

Regional Active Transportation Plan 2018 Southern Windsor County RPC

Overview - January 2018



New name, new plan!

Active Transportation Plan

What is "Active Transportation"?

Physically active travel such as walking, bicycling, running, people with mobility assistance devices, etc (Idea came from Mad River Valley & Chittenden County RPC Plans)



Why do we need a new plan?

We last worked on our Regional Bicycling and Walking Plan in 2006. In the last decade we've seen lots of changes:

- **new technology to find travel routes** - eg online maps, apps
- **new technology changed safety issues** - eg distracted driving due to smart phones and quieter hybrid and electric vehicles
- **new pressures on funding...** leading to **new prioritization** of infrastructure improvements (eg the Statewide On-Road Bicycling Plan)
- **new focus on healthy communities,**
- **new Complete Streets law** and, not forgetting...
- **NEW NEEDS FOR ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION!**

And some things have stayed the same:

- motorized transportation dominates the region
- insufficient funding and suitable land to put bicycle lanes, sidewalks and multi-use paths everywhere

Key concepts and ideas for the new plan

- Keep short and visual
- Focus on transportation uses, but incorporate recreation uses where appropriate
- Implementation
 - Infrastructure needs
 - Non-infrastructure needs - "Education", "Encouragement" (eg SR2S), "Evaluation" (eg counting and inventories) (from CCRPC plan)
 - Ongoing - eg lighting, snow and ice removal

Outreach and input

- TAC as the main committee to review and provide direction
- Specialized focus groups for specific areas - eg health, bicycling, schools, elders, etc

Who is the plan for?

- RPC and VTrans staff to understand local needs
- Towns to understand local assets and record their biggest wants/ needs
- Hopefully we can strategize to produce something that is useful for the general public in a follow up project

Where in the region?

We'll be considering the entire region... but likely focusing on

- Downtowns and villages
- Multi-use paths
- Road shoulders
- Connections to recreation places
- Backroads
- Connecting to other modes of transportation - eg Park and Rides, transit, etc



Expected Timeline

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| Jan 2018 | Start work Introduce project to the TAC Start pulling together a list of people for focus areas Collate information about existing conditions |
| Feb - Mar | Start reaching out to people for focus areas Brainstorm needs with TAC and focus groups |
| April | Summarize input so far |
| May | Review findings so far with TAC |
| June | Refine goals, policies and recommendations with TAC and focus groups |
| July - Aug | Finalize report and consider next steps |

Credits: Word clouds from <http://wordart.com>. Toonerville Trail photograph by SWCRPC staff

For more information about the project, please visit our Active Transportation Plan webpage <http://swcrpc.org/atp/> or contact Katharine Otto, AICP. Regional Planner kotto@swcrpc.org 802-674-9201