

ADDISON COUNTY
Economic Development Corporation
Great starts here.

November 21, 2018

Kathleen Ramsay, Town Manager
Town of Middlebury
77 Main Street
Middlebury, VT 05753

Dear Kathleen,

I am writing to express the full support of the Addison County Economic Development Corporation (ACEDC) for creating a multi-purpose trail connecting existing trails in Middlebury to the village center in East Middlebury. Expanding our recreational assets by connecting existing resources is an efficient use of our infrastructure capital. The village center in East Middlebury is only about 2 miles from a north entrance to the Moosalamoo National Recreation Area, which further opens over 16,000 acres and over 70 miles of maintained trails and other recreation resources to Middlebury residents and guests.

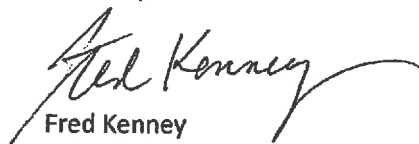
Currently, walking or bike riding along routes 7 or 116 between Middlebury and East Middlebury is not safe as shoulders are narrow and traffic is fast. Providing a safe commuter trail encourages the type of healthy lifestyle that attracts new families to our area.

Regional economic impact studies of shared use trails indicate consistent increases in use by residents, guests, especially regional day guests, increase in expenditures by trail users with proximal businesses, increase in local property values and increased general resident satisfaction. Perhaps more importantly, community support for such projects is attractive to both potential employers and potential employees that might consider relocating to this area.

Finally, this project fosters smart-growth and further aligns with the State's mandate to consider 'Complete Streets' principle of safety and accommodation for all transportation system users. It also directly aligns with the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative goals of supporting outdoor recreation-related businesses, increasing participation in outdoor recreation activities, strengthening the quality and extent of outdoor recreation resources, and increasing stewardship of outdoor recreation resources.

ACEDC strongly supports this very worthwhile project and urges the Town of Middlebury to also support the project. Please let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,


Fred Kenney
Executive Director

November 21, 2018

Re: VOREC Grant

Neighbors, Together strongly supports the VOREC grant application to create a new trail connection from Middlebury to East Middlebury, allowing safe commuter access, access to recreational assets south and east of Middlebury, and provide fun healthy exercise for bikers, walkers, runners and hikers.

Neighbors, Together is a stakeholders group that represents community members and organizations with the mission of supporting the community during the rail/bridge project and to help mitigate negative impacts to our community during the construction. A series of public forums in 2016 identified four areas of concern: economic vitality of Middlebury; maintaining Middlebury as a cultural and community center; accessibility; and, communication. Specific suggestions to accomplish these goals do include bike and pedestrian paths/trails to help accessibility during the construction that would include recreational and fitness milestones; marketing Middlebury as a center of outdoor recreation; and to create activities that can be enjoyed by all community members regardless of age or ability. While our focused mission reflects the construction period, we recognize that there are opportunities to introduce improvements that will extend beyond the rail/bridge project. We welcome these initiatives.

Sincerely,
Nancy Malcolm
Linda Horn
Co-chairs Neighbors, Together

St Stephens Episcopal Church-Better Middlebury Partnership-Town of Middlebury-Middlebury College-Town Hall Theater-Addison Central School District-National Bank of Middlebury-Downtown Improvement District Commission-Addison County Chamber of Commerce-Ilsley Library-Addison Central Teens-UVM/Porter Medical Center-Addison Independent-Members at Large

Peter Burrows

49 Charles Ave.

Middlebury, VT 05753

pburrows@acsdvt.org

To Whom It May Concern:

As superintendent of Addison Central School District, I wholeheartedly support the development of a commuter path to connect East Middlebury to Middlebury. ACSD has long supported walking and biking to school to encourage students to live healthy lifestyles and to support greater sustainability in our community. An example of this is our partnership with Middlebury Safe Routes and extensive bicycle training and education for students at Mary Hogan School.

A path connecting East Middlebury would provide the ability for many of our students to participate in "Walking and Rolling" to school, and would also benefit our families and community members who are active parts of our schools in Middlebury. Further, I believe that this path would reflect well on Middlebury as a whole and its commitment to reducing the carbon footprint and building on our reputation as an outdoor-focused and health conscious community.

This path is a great idea, and the benefits would be experienced for years and years after its construction!

Sincerely,

Peter Burrows

Walk-Bike Council of Addison County
walkbikeaddison.org



November 26, 2018

Town of Middlebury
77 Main Street
Middlebury, Vermont 05753

Dear Middlebury Select Board,

The Walk-Bike Council of Addison County expresses its strong support for the VOREC Community Grant application connecting the designated downtown of Middlebury with the village of East Middlebury. The Walk-Bike Council is a citizen-led advisory group formed to improve safe biking and walking county-wide following the tragic on-road cyclist fatalities of 2015. Identifying, designing, and promoting an off-highway cycle-route linking our village centers is an important step toward improving conditions for many constituencies including cyclists commuting to our shire-town, recreational riders, and tourists.

I respectfully urge you to pursue this project to create this important connection.

Best regards,

Adam Franco
Chair, Walk-Bike Council of Addison County
adamfranco@gmail.com
802-458-0622



Middlebury Area Land Trust

PO Box 804 · Middlebury, VT 05753 · (802) 388-1007
www.maltvt.org · info@maltvt.org

November 26, 2018

Kathleen Ramsay, Town Manager
Town of Middlebury
77 Main Street
Middlebury, VT 05753

Dear Kathleen,

I am writing to express resounding support from the Middlebury Area Land Trust (MALT) for the planning and creation of a multi-purpose trail that connects existing trails in Middlebury to the sidewalk system in the village center of East Middlebury. Such a connector is a critical thread of the recreational, economic, and social fabric of our community. It would achieve the following:

- Provide a safe commuter trail connection to Middlebury for bikers and walkers;
- Create an accessible gravel path for all levels of recreators (compared to more technical trails that exist throughout our area);
- Increase attractiveness of both Middlebury and East Middlebury to young and active families;
- Provide a critical link in the chain of trails from Crown Point to Moosalamoo National Recreation Area, following the visionary path of the North Country National Scenic Trail;
- Promote healthy activities and lifestyles for residents and visitors to the area.

With over 30 years of trail building experience in our community, MALT sees this connector trail as a priority. In a 2017 MALT membership survey completed by over 100 local residents, 48% ranked outdoor recreation as the most important need MALT addresses. Clearly, access to nature through a vibrant and diverse network of trails is a priority for our community. MALT urges the Town of Middlebury to support the project, as well as an application to the VOREC (Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative) grant program for funds to begin work on the trail.

Sincerely,

Jamie Montague | Executive Director
Middlebury Area Land Trust

THE
University of Vermont
HEALTH NETWORK

Porter Medical Center

November 21, 2018

Dear Middlebury Select Board Member,

I am writing in support of the creation of a recreation path between Middlebury Town and East Middlebury.

Our mission at UVMHN-Porter Medical Center is:

“To improve the health of our community, one patient at a time.”

In recent years, Porter has moved beyond simply caring for our sick and injured; we have expanded our mission to include working with our community to keep us all as healthy as possible. For this very reason, recreation paths, sidewalks, and healthy activity opportunities in general are part of our core mission.

We support the opportunity to connect our downtown with the townships to our south. Let us all make it safe and easy for our neighbors to make the healthy choice of walking or riding a few miles. Furthermore, as an employer, the more community based activities we can create, the better our recruitment and retention.

Vermont is currently (depending on how you measure) one of the “healthiest” states in the country and Addison County is one of the healthiest regions of Vermont. Let us take it to the next level, make it even healthier, and let everyone know Addison County is an incredibly healthy place to come and live, work and raise a family.

Best Regards,



Fred Kniffin, M.D.
President
UVMHN-Porter Medical Center



State of Vermont
Department of Health
Middlebury Office of Local Health
156 So Village Green, Suite 102
Middlebury, VT 05753
HealthVermont.gov

[phone] 802-388-5747
[fax] 802-388-4610

Agency of Human Services

November 26, 2018

Kathleen Ramsey
Town Manager
Town of Middlebury
77 Main Street
Middlebury, VT 05753

Re: Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative Grant

Dear Ms Ramsey:

As the District Director for the Middlebury District Office of Local Health, we are pleased to submit this letter of support as the Town of Middlebury considers applying for the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC) Community Grant, to propose a multi-purpose trail connecting the Designated Downtown of Middlebury to the Village Center of East Middlebury.

Lack of physical activity is one of three behaviors contributing to the development and severity of chronic disease. Chronic disease claims the lives of nearly 57% of Vermonters. While Addison County regularly ranks well for overall population health, more than one in three adults in Addison County do not get the recommended amount of physical activity, and 20% of adults report no leisure time physical activity. Among Addison county high school students, only half report meeting physical activity recommendations most days of the week.

Communities that are built to support physical activity, and safe walking and biking are essential for good health. The goals of this project align with the policy, system and environmental changes that the Health Department strives for in supporting healthy community design. As an Office of Local Health, we are committed to this work by having a representative (Bethany Yon, the Chronic Disease Prevention Specialist) sit on the Walk-Bike Council of Addison County.

We are particularly excited by the collaborative nature of this application that has already garnered the support of key community partners to address the walking and bicycling infrastructure in Middlebury. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this grant opportunity to collaboratively develop a multi-purpose trail supporting healthy activity and lifestyles for users of all ages and abilities.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Moira Cook", written over a horizontal line.

Moira Cook
District Director
Middlebury Office of Local Health



Addison County Regional Planning Commission

14 Seminary Street Middlebury, VT 05753 www.acrpc.org Phone: 802.388.3141 Fax: 802.388.0038

November 26, 2018
Via e-mail

Ms. Kathleen Ramsay, Town Manager
Town of Middlebury
77 Main Street
Middlebury, Vermont 05753

RE: Addison County Bike Club (ACBC) VOREC Grant Application – Letter of Support


Dear Kathleen and members of the Middlebury Select Board:

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission (“ACRPC”) whole-heartedly supports the Addison County Bike Club (“ACBC”) proposal to work with the Town of Middlebury to submit a VOREC grant application seeking funds to develop a bike commuter trail connecting East Middlebury and Downtown Middlebury. The Addison County Regional Plan’s Transportation Section strongly supports creating infrastructure that links villages, promotes conservation and efficiency and enhances the Region’s sense of place. Addison County Regional Plan, Section 6 Transpiration Plan, Sub-section 6.2 Regional Transportation Goals 2, 3 and 4 (2018).

Providing recreational and alternative commuter connections between Middlebury’s Designated Downtown and the abutting Designated Village Center of East Middlebury sets a precedent for Addison County and for Vermont. ACBC have a committed and knowledgeable board, dedicated members, and the growing regional support of the Walk-Bike Council of Addison County. We hope the Town of Middlebury will choose to support ACBC in their endeavor to find funding to build this excellent project designed to improve the quality of life on our community.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions or concerns regarding our support, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Adam G. Lougee, Director

Addison Bridport Bristol Cornwall Ferrisburgh Goshen Leicester
Lincoln Middlebury Monkton New Haven Orwell Panton Ripton
Salisbury Shoreham Starksboro Vergennes Waltham Weybridge Whiting



Addison County
Regional Planning Commission