

# Vergennes Planning and Environment Linkages Study

---

Policy Committee

July 23, 2024



# Agenda

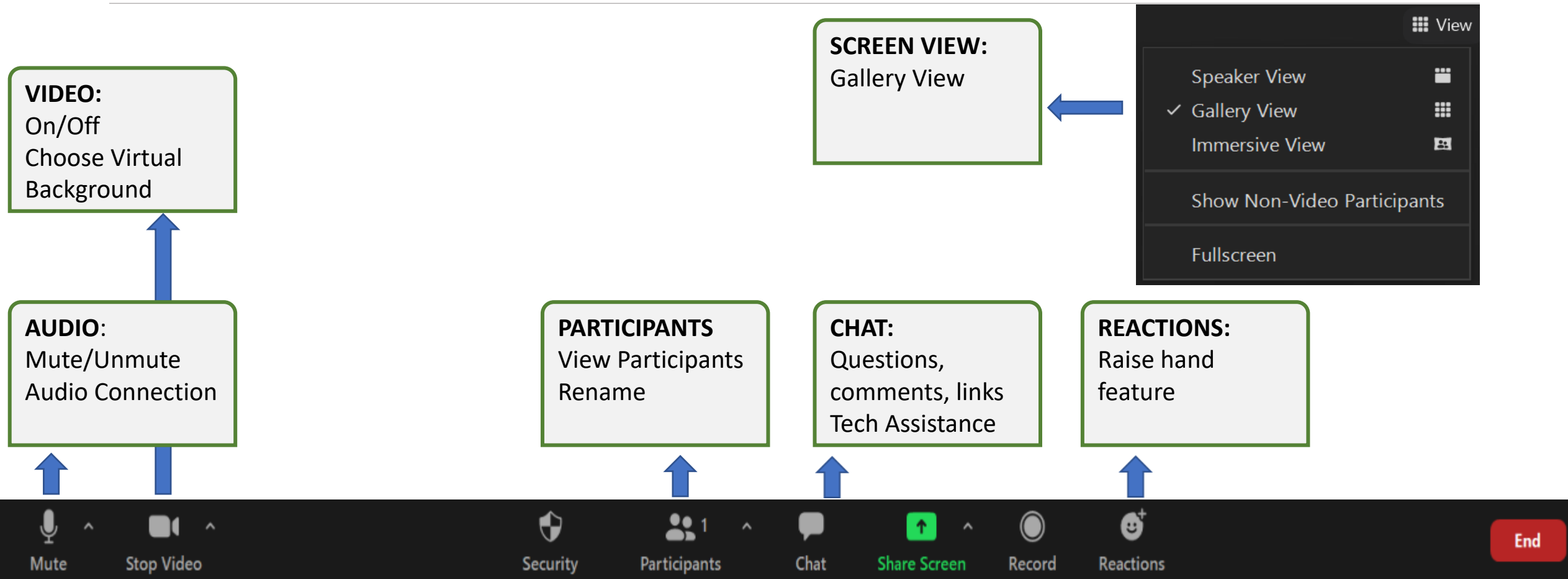
1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Changes to Agenda
3. Public Comment Period
4. PEL Study Background
5. Land Use Visioning
6. Committee Consensus Point
7. Community Engagement
8. Next Steps and Upcoming Decision Points

V E R G E N N E S

## Planning & Environment Linkages (PEL) Study



# Zoom Orientation



# Roll Call

## VOTING Members

- Chair: Adam Lougee, ACRPC
- Bill Smith, Vermont Truck and Bus Association
- Kati, Gallagher VNRC
- Brent Rakowski, ACRPC TAC
- Clark Hinsdale, Town of Ferrisburgh
- Diane Lanpher, State Rep. from Vergennes, Ferrisburgh, Waltham, Panton and Addison
- Dickie Austin, City of Vergennes
- Jubilee McGill, State Rep. from New Haven, Weybridge and Bridport
- Ron Redmond, City of Vergennes
- Jeff Nelson, Town of Addison
- Jesse Devlin, VTrans
- Matthew Arancio, VTrans
- Mary Rudd, Town of Panton
- Matt Birong, State Rep. from Vergennes, Ferrisburgh, Waltham, Panton and Addison
- Mike Audy, Town of New Haven
- Renny Perry, Vergennes Partnership
- Phil Summers, Addison County Chamber
- Rhonda Williams, Town of Waltham

# Roll Call

## Non-Voting Members

- Amy Bell, VTrans
- Joel Perrigo, VTrans
- Mike Winslow, ACRPC
- Jacqueline DeMent, FHWA
- Patrick Kirby, FHWA

## Other attendees?

## Consultant Team

WSP

Dubois & King

Arnett Muldrow & Associates, Ltd

VHB







## **Public Comment Period**





## PEL Study Background



# Why are we doing a PEL study in Vergennes?

- Previous studies indicated regional agreement that truck volume in downtown Vergennes should be addressed.
- PEL study allow us to go:
  - Wider in our outreach and engagement
  - Deeper into details, including conceptual design and land use visioning

## Goal is for region to come to *consensus* on path forward

- VTrans and ACRPC role in PEL study is to facilitate regional process





Summer 2021 – Spring 2022

Task 1: Project Kick-Off and Scope Refinement

Task 2: Purpose and Need Statement



Spring 2022 – Spring 2023

Task 3: Alternatives Development and Concept Screening



2023 - 2024

Task 4: Alternatives/Concept Refinement

Task 5: Integrated Transportation & Land Use Alternatives

Task 6: Alternatives Evaluation & Recommendations



2024 - 2025

Task 7: Implementation Plan

Task 8: PEL Report

# Where are we in the overall timeline?

## PEL Study (2021-2025)

### Completed Tasks

- Define what we are working towards - *Purpose and Need Statement*
- Narrow down full list of concepts



### Current & Upcoming Tasks

- Land use visioning
- Conceptual design
- Concept Evaluation
- Implementation Plan
- Finalize report



## Future steps if the study concludes construction is needed:

### Obtain Funding

- *Timeline: Unknown*



### Design & Engineering

- *Timeline: 7-13 years*
- Conceptual, Draft and Final Design
- Environmental Studies & NEPA
- Permitting
- Right-of-Way Acquisitions



### Construction

- *Timeline: 2-4 years*

*NOTE: The study may conclude that construction is not needed.*

# Policy Committee Role

- Endorsement of key assumptions and recommendations to VTrans
- Listen to stakeholder's input and concerns
- Consider areas of representation as well as the needs of the region as a whole

## Members

- Municipal representatives, VTrans, ACRPC, FHWA
- Stakeholders representing business and economic development, the environment, pedestrian and bicycle users and potentially other interests.

## Today's ask:

- Approve land use visioning technical memorandum

- PEL is a collaborative decision-making **planning** process
- Goal to reduce the number of alternatives and identify potential impacts that will be looked at further during NEPA
- **Recommendations only – not binding** until NEPA process



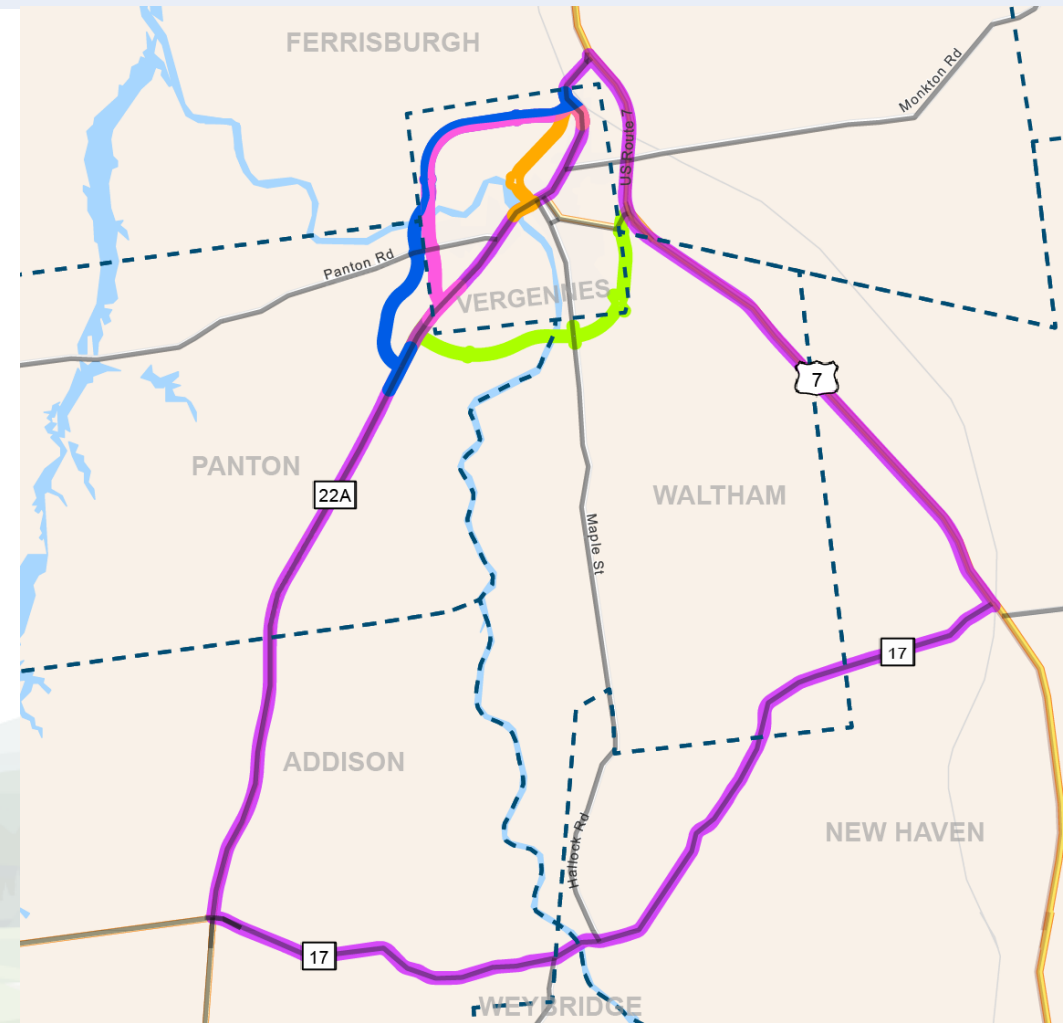
# Land Use Visioning



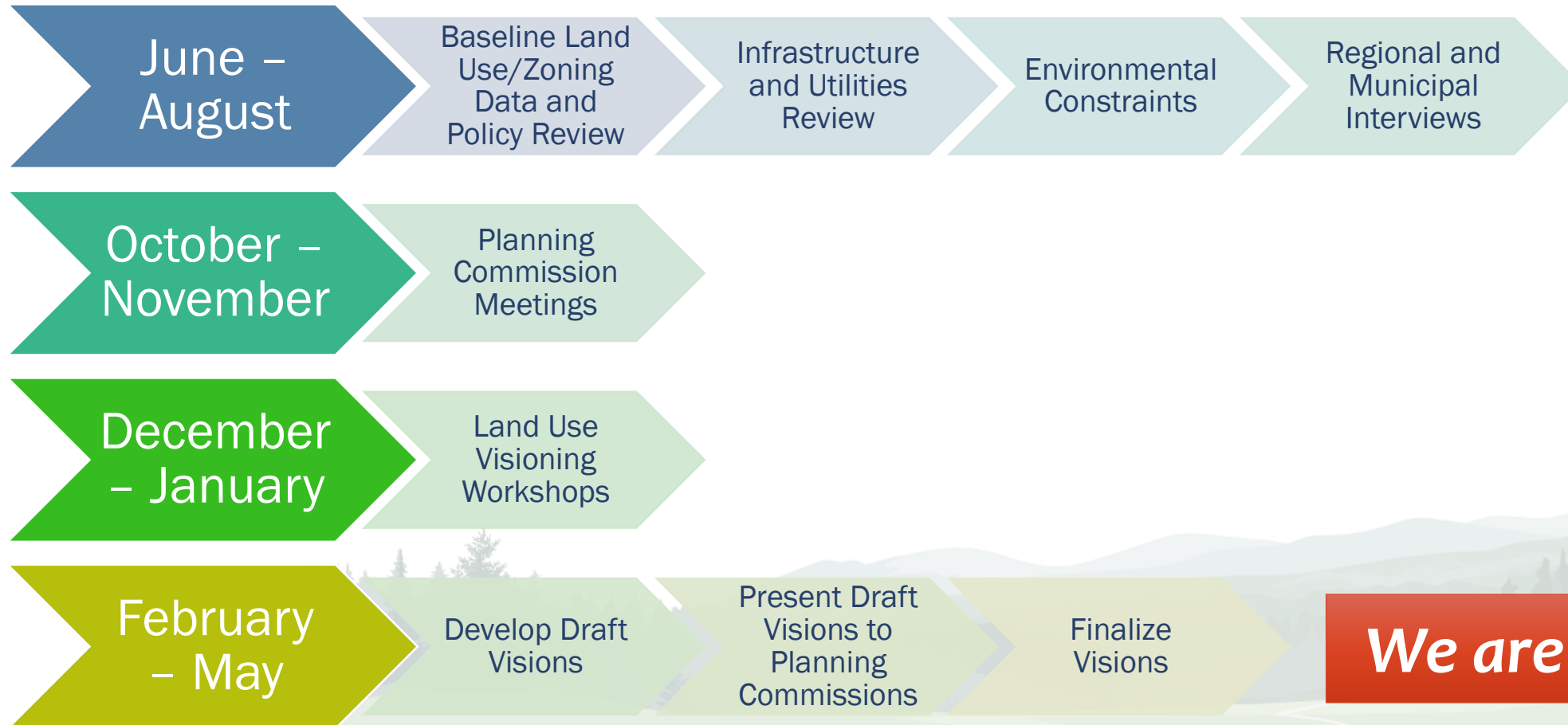


# Transportation Solutions Being Studied

- 4 new roadways
- 1 concept to improve an existing roadway, Route 17
- A "No Build" option that would maintain Route 22A in its existing configuration
- All alternative routes have strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities



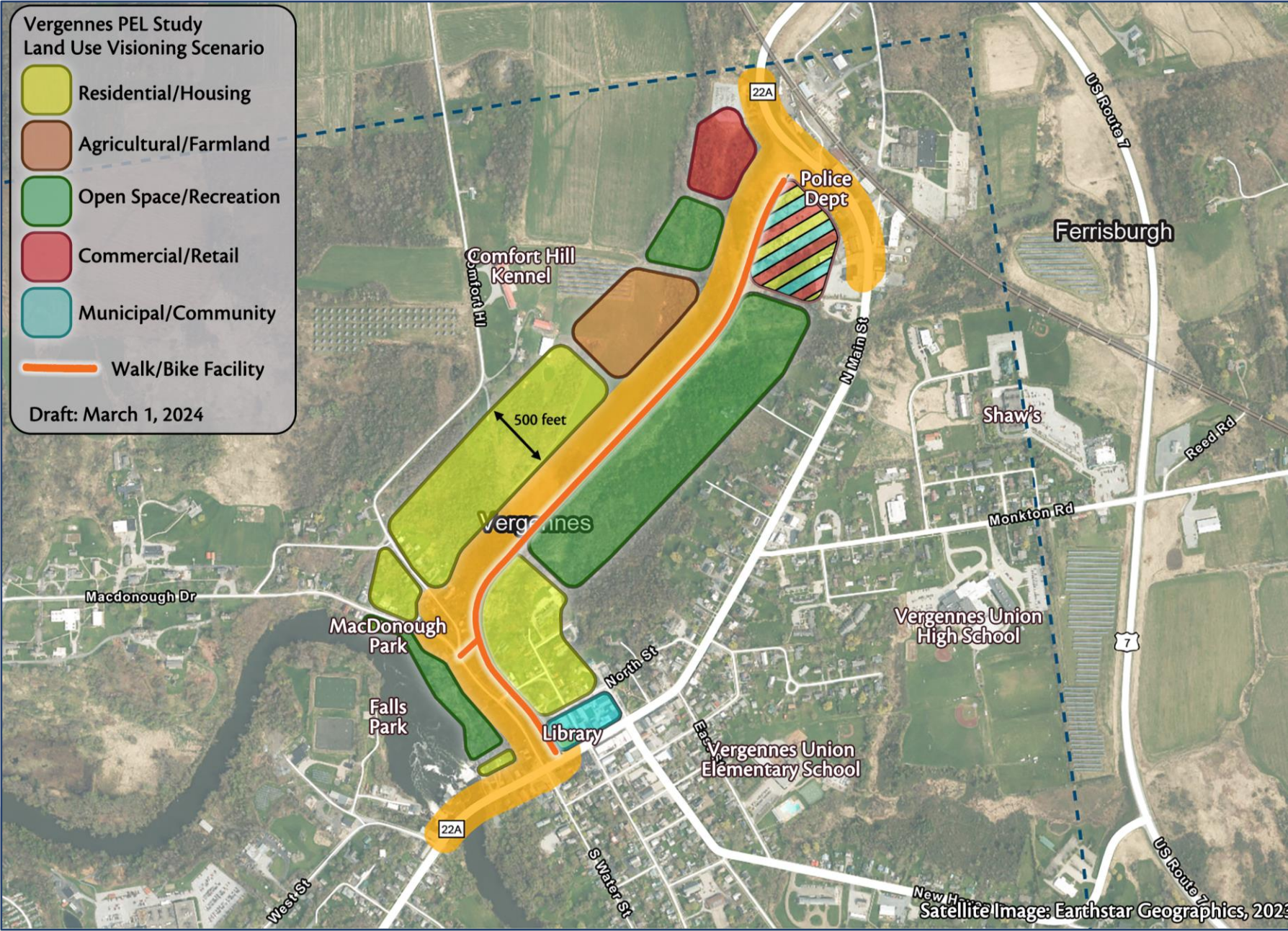
# Transportation / Land Use Integration





# Land Use Scenario Example

This Land Use Visioning Scenario is intended for discussion purposes and does not imply or authorize changes in property ownership or other legal consideration.



# Consensus Point

- ***Consensus point:*** Based on your review of the Land Use Visioning Technical Memorandum, do you recommend the land use visioning scenarios for approval
- Additional comments due by **July 31**





# Roll Call

## VOTING Members

- Chair: Adam Lougee, ACRPC
- Bill Smith, Vermont Truck and Bus Association
- Kati Gallagher, VNRC
- Brent Rakowski, ACRPC TAC
- Clark Hinsdale, Town of Ferrisburgh
- Diane Lanpher, State Rep. from Vergennes, Ferrisburgh, Waltham, Panton and Addison
- Dickie Austin, City of Vergennes
- Jubilee McGill, State Rep. from New Haven, Weybridge and Bridport
- Ron Redmond, City of Vergennes
- Jeff Nelson, Town of Addison
- Jesse Devlin, VTrans
- Matthew Arancio, VTrans
- Mary Rudd, Town of Panton
- Matt Birong, State Rep. from Vergennes, Ferrisburgh, Waltham, Panton and Addison
- Mike Audy, Town of New Haven
- Renny Perry, Vergennes Partnership
- Phil Summers, Addison County Chamber
- Rhonda Williams, Town of Waltham



# Community Engagement



# Community Engagement 2024: Staying in Touch

- **37** Stakeholder meetings—homeowners, business owners, town leaders.
- **36** PEL Team planning meetings—sharing community concerns and recommendations.
- **7** Planning Commission meetings—wrapping up land use workshops.
- **15** meetings with individual Policy Committee members—updates and sharing of views.

Living rooms, town offices, local restaurants . . .

Lots of meetings. Lots of information sharing.

# Community Engagement 2024: Key Objectives

- **Building Awareness of the PEL Process**—its opportunities and its limits.
- **Documenting Concerns and Recommendations**—including impacts on land and property.
- **Encouraging Conversation and Collaboration**—specifically seeking out those whose voices should be heard.
- **Creating a Point of Connection**—Letting people know I am here to listen and share what I learn.



# Community Engagement 2024: Outlook for Summer and Fall

- **Project Transparency**—Continuing a series of short, informative posts on PEL Study progress and next steps.
- **Eyes and Ears**—Keeping the PEL Study team informed and up to date on community concerns.
- **Making the Rounds**—Keeping key stakeholders informed and up to date on developments with the PEL Study.



## **Next Steps and Upcoming Decision Points**



# What Comes Next?

## Technical Work

Evaluate and Screen Alternatives  
and Identify Environmental Impacts  
and Potential Mitigation

Develop Implementation Plan

Finalize Planning and Environmental  
Linkages Document

## Anticipated Meetings and Outreach

2-3 Technical  
Committee  
Meetings

2-3 Policy  
Committee  
Meetings

Public  
Information  
Meeting

# Upcoming Policy Committee Meetings – late 2024 and early 2025

- Review evaluation criteria, based on the Purpose and Need
  - Mobility and Access
  - Land Use
  - Quality of Life
  - Safety, Circulation and Resilience
  - Economic Vitality
- Review results of the alternatives evaluation – evaluation matrix, potential impacts and mitigation, and next steps
- Provide input on Locally Preferred Alternative to be recommended to VTrans for Project Development
- Approval of Alternatives Evaluation tech memo and Final PEL Report



# Purpose and Need Statement: Vergennes PEL Study

The ***purpose*** is to reduce the impacts of through truck traffic, including safety, congestion, noise, vibration, and dust on Route 22A in downtown Vergennes. Transportation solutions that reduce truck related quality of life impacts should also meet the mobility, safety, and economic vitality needs of Vergennes and the neighboring communities. A summary of the ***needs*** identified are detailed below.



**Mobility and Access:** Maintain opportunities for the movement of freight in the region and minimize and/or mitigate traffic impacts to other transportation corridors



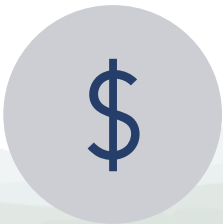
**Safety, Circulation and Resilience:** Support the continued movement, resilience and safety of travel through downtown Vergennes and in the neighboring communities.



**Quality of Life:** Improve the quality of life and minimize negative property and environmental resource impacts in downtown Vergennes and neighboring communities.



**Land Use:** Support local and regional land use plans and policies and state land use goals.



**Economic Vitality:** Promote economic vitality of downtown Vergennes, goods movement in Vergennes and neighboring communities, and support rural economy.

# Updates and Announcements



We welcome your input and appreciate your feedback. Please visit <https://vergennespel.com/> to join our email list for Study updates

To contact the study team, email:  
[vergennespel@gmail.com](mailto:vergennespel@gmail.com)

Community Liaison, Jim Gish  
[jgish@vhb.com](mailto:jgish@vhb.com)  
802.497.6161

***Reminder – Please send additional comments by email by July 31***



# Vergennes Planning and Environment Linkages Study

---

Policy Committee

July 23, 2024

