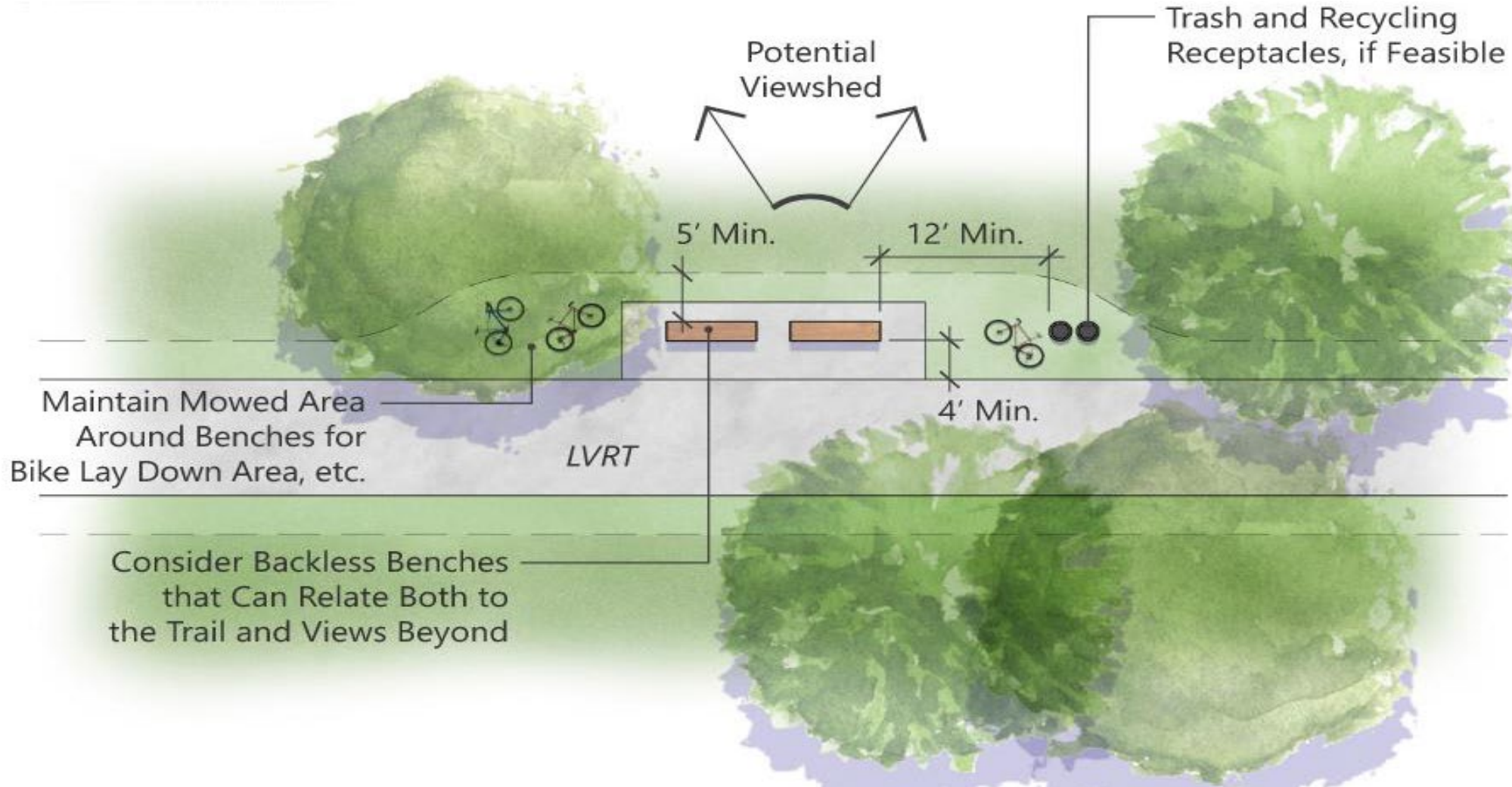


Trail

TRAILHEAD TYPES

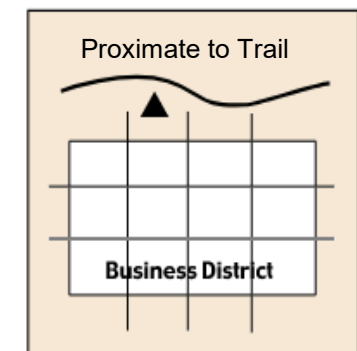
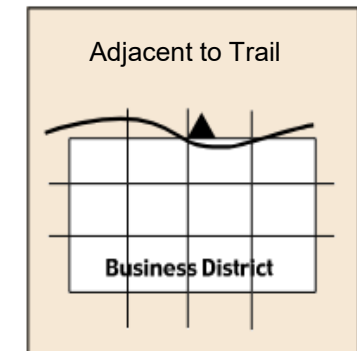
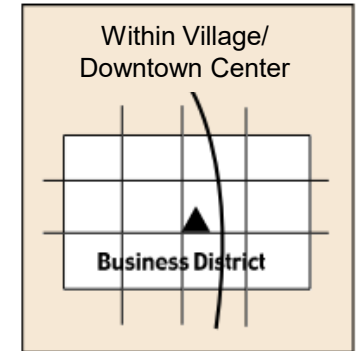
- Level 1 Trailhead
- Level 2 Trailhead
- Level 3 Trailhead

Pause Places



Community-Trail Connections

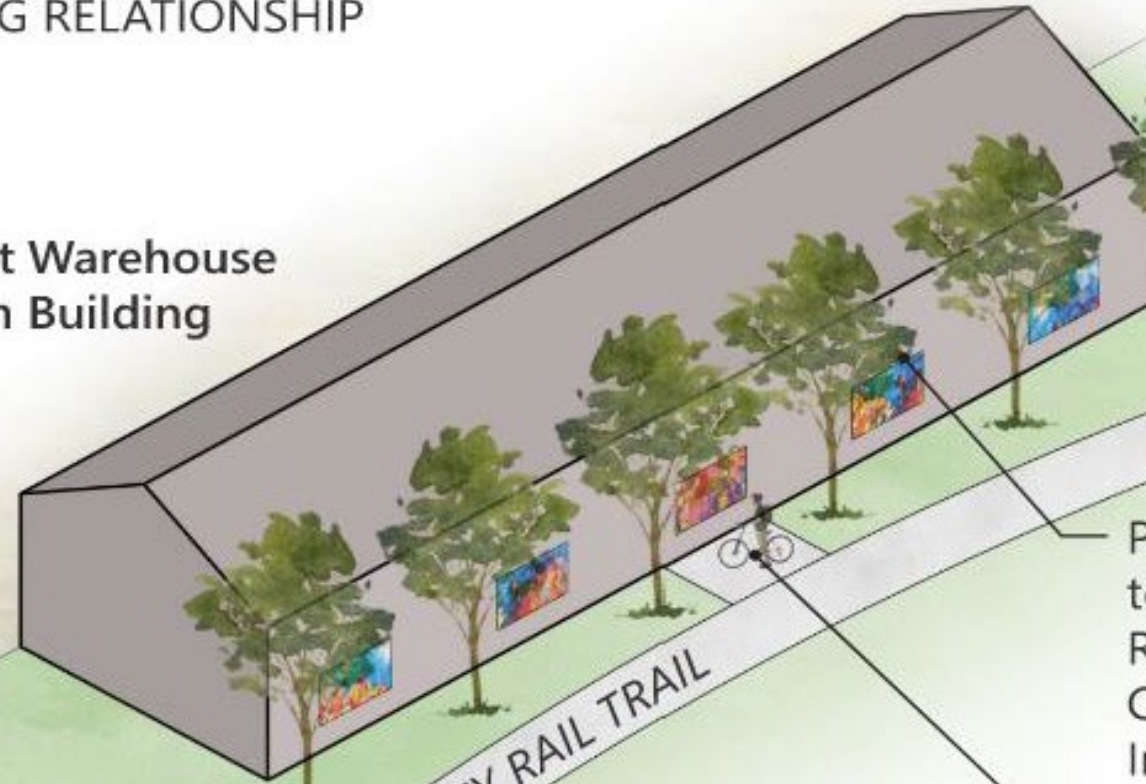
- 20 Village Centers or Downtown Districts along the LVRT
 - **Within Village/Downtown Center:** Trail passes directly through village/downtown center (*Sheldon, Greensboro Bend, West Danville*)
 - **Adjacent to Trail:** Trail passes within ½ mile of village/downtown center (*Highgate, Wolcott, Hardwick, Danville, Johnson, St. Johnsbury*)
 - **Proximate to Trail:** Trail passes within 2 miles of village/downtown center and/or with existing or planned connecting trails (*Fairfield, Cambridge*)



Community-Trail Connections

ADJACENT BUILDING RELATIONSHIP

Adjacent Warehouse
/Farm Building



Tree Planting to
"Soften" Building
Facade

Programming Opportunity
to Highlight Cultural
Resources (Art, Historical/
Cultural/Environmental
Interpretation, etc.)

Provide Opportunity to Step
Off the Trail and Engage with
Interpretive Elements

LAMOILLE VALLEY RAIL TRAIL

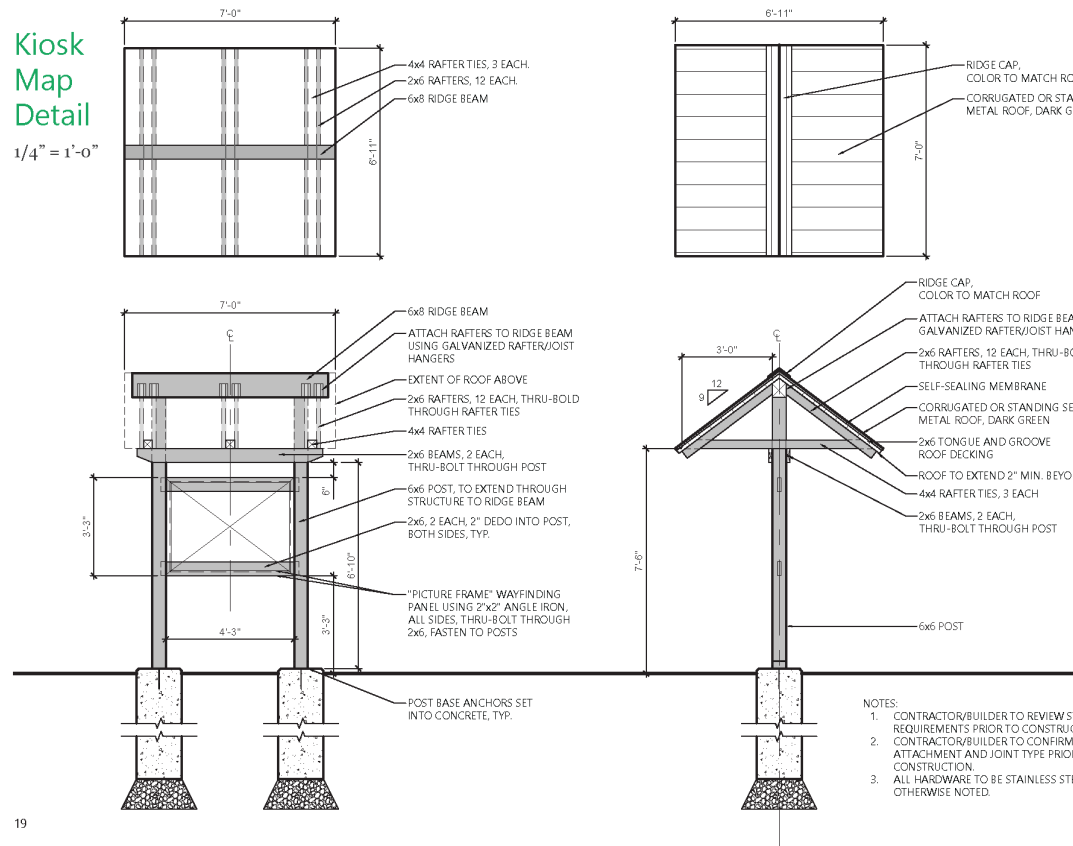
Trailhead Development



Trailhead Standards

Kiosk Map Detail

1/4" = 1'-0"



Kiosk Maps

Kiosk maps serve an important role with the trail network by providing trail users with multiple sets of information about the trail. These maps show the context of the trail, convey distance, and where trail users can expect to find certain amenities such as bike repair stations or restrooms. Beyond the trail, kiosk maps can serve as an important link back to communities and downtown centers by highlighting local business or attractions and advertising upcoming events. These maps are as important to trail users that have just arrived at a trailhead and are planning their trip as they are to users already on the trail, looking to see where they are.

Design Features + Placement

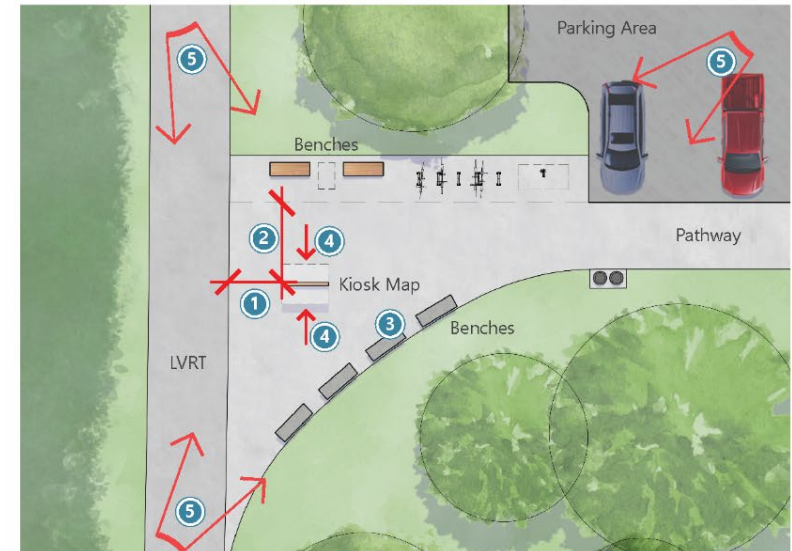
1. Set kiosk maps far enough off the edge of the trail to allow people on standing with their bikes to view the map without impeding the trail (Minimum of 12' from the edge of the trail, if the map viewing area is parallel to the travel direction) (See Level 1 Trailhead for illustration)
2. Provide a minimum of 12' clearance in front of the viewing area of the kiosk to allow free movement around the space.
3. Provide a minimum of 8' clearance between the side of the kiosk map and nearby features.
4. Locate kiosk maps so that both sides of the kiosk can be visible from an

accessible area. Reference ADA Standards for Accessible Design of walkway approaches and turning requirements for access to kiosk maps.

- 5. Kiosk maps should be placed in an area that serves multiple user groups (i.e., trail users arriving to the site by car and users already on the trail that are looking to reference their current

location). Avoid placing kiosk maps in areas where it will go unnoticed from the trail.

- Locate kiosk maps so that users coming to the kiosk from the trail will not have to cross parking areas or vehicular traffic to view the map to help minimize pedestrian conflicts with vehicles.

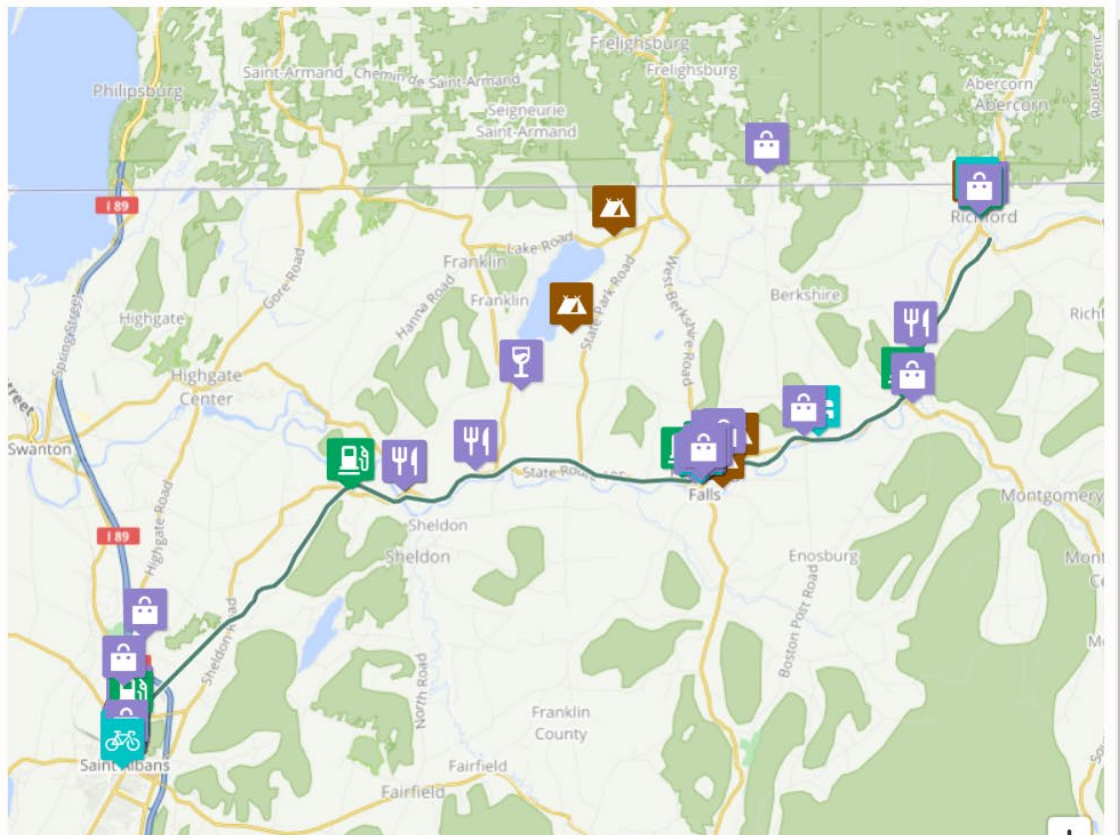


Marketing & Website Development



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MVRT Interactive Map



Community Assistance

■ LVRT Community Grant Program

- **\$2 million in grant funding** available for improvements along the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT)
 - Funding for Feasibility, Scoping, Design & Construction
- The Program will support improving **trail amenities** and **visitor experience** along the LVRT
- Reimbursement program with a **20% local cash match** requirement
- Application process opened in August, applications due November 1, and **announced December 6.**
- **\$3 million** in the Governor's Recommended FY24 Budget from the General Fund



Thank you

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<https://vtrans.vermont.gov/lvrt>