



Vergennes Planning and Environment Linkages Study: Alternatives Development and Screening

Public Meeting

Thursday, November 3, 2022 at 6:00 pm

Online and Vergennes Opera House



Team Introductions

Katharine Otto, VTrans

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V E R G E N N E S

Planning & Environment Linkages (PEL) Study



Housekeeping Items

Vergennes PEL Study Public Meeting

- The meeting is being recorded and will be posted on the project website
- Remote attendees are muted throughout the presentation



**For those joining us by
computer or web browser**

Questions may be entered in
the Q&A Window at any time
(button appears at the
bottom of the screen)



**For those joining us by
phone**

Press *9 to raise your
hand to be called on
during the question-and-
answer session following
the presentation



For those joining us in person

Please raise your hand and a
member of our team will alert
you when it's your turn to
speak during the question-
and-answer session

Housekeeping Items

Polling Logistics

Join by web browser or by text message



1

Go to **PolleEv.com/PELSTUDY** to enter the poll via web browser.
OR text **PELSTUDY** to **22333** on your phone.

2

As new poll questions are open you will see the question on your device and be able to answer.

Where do you live?

Vergennes

Addison

Panton

Ferrisburgh

Waltham

New Haven

Weybridge

Other

Why do you regularly travel through downtown Vergennes on Route 22A?

Resident of Vergennes

Business in Vergennes

Traveling through Vergennes

I do not regularly travel
through downtown Vergennes

Agenda

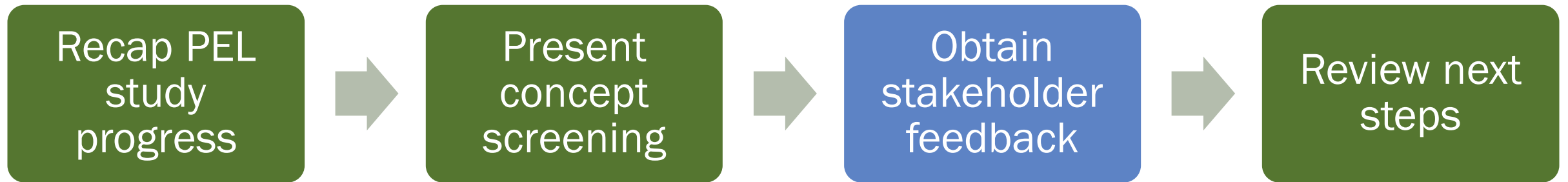
1. Opening Remarks
2. Study Progress
3. PEL Process
4. Screening Results and Discussion
5. Next Steps
6. Questions / Discussion

V E R G E N N E S

Planning & Environment Linkages (PEL) Study



Goals for Today



What is the Vergennes PEL Study process?

MARCH 2022: Development of the Purpose and Need Statement

NOVEMBER 2022: Identification of reasonable alternatives (concepts) that address the Purpose and Need Statement

EARLY 2023: Detailed evaluation of the most promising concepts and land use visioning

MID-LATE 2023: Narrowing to a short list of concepts to advance for federal environmental review

What is a Planning and Environment Linkages (PEL) study?

- PEL is a collaborative approach to transportation decision-making that considers environmental, community, and economic goals
- The goal of PEL is collaboration with stakeholders to better inform and accelerate a project moving forward and being built



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.



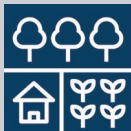
Mobility and Access: Maintain opportunities for the movement of freight in the region and minimize and/or mitigate traffic impacts to other transportation corridors



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.

Long List of Concepts

- Consider an exhaustive list of concepts that may address the Purpose and Need of the Study
- Obtain input from the public on all concepts being considered *prior* to screening



Screening Criteria

Quality of Life and Environment



- ☐ Reduces truck noise and emissions
- ☐ Avoids potential impacts to water and natural resources
- ☐ Maintains/supports community character of downtown Vergennes

Equity



- ☐ Balances distribution of transportation resources
- ☐ Avoids impacts to surrounding communities, including disproportionate impacts to environmental justice communities

Mobility and Access



- ☐ Maintains freight mobility throughout the region
- ☐ Promotes greater destination access to downtown Vergennes to for all modes

Economic Vitality



- ☐ Promotes economic vitality in downtown Vergennes
- ☐ Promotes regional economic vitality

Safety, Circulation and Resilience



- ☐ Creates redundancies to improve resilience of road network
- ☐ Improves motorized circulation throughout the region
- ☐ Improves non-motorized circulation throughout the region
- ☐ Improves motorized and non-motorized safety on Route 22A through downtown Vergennes

Land Use



- ☐ Consistent with existing regional land uses
- ☐ Aligns with future and projected regional land uses and statewide goals

“Long” List of Concepts Types



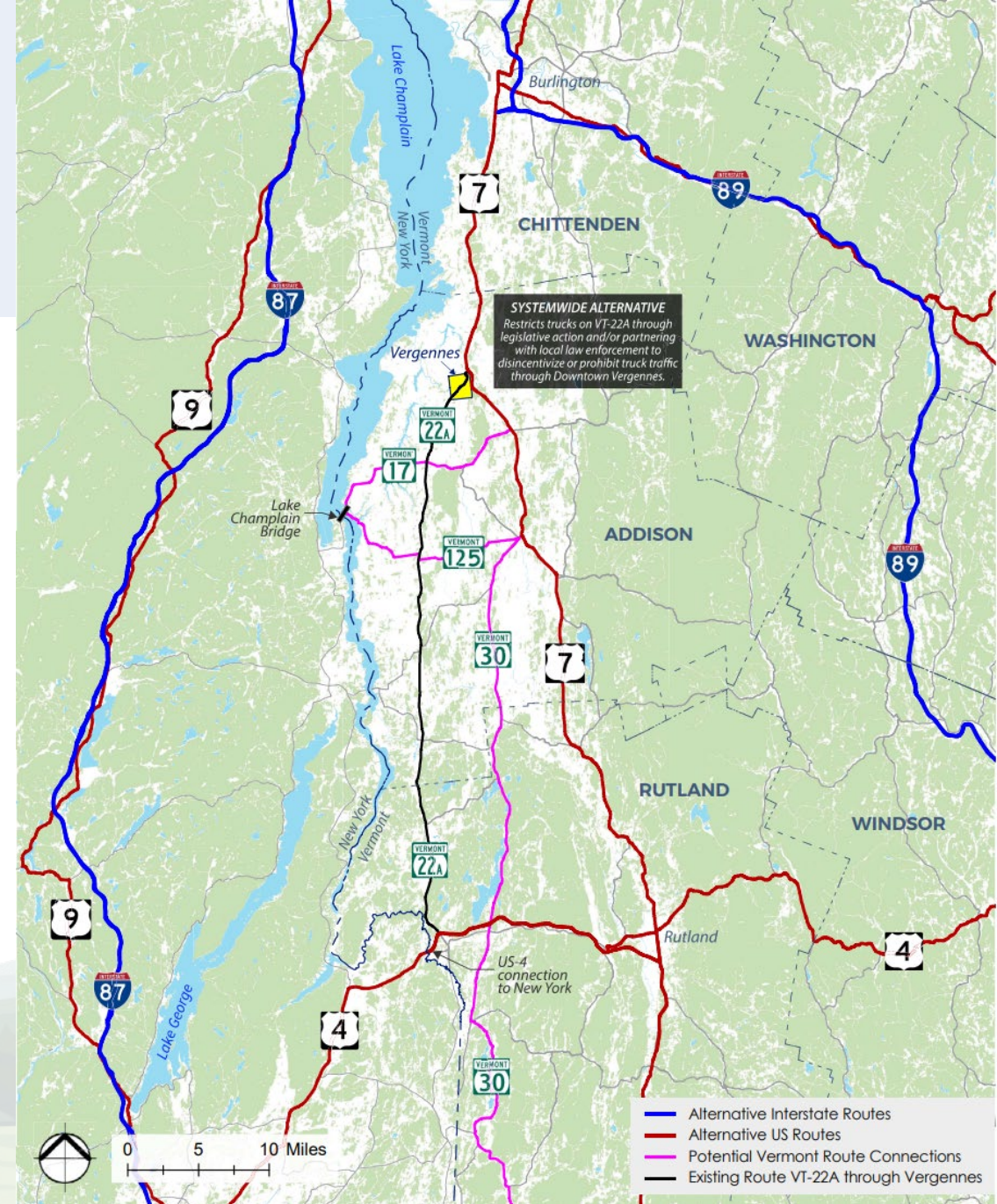
Long List of Concepts Types:

- ✓ Existing Road Concepts
- ✓ VT 22A Corridor Concepts
- ✓ New Road Concepts
- ✓ Other Freight Modes

Existing Road Concepts



- Utilize network of existing roads to shift trucks to other highways:
 - VT Routes 17, 30, and 125
 - US Routes 4, 7 and 9
 - Interstates I-87 and I-89
- May include:
 - Physical improvements to existing roadways to accommodate truck traffic
 - Restricting and/or prohibiting trucks on Rte. 22A
 - Truck wayfinding/routing



VT 22A Corridor Concepts



- Continue to permit trucks on VT Route 22A
- Would require additional VT Route 22A improvements:
 - Reconstruction/widening of Route 22A outside Vergennes to accommodate truck traffic
 - Traffic calming and multi-modal improvements on Route 22A through downtown Vergennes
- “No-Build” scenario
 - Advances only already planned Route 22A projects
- Blended Concept
 - Leverages existing roadways and VT 22A

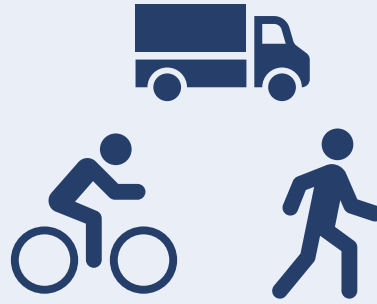


Above: Pedestrian flashing beacons in downtown Vergennes

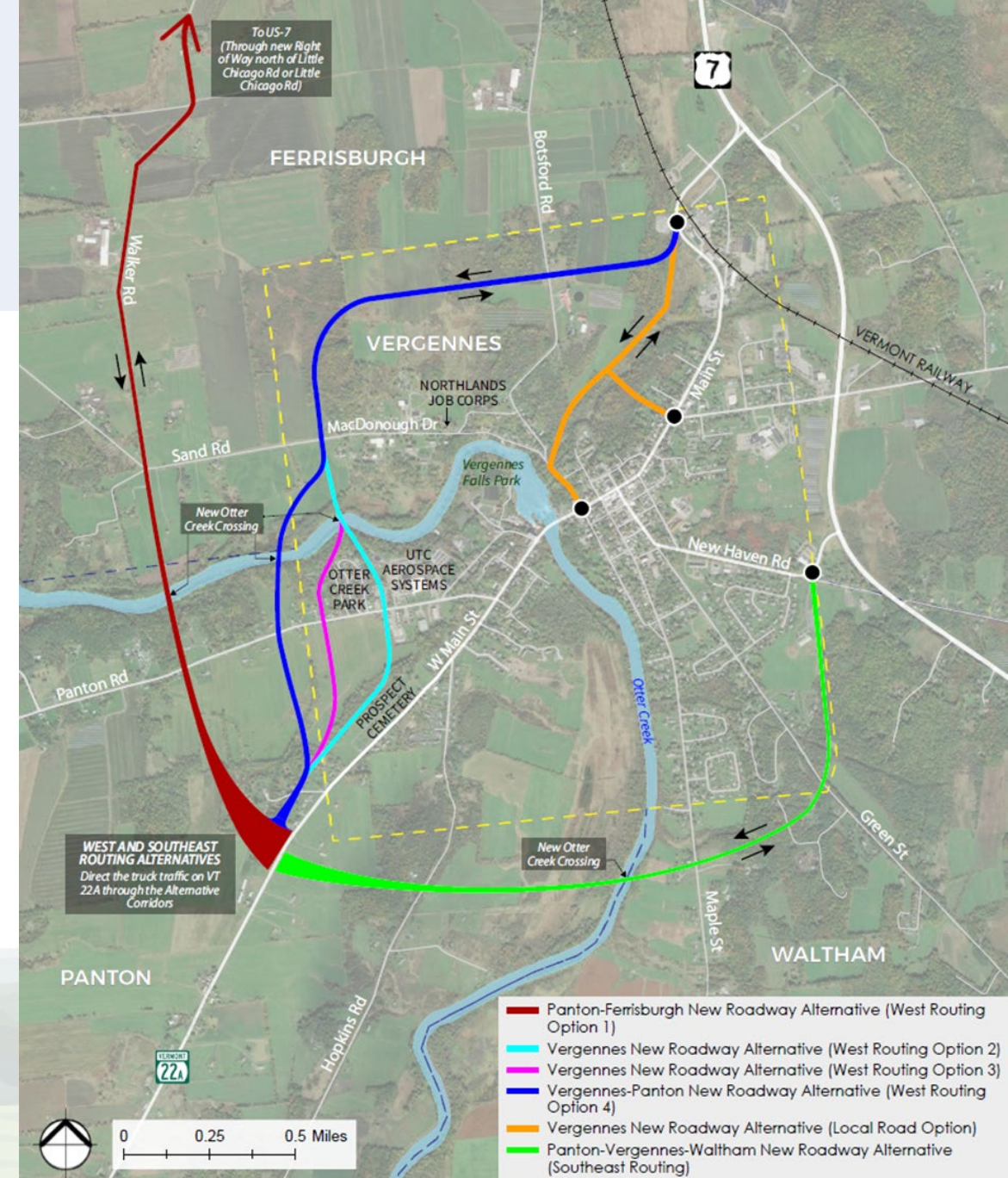


Curb bulb-out and new pedestrian signal in downtown Vergennes
Src: ACRPC

New Road Concepts



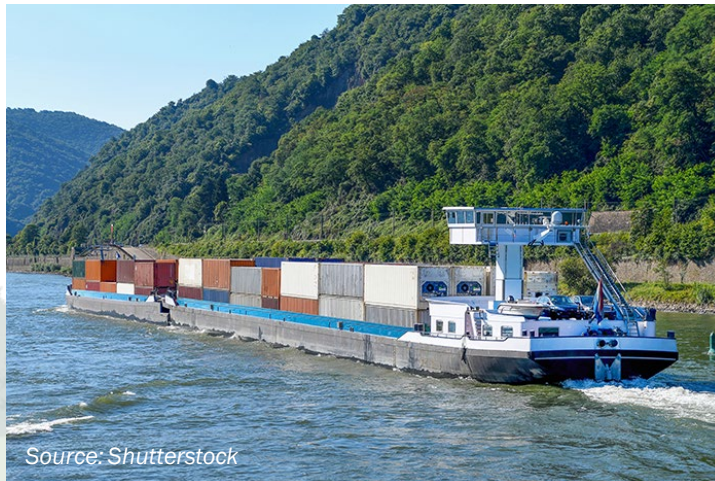
- Includes all concepts considered under previous studies (1995, 2002, 2019)
- Relocates through trucks from downtown Vergennes as a potential solution to reduce their impacts
- Conceptual ideas – exact locations are to be determined



Other Freight Modes



- Transitioning truck freight cargo to rail or water modes
- Considerations for “Smart Freight” concepts such as electric vehicles (EVs) and Connected and Autonomous vehicles (CAVs)



Draft Screening Criteria: Applying to Long List of Concepts

Alternatives were screened using a “rating” system under each criteria:

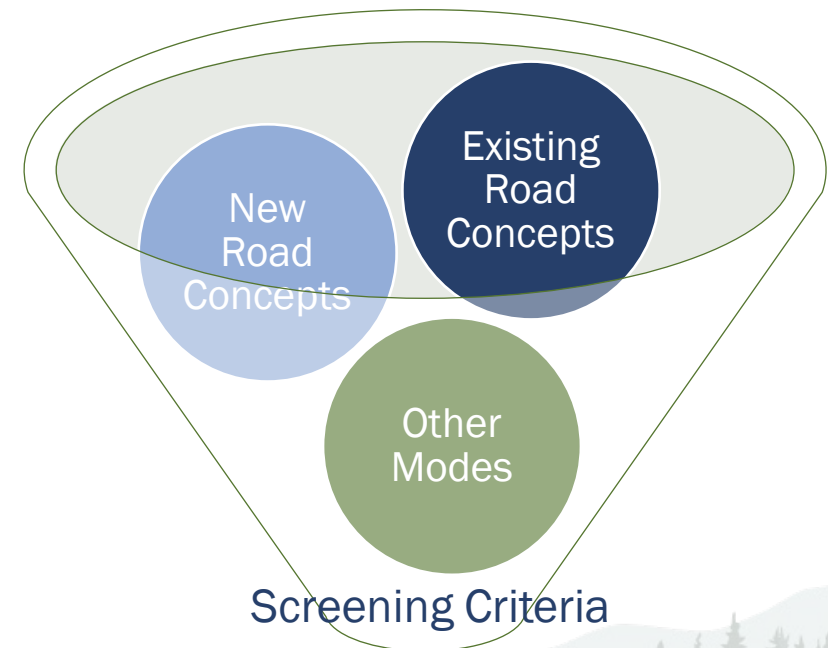
Substantial Positive Effect **++**

Some Positive Effect **+**

Neutral **○**

Some Negative Effect **--**

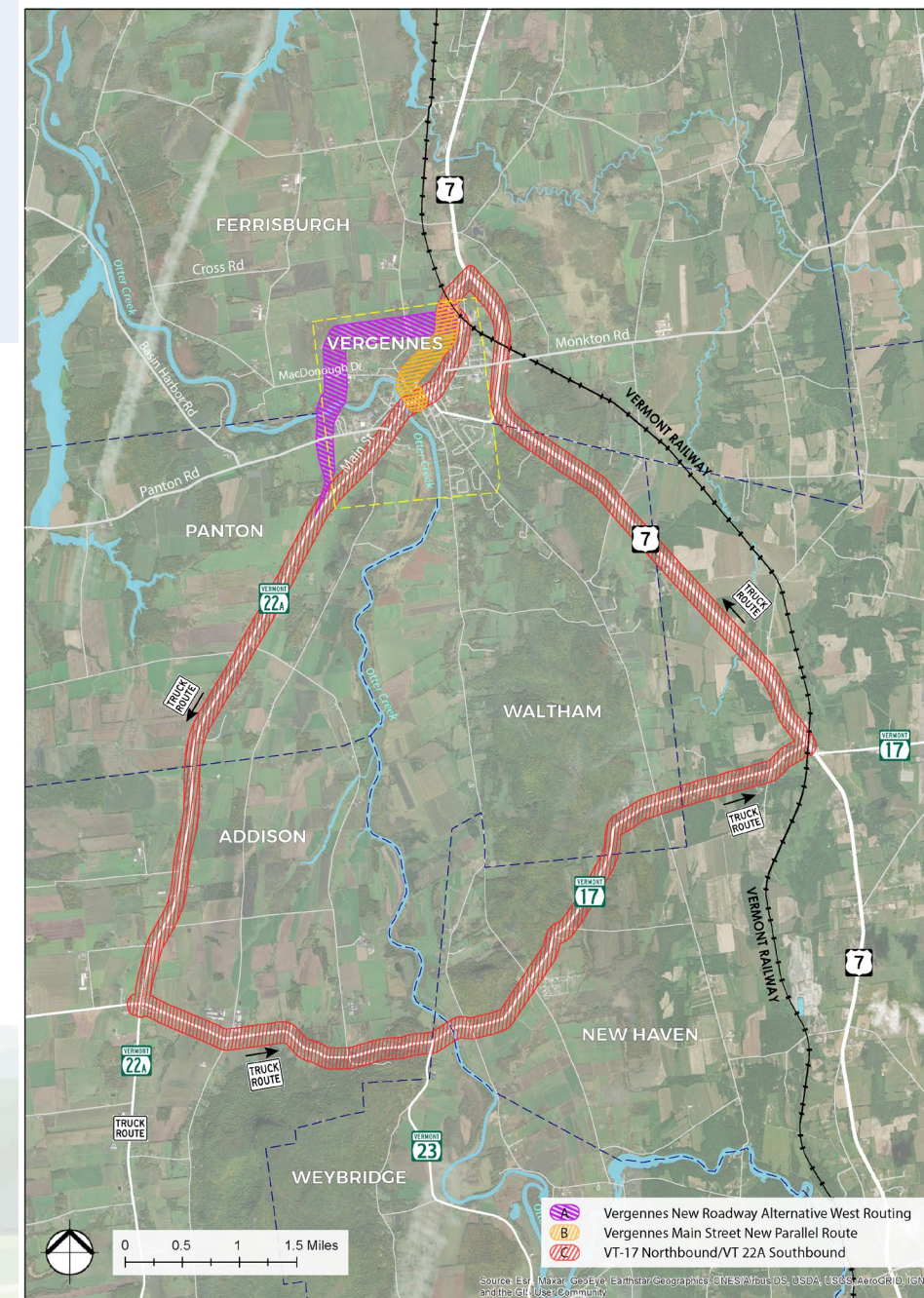
Substantial Negative Effect **---**



Short List of Concepts

Concepts Proposed for Further Study

- Vergennes-Panton New Roadway (West Routing Option 4) [Purple]
 - Vergennes Main Street New Parallel Route [Orange]
 - VT-17 Northbound/VT 22A Southbound [Red]
-
- No Build option serves as baseline for comparison of benefits and impacts
 - Recommended concepts can be supplemented by elements from some of the concepts that have been dismissed (e.g., smart freight, other modes)

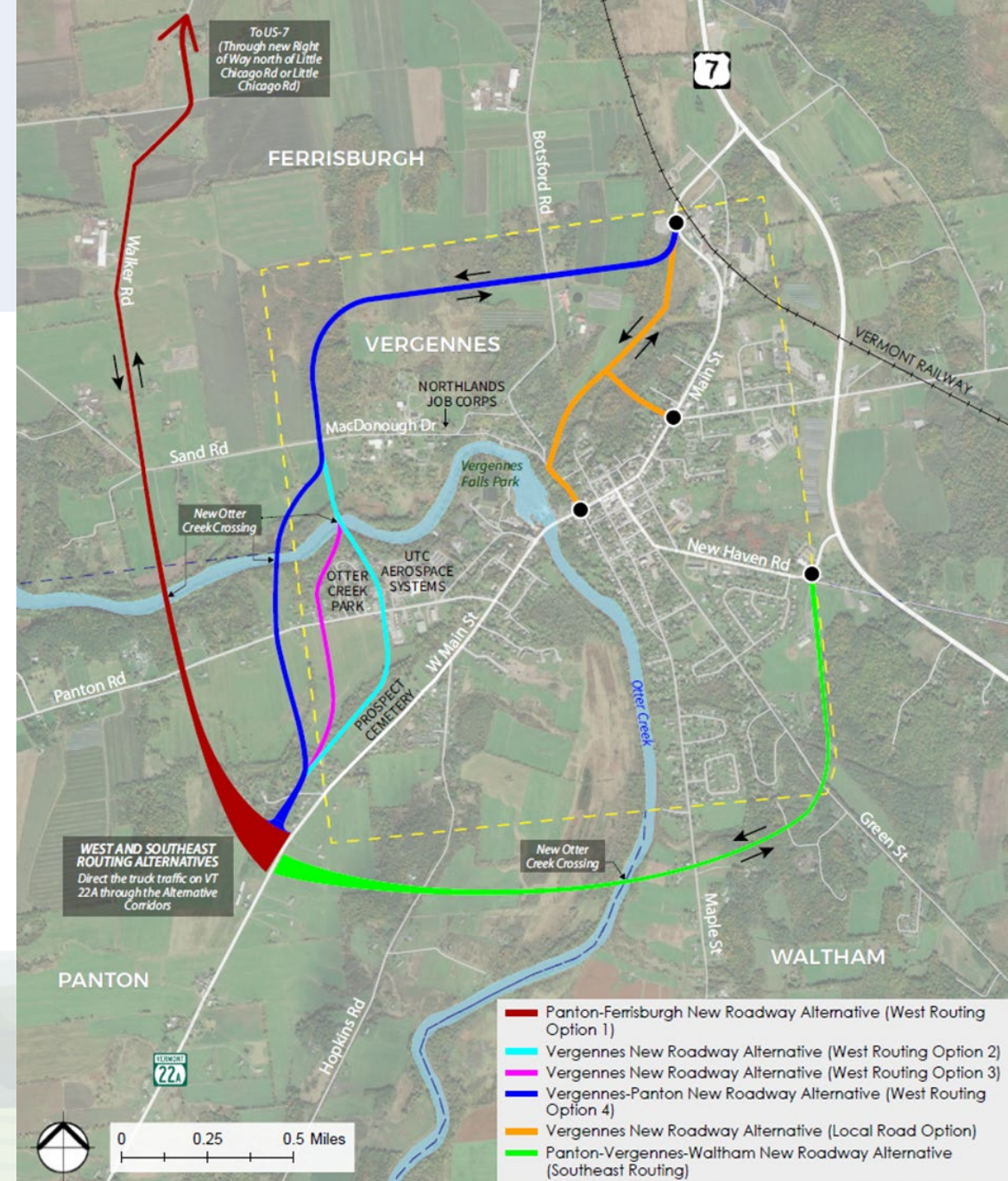


Concepts Proposed for Dismissal due to Fatal Flaw

Concept	Fatal Flaw
Vergennes New Roadway (West Routing Option 2)	Proximity to Otter Creek Mobile Home Park
Vergennes New Roadway (West Routing Option 3)	Proximity to Otter Creek Mobile Home Park
Systemwide	Does not adequately balance regional impacts nor maintain freight mobility
VT-22A Corridor Improvements	Does not meet purpose and need
Rail Modes	Does not adequately meet purpose and need
Water Modes	Does not adequately meet purpose and need

Concepts Proposed for Dismissal due to Total Score

- No fatal flaw, but do not provide the greatest benefit
 - Total scores substantially lower when compared to scores of preferred concepts
- Panton-Ferrisburgh New Roadway (West Routing Option 1) [Red]
- Panton-Vergennes-Waltham New Roadway (Southeast Routing) [Green]
- VT Route 17/U.S. 7 Existing Roadways



Should any of the dismissed concepts be reconsidered?

(select all that apply)

Panton-Ferrisburgh New Roadway
(West Routing Option 1) **A**

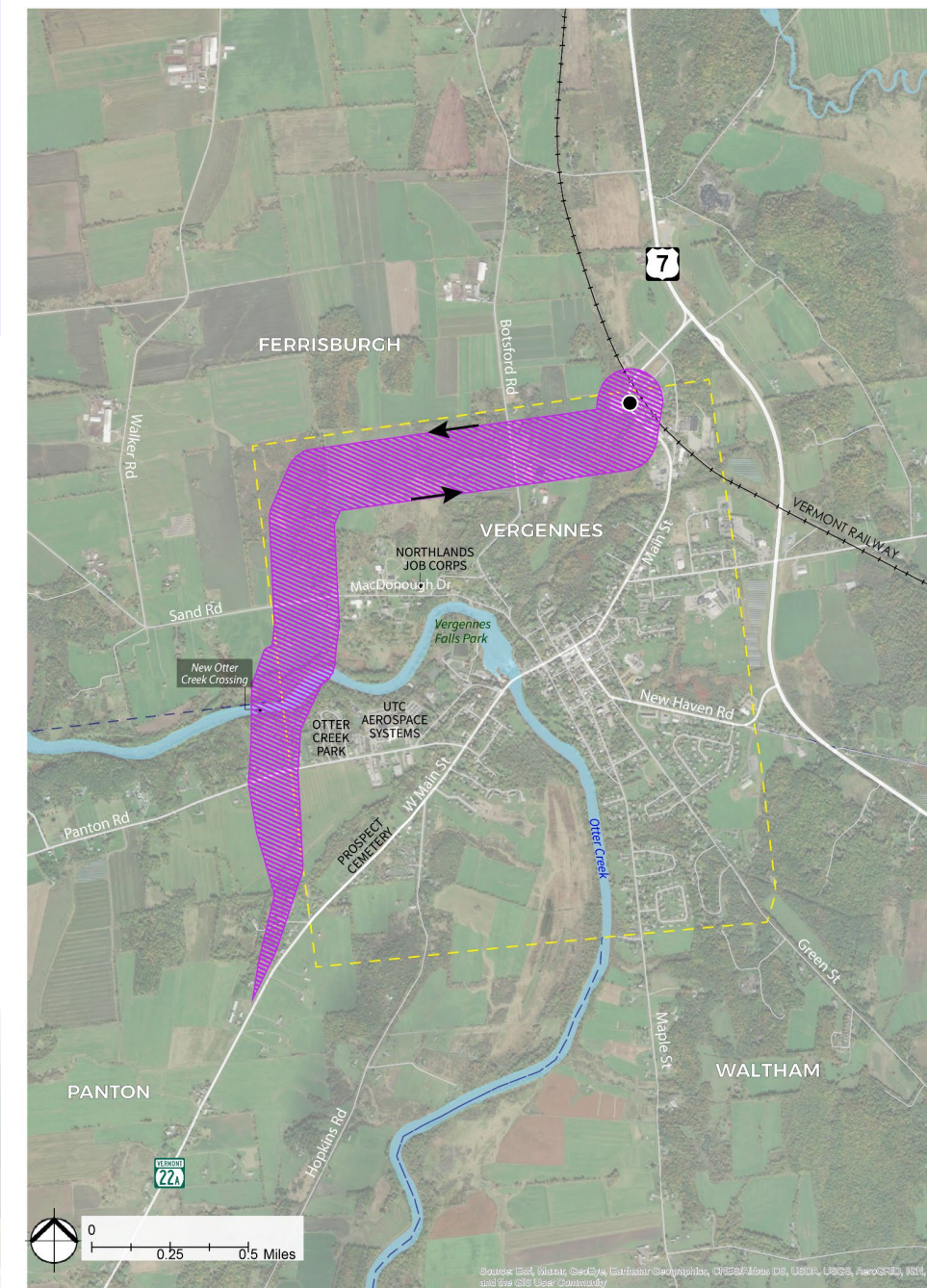
Panton-Vergennes-Waltham New
Roadway (Southeast Routing) **B**

VT Route 17/U.S. Route 7 Existing
Roadways **C**

None **D**

Vergennes-Panton New Roadway (West Routing Option 4)

- Provides substantial benefit when compared with the other new road concepts
- Avoids Otter Creek Park mobile homes
- Potential to impact natural resources and existing regional land uses



Vergennes-Panton New Roadway (West Routing Option 4) - Should this concept move forward for future study?

Strongly agree

Agree

No opinion

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please share comments about the Vergennes-Panton New Roadway concept

Vergennes Main Street New Parallel Route

- Most benefits and potential impacts would be within Vergennes, rather than negatively impacting neighboring areas
- Creation of a new roadway near downtown would improve access to and support increased economic vitality
- Topographic challenges along MacDonough Drive
- Intersection improvements at MacDonough Drive/Main Street



Vergennes Main Street New Parallel Route - Should this concept move forward for future study?

Strongly agree

Agree

No opinion

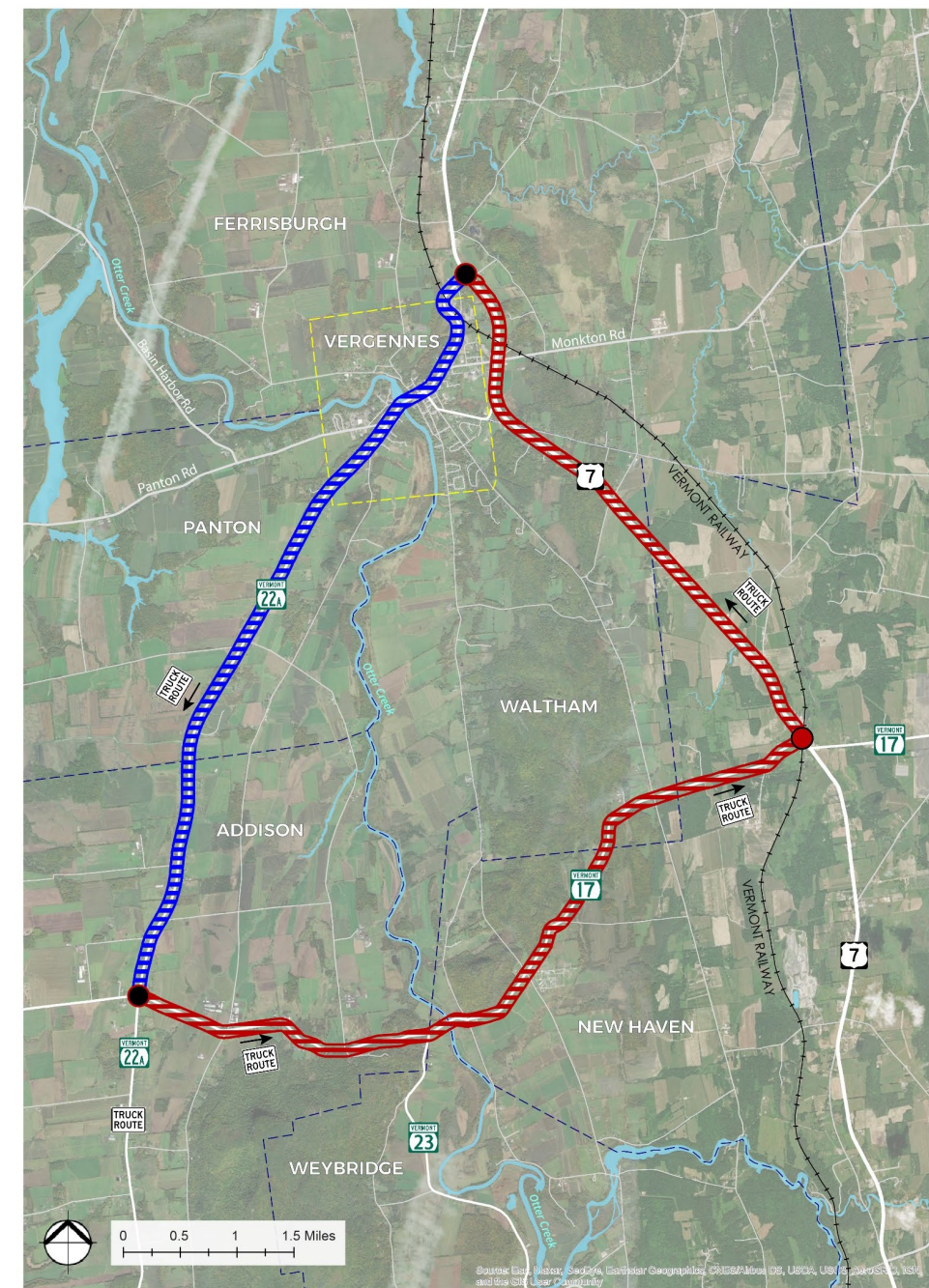
Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please share comments about the Vergennes Main Street New Parallel Route concept

VT-17 Northbound/VT 22A Southbound

- Utilizes existing roadways, which reduces the potential for land use and environmental impacts
- Restricts northbound truck traffic from coming through Vergennes
- Benefits and potential impacts would be spread to two regional corridors
- Necessary improvements along each corridor would be identified (intersection, shoulders, curves, grade changes)



VT 17 Northbound/ VT 22A Southbound - Should this concept move forward for future study?

Strongly agree

Agree

No opinion

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please share comments about the VT 17 Northbound/ VT 22A Southbound concept

Next Steps

Public meeting and review of initial screening

Feedback
deadline
November 10

Technical Committee and federal
and state agency review of public
input

November
2022

Policy Committee review and vote
on concepts recommended for
further study

December
2022

What Comes Next?

Technical Work

Outreach Activities

Concept Engineering

- Design constraints including existing ROW and land use, environmental resources, location of adjacent roadways, municipal boundaries

Public
Workshops
Spring 2023

Transportation and Land Use Integration

- Local land use controls/zoning, economic conditions and growth trends, environmental constraints

Land Use
Visioning
Summer 2023

Evaluation of Concepts

- Traffic impacts, multi-modal considerations
- Environmental impacts – wetlands, floodplains, habitats, noise

Public
Workshop
Summer 2023

Additional Comments and Questions



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and-answer session

Thank you!



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

Please email us at vergennespel@gmail.com for further information, to submit comments or to contact the Study team.