

Regional Policies & Priorities

NVDA's transportation priorities are informed by municipal plans, the Vermont Agency of Transportation Long-Range Transportation Plan, and stakeholder input, including road foremen meetings, monthly Transportation Planning Initiative (TPI) meetings, and the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC). These policies and priorities support a shared vision for a safe, resilient, accessible, and sustainable transportation system in the NEK.

1. **NVDA supports traditional settlement patterns** by maintaining compact downtowns and villages surrounded by productive agricultural and forest lands.
2. **NVDA discourages year-round residential or commercial development on Class 4 roads** where it would create undue burdens on public services or emergency access, or result in significant environmental impacts such as erosion or forest fragmentation. **NVDA will oppose such development when it rises to the level of Act 250 jurisdiction.**
3. **NVDA strongly encourages municipalities to adopt safe road policies** that define maintenance expectations, emergency access standards, and development limits on Class 4 roads. Where communities have land-use regulations, these road policies should align with those regulations.
4. **NVDA supports investment in transportation infrastructure** that increases the quality and types of available transportation choices, referred to as Transportation Demand Management (TDM).
5. **NVDA encourages walkability and bikeability** by promoting sidewalks or paved shoulders (minimum five feet) along paved roads, especially in downtowns, village centers, as well as village areas that provide critical linkage to downtowns and village cores. *See NVDA Future Land Use (FLU) mapping.*
6. **NVDA prioritizes pedestrian and cyclist safety over vehicle speed** by encouraging multi-modal master planning in designated centers of development and by assisting communities in integrating Complete Streets principles into their local regulations and capital planning.
7. **NVDA promotes public transit and shared mobility** by supporting RCT services, microtransit, park-and-ride facilities, and carpool/rideshare initiatives.
8. **NVDA encourages low-carbon transportation** and expanding EV charging infrastructure in key village centers, downtowns and along major corridors.
9. **NVDA supports maintenance and access for freight, agriculture, and forestry** by preserving and upgrading roads and bridges critical to these regional economic sectors.
10. **NVDA supports the development of Rail Trail networks** such as the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT) and Beebe Spur, including associated trailhead projects, to enhance tourism and regional connectivity.
11. **NVDA prioritizes investments and planning efforts that improve the climate resilience of the regional transportation system.** NVDA works with municipalities and VTrans to ensure that road, bridge, and culvert upgrades are designed to withstand flooding, erosion, and other extreme weather impacts, reducing long-term maintenance costs and improving public safety.
12. **NVDA supports the protection of large, contiguous forest blocks by discouraging new road construction that would fragment high-priority interior habitats.** NVDA encourages communities to focus transportation investments on maintaining and improving existing road networks, while minimizing impacts to wildlife corridors, water quality, and carbon storage.