

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Government Operations,

Thank you for the conversation yesterday regarding the Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI). I wanted to follow up with a more concrete framing of an alternative approach.

As I mentioned, rather than investing in calculating a full GPI, Vermont can achieve much of the same value by strengthening and expanding our existing outcomes framework. As we discussed, a full GPI model is resource-intensive to maintain and, at present, there is no established system to consistently integrate a single composite measure into decision-making that I know of. Without that infrastructure, the practical value of producing a single index is limited.

A more immediate and actionable path would be to enhance the current list of indicators reported in the [Annual Outcomes Report](#) to better reflect the full range of factors that contribute to well-being. As part of that, I've outlined below examples of data elements that are included in GPI calculations but are not currently represented in the Annual Outcomes Report. Because GPI expresses these as costs or benefits, this list reflects the underlying data rather than the monetized values.

#### **Data reflected in GPI but not currently included in the Outcomes Report**

- Economic
  - Income inequality
  - Consumer spending
  - Capital investment
- Environmental
  - Wetland area
  - Forest land area
  - Farmland in production
  - Energy consumption
  - Air quality factors (e.g., ozone-related measures)
  - Noise exposure (where available)
- Social
  - Household labor (unpaid caregiving and home production)
  - Volunteer activity

5-5-2026

- Leisure time / time use
- Commuting patterns
- Non-violent crime
- Divorce rate / family structure indicators
- Households with children
- Vehicle registrations and travel behavior
- Housing stock
- Educational attainment
- Transportation infrastructure and usage (e.g., highways, vehicle crashes)

Expanding the framework to include a targeted set of indicators in these areas would preserve the strengths of the current model while incorporating the broader perspective that GPI is intended to provide while being more directly actionable for policymakers.

That said, any effort to incorporate additional indicators should be informed by the agencies and staff who would be responsible for providing and maintaining the data. This would require identifying appropriate data sources, confirming availability and quality, and ensuring there is sufficient capacity for ongoing reporting and interpretation. Given the timing of the Annual Outcomes Report, incorporating new indicators in the current reporting cycle would be challenging. A more practical approach would be to engage relevant staff first, evaluate feasibility, and identify a phased path for potential inclusion in future reporting cycles.

I'm happy to provide additional detail or work with the Committee on potential next steps.

Have a great weekend.

Justin

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5-5-2026