

May 26, 2023

Peter Pochop
VT Agency of Transportation
219 North Main Street
Barre, VT 05641

Dear Peter:

This letter is in support of the Town of Richmond's application to the VTrans 2023 large-scale Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Program to construct a new sidewalk on Jericho Road between the schools and Southview neighborhood. This sidewalk is identified in the 2022 Richmond Walk Bike Trails Plan as part of the Town's envisioned walk bike network. The Town is actively planning walk/bike improvements and this priority project will create a safe connection from a large neighborhood to two schools and connect to an existing sidewalk into the village.

This project is supported by several sections of the CCRPC's ECOS Plan. One of the four broad goals established at the beginning of the document states:

"Make public and private investments in the built environment to minimize environmental impact, maximize financial efficiency, optimize social equity and benefits, and improve public health." ECOS Plan page 8

In the transportation discussion of key issues there's this finding:

"More robust investment in transportation options – transit, walking/biking, carsharing and ridesharing – could reduce congestion, vehicle miles traveled, use of single occupancy vehicles, social exclusion, and could improve public health, and enhance the economic well-being of our residents, businesses and visitors." ECOS Plan page 63

Under future transportation investments, one of the identified focal areas is to:

"Expand walking and biking infrastructure to support active transportation and to provide interconnection with the region's transit system." ECOS Plan page 93

The Public Health section also includes this as a priority strategy:

"Obesity -- Create policies and environmental supports that increase access to active transportation, active recreation, and healthy foods." ECOS Plan Page 103

The financial section of the transportation element of ECOS also notes a recommended shift in new transportation funding away from roadway investments and more into transportation alternatives like walking and cycling projects (see ECOS Plan page 180).

The Plan section on implementing transportation corridor improvements identifies this priority:

“Expanding the bicycle and pedestrian networks with on- and off-road facilities and more sidewalks.” ECOS Plan page 181

This project is also supported by the following goals from our 2017 Active Transportation Plan:

- *“Provide accessible, safe, efficient, interconnected, secure, equitable and sustainable mobility choices for our region’s businesses, residents and visitors.”*
- *“Encourage walking and biking in local communities through work with towns, schools, businesses and community walk-bike groups.”*
- *“Expand walking and biking infrastructure to provide interconnection with the region’s transit system.”*

Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,



Bryan Davis
Senior Transportation Planner