



# TOWN OF CHESTER

556 Elm Street  
P.O. Box 370  
Chester, VT 05143

(802) 875-2173  
Fax (802) 875 2237

March 5, 2025

## SELECTBOARD MEETING AGENDA

6:30 p.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81988842129>

1. Reorganization of Board
2. Adopt Rules of Procedure
3. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes from the Selectboard Meeting dated February 19, 2025
5. Citizen's Comments
6. Old Business
7. Short Term Rental Update
8. Discussion Re: Providing Direction to Planning Commission on Quarries/Earth Extraction
9. Resolution Re: VT Rail Plan Mid-Point
10. Vermont 250<sup>th</sup> Resolution
11. New Business/Next Agenda
12. Executive Session: Town Manager Review
13. Adjourn

# Selectboard Memo

## March 5, 2025

### Adopt Rules of Procedure:

As you may recall, the Rules of Procedure need to be adopted each year by the Selectboard. I have included a draft copy for 2025, as well as the adopted version from 2024. I have made no changes.

### Old Business:

**Solar Field:** I have received confirmation from Greenbacker that they are willing to reduce their purchase price by \$50k, with a new price of \$1,090,000.

**Federal Funds:** I have heard from a few people asking about the impacts to the municipal budget with the potential cut to federal funds. There is no impact to Chester's operational budget. Our General Fund is not supported through federal dollars. Currently, I have received no notifications from any federal grant agencies indicating that our grants are threatened. I am however, keeping all reimbursements of federal grants closely up to date so that any funds we have expended are reimbursed quickly. The impact will likely be in future grant funding. It will likely become more difficult to obtain funding for certain types of projects.

**Flood funding:** On the same note, we have now been fully funded through FEMA for all but 1 project -reservoir Dam. State funds will begin to flow once all projects have been completed and we are signed off. This won't be until end of 2025/2026 due to the engineering for the dam. At this time, with over \$3 million in damages, the town's match for flood recovery is approximately \$78,000.

**Reservoir Dam:** The town has retained Fuss & O'Neil to evaluate the Reservoir Dam for the purpose of determining what damage to the spillway was directly caused by the July 2023 floods. In addition, they will do a full analysis of the dam and indicate any improvements/modifications needed. Once this is completed, I believe we will need to have a discussion about the Reservoir and its future. I am anticipating we will need an upsize in the Dam's infrastructure which will likely be costly. However, we will wait to see what the engineers have to offer us. I was able to get the A&E cost of \$88,000 covered by FEMA.

### Short Term Rental update:

Preston and Hugh will be at this meeting to provide an update on Short Term Rentals in Chester.

### PC Direction with regard to quarries:

As you had requested several meetings ago, this item has been added to the agenda for the purpose of requesting the PC to dig into the discussion regarding quarries/earth extraction and its impact to Chester. Both Preston and Hugh will be at this meeting.

### Rail Resolution:

I have included a Resolution that Preston is asking by signed by the Selectboard. He will be at this meeting to provide a brief presentation, but we have also included the referenced Vt. Rail Plan Mid-Point Discussion as well as the agenda for the march 10 meeting.

In a nutshell, Preston is working to get the rail section from Bellows Falls to Rutland (passing through Chester) recognized in the Vermont Rail Plan. We want to ensure that Chester's rail location is mentioned in writing so that we might be able to find support for future rail progress in our region.

Vermont 250<sup>th</sup> Resolution:

Attached is a letter and Resolution that was forwarded to me by the Vermont 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commission. If you are interested in participating, we will need to determine who will be the liaison and if you want one person or to establish a committee. I have also shared with the Historical Society to see if there is any interest from them as well.

Next Agenda:

March 19: Appointments; Paper of Record; Town Forest Mgmt Plan; Class IV Road Policy

April 2: The Town manager conference is being held in Woodstock this year. The dates are April 2 and 3. I am wondering if the board would be willing to move this meeting. If not, I can travel back on the 2<sup>nd</sup> for the meeting. At this time, the only items I have are the review of a Foam Policy for the FD and an addition to the Traffic ordinance for PD. These are not urgent and can be moved.

## **Rules of Procedure**

### Town of Chester Selectboard

**PURPOSE.** The Selectboard of Chester is required by law to conduct its meetings following the Vermont Open Meeting Law. 1 V.S.A. §§ 310-314. Meetings of the Selectboard of Chester must be always open to the public, except as provided in 1 V.S.A. § 313.

**APPLICATION.** This policy setting forth rules of procedure shall apply to the Selectboard of the Town of Chester, referred to below as “the body.” These rules shall apply to all regular, special, and emergency meetings of the body.

#### **ORGANIZATION.**

1. The body shall annually elect a chair, vice-chair and secretary. The chair of the body or, in the chair’s absence, the vice-chair shall preside over all meetings. If both the chair and the vice-chair are absent, a member selected by the body shall act as chair for that meeting.
2. The chair shall preserve order in the meeting and shall regulate its proceedings by applying these rules and making determinations about all questions of order or procedure.
3. A majority of the members of the body shall constitute a quorum. If a quorum of the members of the body is not present at a meeting, no meeting shall take place.
4. No single member of the body shall have authority to represent or act on behalf of the body unless, by majority vote, the body has delegated such authority for a specific matter at a duly-noticed meeting and such delegation is recorded in the meeting minutes.
5. Motions made by members of the body require a second. The chair of the body may make motions and may vote on all questions before the body. A motion will only pass if it receives the votes of a majority of the total membership of the body.
6. There is no limit to the number of times a member of the body may speak to a question. A member may speak or make a motion without being recognized by the chair. Motions to close or limit debate will be entertained.
7. Any member of the body may request a roll call vote. Pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 312(a)(2), when one or more members attend a meeting electronically, a roll call vote is required for votes that are not unanimous.
8. Meetings may be recessed to a time and place certain.
9. These rules may be amended by majority vote of the body and must be readopted annually.

#### **AGENDAS.**

1. Each regular and special meeting of the body shall have an agenda. Those who wish to be added to the meeting agenda shall contact the Town Manager to request inclusion on the agenda. The chair shall approve the final content of the agenda.

2. At least 48 hours prior to a regular meeting, and at least 24 hours prior to a special meeting, a meeting agenda shall be posted in or near the municipal office and at the following designated public places in the municipality: Chester Post Office and Chester Hardware. At least 48 hours prior to a regular meeting, and at least 24 hours prior to a special meeting, a meeting agenda shall be posted on [www.chestervt.gov](http://www.chestervt.gov). The agenda must also be made available to any person who requests such agenda prior to the meeting.
3. All business shall be conducted in the same order as it appears on the noticed agenda, except that any addition to or deletion from the noticed agenda must be made as the first act of business at the meeting. No additions to or deletions from the agenda shall be considered once the first act of business at the meeting has commenced. Any other adjustment to the noticed agenda, for example, changing the order of business, postponing or tabling actions, may be made by majority vote of the body.

#### MEETINGS.

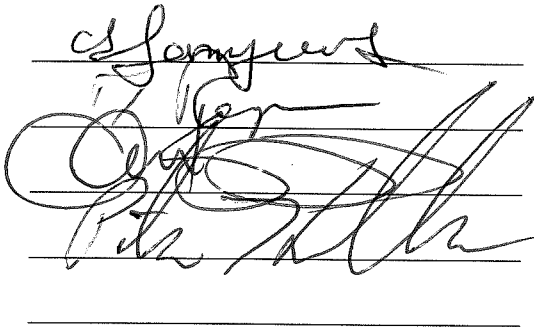
1. Regular meetings shall take place on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m at Chester Town Hall.
2. Special meetings shall be publicly announced at least 24 hours in advance by giving notice to all members of the body unless previously waived; to an editor, publisher or news director, or radio station serving the area; and to any person who has requested notice of such meetings. In addition, notices shall be posted in the municipal clerk's office and at the following designated places in the municipality: Chester Post Office and Chester Hardware.
3. Emergency meetings may be held without public announcement, without posting of notices, and without 24-hour notice to members, provided some public notice thereof is given as soon as possible before any such meeting. Emergency meetings may be held only when necessary to respond to an unforeseen occurrence or condition requiring immediate attention by the public body.
4. A member of the body may attend a regular, special, or emergency meeting by electronic or other means without being physically present at a designated meeting location, so long as the member identifies him or herself when the meeting is convened and is able to hear and be heard throughout the meeting. Whenever one or more members attend electronically, voting that is not unanimous must be done by roll call. If a quorum or more of the body attend a meeting (regular, special, or emergency) without being physically present at a designated meeting location, the agenda for the meeting shall designate at least one physical location where a member of the public can attend and participate in the meeting. At least one member of the body, or at least one staff or designee of the body, shall be physically present at each designated meeting location.

#### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

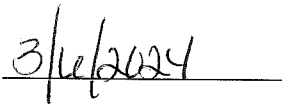
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2. As part of each agenda item, but before any action is taken by the public body at each meeting, there may be time afforded for open public comment. By majority vote, the body may decrease or cease public comments.

3. Comment by the public or members of the body must be addressed to the chair or to the body as a whole, and not to any individual member of the body or public.
4. Members of the public must be acknowledged by the chair before speaking.
5. If a member of the public has already spoken on a topic, he or she may not be recognized again until others have first been given the opportunity to comment.
6. Order and decorum shall be observed by all persons present at the meeting. Neither members of the body, nor the members of the public, shall delay or interrupt the proceedings or the peace of the meeting or interrupt or disturb any member while speaking. Members of the body and members of the public are prohibited from making personal, impertinent, threatening, or profane remarks.
7. Members of the body and members of the public shall obey the orders of the chair or other presiding member. The chair should adhere to the following process to restore order and decorum of a meeting, but may bypass any or all steps when he or she determines in his or her sole discretion that deviation from the process is warranted:
  - a. Call the meeting to order and remind the members of the applicable rules of procedure.
  - b. Declare a recess or table the issue.
  - c. Adjourn the meeting until a time and date certain.
  - d. Order the constable to remove disorderly person(s) from the meeting.

ADOPTED:



Signatures



Date

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ADOPTED:

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Signatures

\_\_\_\_\_

Date



**Vermont 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commission**  
Deane C. Davis Building, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
One National Life Drive, Montpelier, VT 05620-0501  
[www.accd.vermont.gov/historic-preservation/american-revolution-250th](http://www.accd.vermont.gov/historic-preservation/american-revolution-250th)

February 20, 2025

Dear Vermont Community:

This is a reminder that the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence is coming. In 2020, Governor Scott established the Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission (VT250th) to plan, encourage, develop, coordinate, and promote observances and activities to be held in Vermont in commemoration of the historic events associated with the American Revolution.

To this end, the VT250th Commission will begin commemorations in 2025 with the capture of Fort Ticonderoga and Crown Point, and finish in 2027 with Vermont's signature anniversary year marking the founding of Vermont and the campaign of 1777, which included the battles of Hubbardton and Bennington. This commemorative milestone is an important time that provides the perfect platform to take stock of where we have been and to enable planning for our future.

This three-year anniversary period will allow all Vermont communities to share their histories, which include stories more diverse than are commonly known and can serve to unify all Vermonters. The VT250th Commission encourages every community to take part, no matter how big or small the event(s) or activities. How each town and city commemorate its history will be decided by your community.

We invite you to join us as we commemorate the American Revolution and come together to mark the 250 years since the founding of our state and nation and our continuing march toward a more perfect Union by adopting a resolution to be part of the 250th anniversary. A template has been provided for your consideration. The resolution declares that your town or city officially establishes a VT250th liaison or local committee made up of a diverse group of citizens to work with VT250th Commission on any events and activities related to the 250th anniversary.

This will ensure your town or city to be directly involved in the work of the VT250th Commission, as well as bring attention to the upcoming anniversaries for your community and help build awareness of the important role that Vermont and your town or city has contributed to our shared histories.

To date, the following towns, villages and cities have already adopted a resolution to be a part of the 250th anniversary commemoration:

Arlington • Barnet • Bennington • Calais • Cambridge • Canaan • Castleton • Danby • Danville • Derby • Dorset • Dover • East Montpelier • Franklin • Granville • Hartford • Landgrove • Lincoln • Londonderry • Ludlow • Lyndon • Manchester • Middlebury • Milton • Morristown • Mount

Holly • Newark • New Haven • Newport • Orwell • Pomfret • Pownal • Rochester • Rockingham  
• Rutland • Shaftsbury • Shoreham • Springfield • Strafford • Stratton • Sudbury • Sunderland •  
Swanton • Troy • Tunbridge • Walden • Wallingford • Washington • Westmore • Wilmington •  
Windsor • Winhall • Woodford • Worcester

We look forward to working with your town or city as you envision and implement a meaningful commemoration for your community for these upcoming anniversary years!

Megan Albert  
VT250th Anniversary Coordinator  
[Megan.Albert@partner.vermont.gov](mailto:Megan.Albert@partner.vermont.gov)



## Vermont 250<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY RESOLUTION

A resolution of the [City or Town] of Chester, State of Vermont, supporting the Vermont 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commission;

WHEREAS, Vermont Governor Phil Scott signed an executive order to create the Vermont 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commission on December 15, 2020, to plan, encourage, develop, coordinate, and promote observances and activities to be held in Vermont in commemoration of the historic events associated with the 250th anniversary of the 1776 signing of the Declaration of Independence, the Revolutionary War between 1775 and 1777, the founding of Vermont in 1777, and the creation of the political foundations of the United States of America;

WHEREAS, the Vermont 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commission hopes to engage all 252 cities and towns through their many programs, projects, and events over the next several years, thereby inspiring future leaders and celebrating Vermonters' contributions to the nation over the last 250 years;

WHEREAS, by adoption of the Vermont 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commission, we hope to inspire Vermonters to learn from the history, legacy, and context of the past to build stronger communities for the future.

RESOLVED, the [City or Town] of Chester officially establishes a liaison or local committee made up of a diverse group of citizens or individual to work with the Vermont 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commission on any or all activities. The participant(s) of the [City or Town] of Chester are voluntary roles and there will be no compensation for participation.

(OPTIONAL) RESOLVED, [City or Town] of Chester may provide funding for planning or implementation of 250<sup>th</sup> related commemorations in their community or region as available.

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Vermont 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commission.

ADOPTED by the Selectboard of the [City or Town] of Chester, the State of Vermont, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 202\_.

Mayor/Town Manager/Select Board

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# **VT Rail Plan Mid-Point Discussion**

Vermont Rail Advisory Council  
February 11, 2025

VERMONT RAIL PLAN UPDATE – Rail Advisory Council – February 11, 2025

Vermont Rail and Freight Plans

# Today's Discussion

- 1) Plan Update Status
- 2) Preliminary Draft Tiers of Recommendations
- 3) Preliminary Ridership Trends
- 4) Next Steps



# Rail Plan Goals

- 
- Maintain existing system (State of Good Repair)
  - Expand capacity to accommodate growth
  - Increase rail system use (freight & passenger)
  - Fund the rail system adequately & sustainably
  - Improve intermodal connectivity (freight & passenger)
  - Act on opportunities for ancillary economic development
  - Enhance safety, security, and resilience of the rail system, while also reducing negative impacts on the environment.

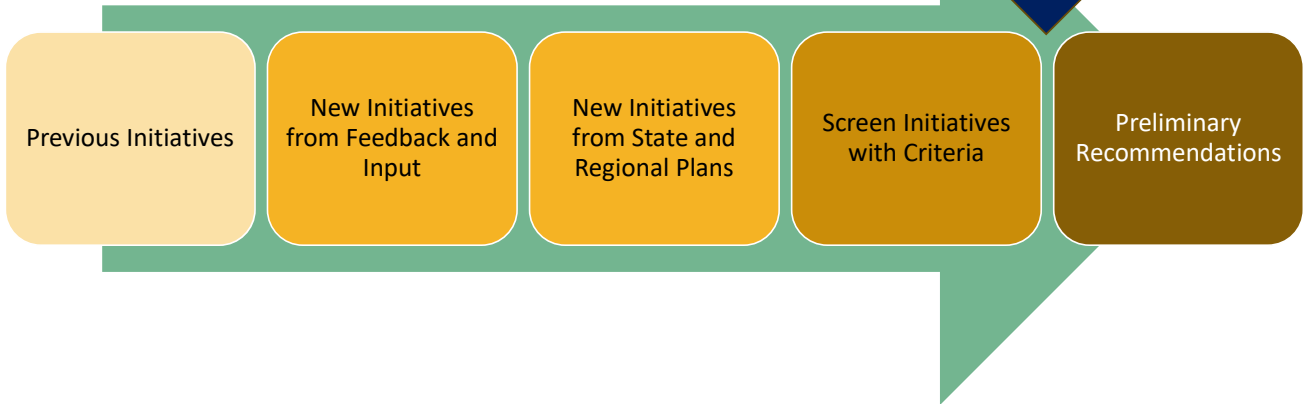
# Moving Toward Preliminary Draft Recommendations



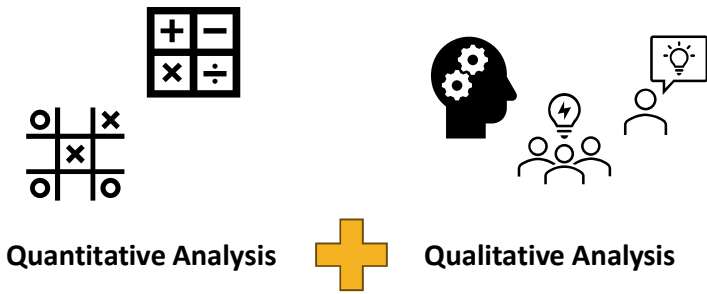


# Prioritization Process

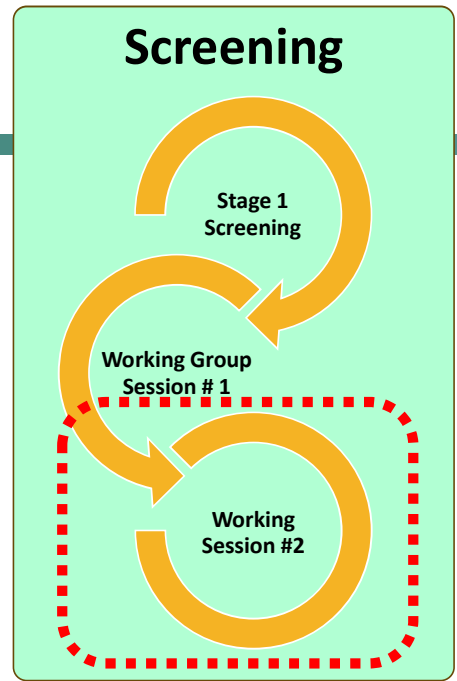
We are Here



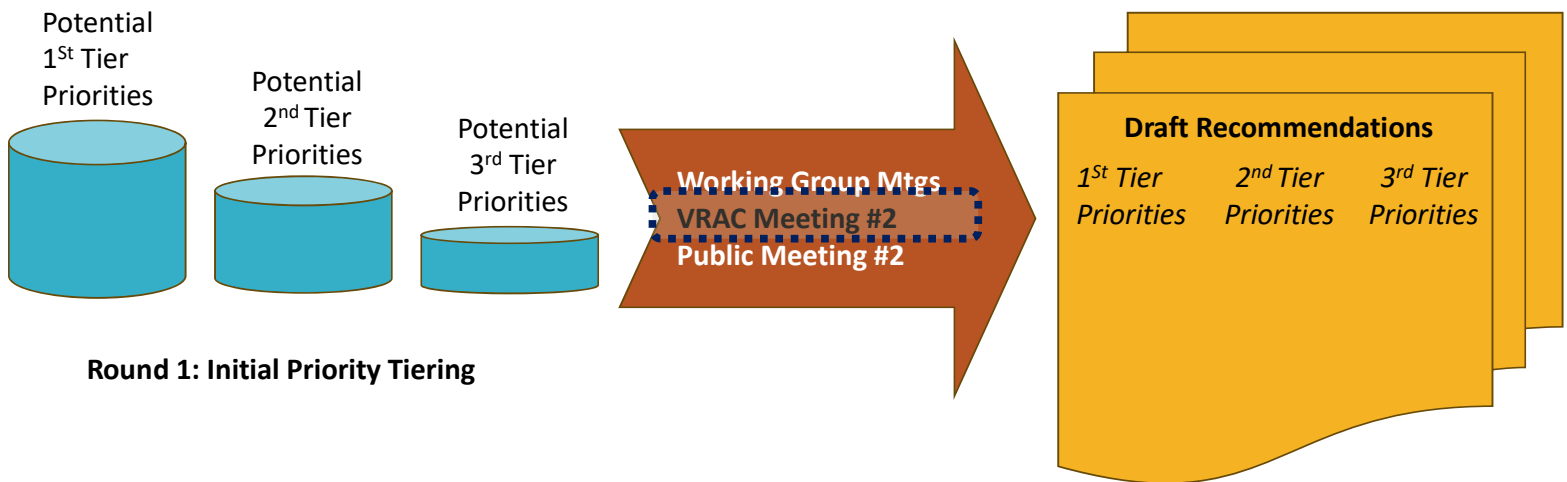
# Prioritization Process



**The Quantitative Screening informs the discussion in a meaningful way.  
The Qualitative aspects add context and background.**

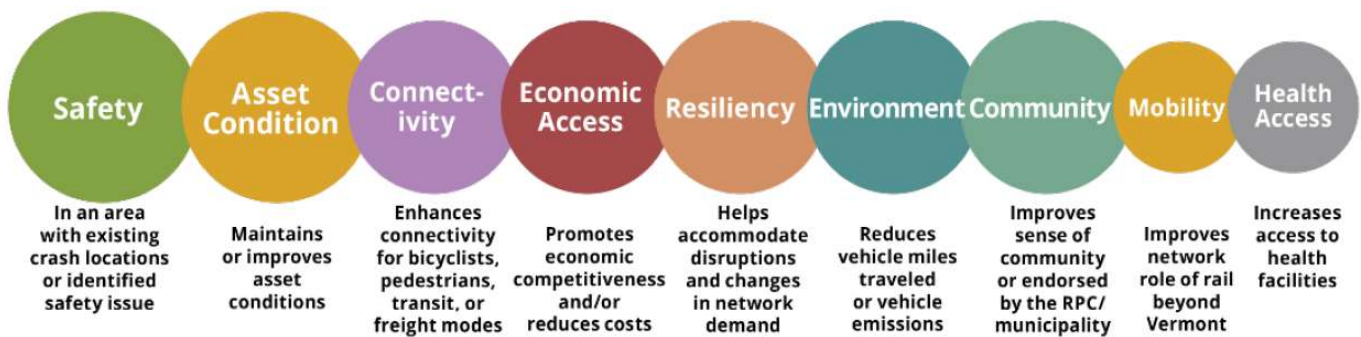


# Prioritization Process



# Screening Criteria

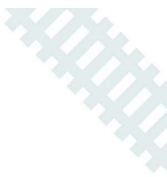
Aligned with the VTrans Project Selection and Project Prioritization Process (VPSP2).  
Location Specific initiatives and Policy & Program Initiatives analyzed consistently





# Preliminary Recommendations

# Preliminary First Tier



ID	Description (Policy) (Location Specific)	Goal
2	<b>Upgrade all rail lines to 286K weight-bearing capability, emphasizing bridges and weight restricted locations</b>	<b>Increase Use/ Expand Capacity</b>
4	<b>Further enhance marketing of Vermont passenger rail</b>	<b>Increase Use/ Expand Capacity</b>
13	<b>Increase resilience of rail system to make critical infrastructure more resilient now and to prepare for increasing storm severity</b>	<b>State of Good Repair</b>
18	<b>Seek grants and innovative funding approaches for freight and passenger rail</b>	<b>Funding</b>
2530	<b>Increase the preparedness and resilience of the rail network, particularly for bigger and more frequent storms.</b>	<b>Safety &amp; Resilience</b>
100	Vermont Extension to Montreal – one round trip/ day	Increase Use/ Expand Capacity
111	Passenger rail station improvements statewide, prioritizing stations with increasing use or with needs at the station or for multimodal access.	Intermodal Connectivity
115	Upgrade WACR Connecticut River Line Bridges and Track up to 286k standard (White River Junction to Newport)	Increase Use/ Expand Capacity
116	Burlington Railyard Enterprise Project - Improve safety in rail yard, interconnections for the community, and multimodal transportation infrastructure	Economic Development
122	Phased deployment of gates, flashers, and other safety improvements at existing and planned public road grade crossings with an emphasis on the top 50 prioritized sites on state highways.	Safety & Resilience



# Preliminary Second Tier

ID	Description (Policy) (Location Specific)	Goal
3	<b>Maintain State-owned freight trackage at FRA Track Class 2 or better and State-owned passenger rail trackage at Class 4 or better where viable based on geography</b>	State of Good Repair
6	<b>Preserve and fully use industrial land parcels with access to rail sidings as well as the rail infrastructure that provides access to them.</b>	Economic Development
8	<b>Facilitate development of freight transload or potentially intermodal facilities or near Vermont</b>	Intermodal Connectivity
9	<b>Maintain and improve freight network connections for Vermont businesses to regional short-haul markets and competitive Class I railroad (mix of physical and policy matters)</b>	Intermodal Connectivity
14	<b>Improve multi-modal connections including bicycle, pedestrian, and transit to Amtrak stations. Improve wayfinding, Pick-up/Drop-off, supply of nearby parking for short and long term uses. Accomplished through partnerships and collaboration with adjacent neighbors.</b>	Intermodal Connectivity
15	<b>Support smart land use growth such as transit-oriented development (TOD) and specifically the housing strategies in the 2024 Vermont Act 47 and 2025 Act 181</b>	Intermodal Connectivity
2507	<b>Improve multimodal coordination between AMTRAK stations with broader intercity and interstate highway access (bus including Greyhound, VT Translines). Including special combo fares and other incentives for multimodal travel.</b>	Intermodal Connectivity
110	VTR track upgrade between Hoosick and Rutland to continuous welded rail (CWR) with a minimum of 115 lb. rail	State of Good Repair
112	Upgrade GMRC Bridges and Track to 286k standard (Rutland to Bellows Falls)	Increase Use/ Expand Capacity
2522	Coordinate to upgrade the privately owned East Alburgh Bridge on the NECR line	State of Good Repair

# Preliminary: Third Tier – Policy Recommendations

ID	Description (Programs and Policy)	Goal
5	<b>Educate shippers about rail carload and intermodal service options and contracting approaches</b>	Economic Development
10	<b>Maintain, publicize, and enhance appropriate communication regarding rail movement and storage of hazardous materials (hazmat) while respecting rail exemptions from local control</b>	Safety & Resilience
19	<b>Publicize existing voluntary efforts of railroads and encourage “freight as a good neighbor” (NCHRP Syntheses 320) while respecting rail’s exemptions from local control</b>	Safety & Resilience
20	<b>Modernize public and private (as appropriate) freight rail yards.</b>	Economic Development
21	<b>Work to reduce causes of delay to Ethan Allen Express and Vermonter service within and beyond Vermont’s borders through partnerships</b>	Increase Use/ Expand Capacity
2509	<b>Rail station signs on I-91 and I-89 &amp; Other major corridors in Vermont. Emphasis on promoting AMTRAK stations, and other upgrades.</b>	Intermodal Connectivity
2528	<b>Explore increases to peak season passenger capacity on the two AMTRAK lines.</b>	Increase Use/ Expand Capacity
2529	<b>Reduce and eventually eliminate restrictions to domestic double stack clearance across the state. For example on the NECR and the GMRC/CLP.</b>	Increase Use/ Expand Capacity



# Preliminary: Third Tier Location-specific Recommendations



ID	Description	Goal
102	Vermont Extension to Montreal – two round trips/ day	Increase Use/ Expand Capacity
103	Extension from Burlington to Essex Junction to connect Ethan Allen Express with Vermonter.	Increase Use/ Expand Capacity
104	Add passenger service on the Albany-Bennington-Burlington freight route to supplement Ethan Allen Express service in Western Corridor	Increase Use/ Expand Capacity
105	Bring the Vermonter up to 79 MPH where conditions allow	Increase Use/ Expand Capacity
106	Bring the Ethan Allen Express up to 79 MPH where conditions allow	Increase Use/ Expand Capacity
108	Extend one Valley Flyer service from Greenfield, MA to White River Junction, VT	Increase Use/ Expand Capacity
113	Upgrade WACR Montpelier & Barre Sub. Bridges and Track up to 286k standard (Montpelier to Barre)	Increase Use/ Expand Capacity
126	Upgrade NECR Winooski Branch Bridges and Track to 286k standard (Burlington to Essex Junction)	Increase Use/ Expand Capacity
2506	Investigate a coordinated connection (rail, bus, etc.) at both Rutland and Bellows Falls to connect passengers between the Ethan Allen Express and the Vermonter to Killington, Ludlow/Okemo and Chester.	Intermodal Connectivity
2527	Extend one Valley Flyer service from Greenfield, MA to Brattleboro, VT	Increase Use/ Expand Capacity
2531	Confirm and address the sections of rail that are most vulnerable to flood damage using results of the expansion of the Transportation Resilience Planning Tool (TRPT) to rail. See appendix of Rail Plan for initial priority locations.	Safety & Resilience

# Follow up & Action

## Provide Feedback by February 18<sup>th</sup>

- Contact Zoe (Zoe.Neaderland@vermont.gov) or Jonathan at RSG (jonathan.slason@rsginc.com)

## Public Meeting!

- Please help us get the word out about the **March 10, 2025**
- at the **Brattleboro Town Offices** at **3pm** and **online (hybrid mtg)**

Materials for the public meeting (and meeting registration) will be posted along with an updated interactive map here:

- <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/rail/reports>

# Ridership

# Ridership Approach

- Ridership projections are based on a combination of:
  - Existing ridership
  - Projected growth within Vermont (according to the Long-Range Transportation Plan)
  - Impacts of operational changes, such as increased frequency and speed
- Analysis is undertaken in two steps:
  - First, existing ridership (assuming no changes to service) is projected out 20 years to 2045 using the projected statewide growth
  - Second, scenarios are tested using elasticities to project impacts
- Today, we can examine the scenarios tested, and initial trends
  - Detailed results are still being completed, and are not yet available
  - All results are consistent with 2019 Rail Plan
  - NOTE: These are ridership only. Accounting for costs & benefits is outside of this rail plan

# Vermont Scenarios

Current Vermonter Ridership (FY2023)	Baseline Growth to 2045
~70,000 (to/from VT stations only)	~10-15%

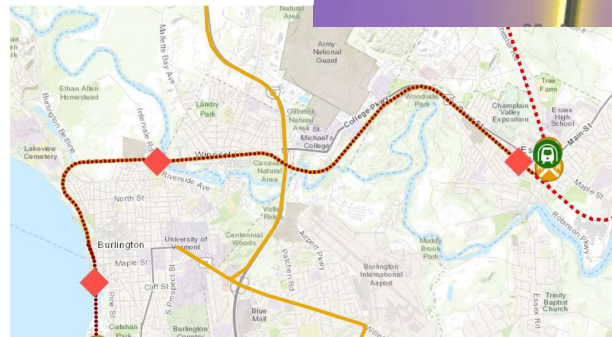
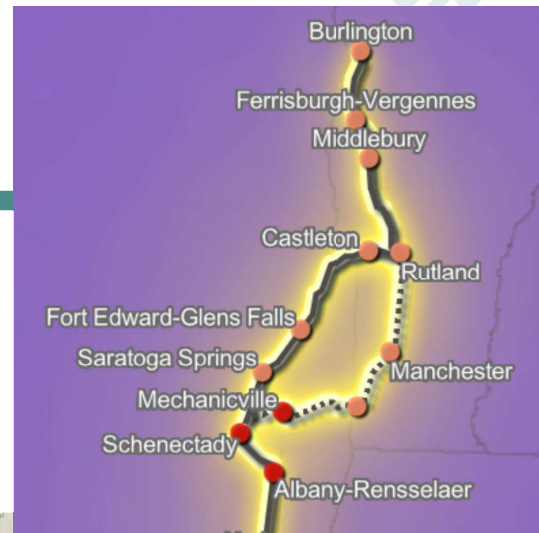
V1	79 MPH service
V2	Extension of one Knowledge Corridor Valley Flyer train to Brattleboro
V3	Extension of one Knowledge Corridor Valley Flyer train to White River Jct.
V4	Vermont day train extension to Montreal
V5	Twice-daily Vermonter service, with both terminating in Montreal
V6	Night train from Montreal to points south
V7	Boston connecting train at Springfield to Vermonter serving Montreal



# Ethan Allen Scenarios

Current Ethan Allen Ridership (FY2023)	Baseline Growth to 2045
~46,000 (to/from VT stations only)	~10-15%

E1	79 MPH service
E2	Albany - Burlington via Bennington <b>and</b> extension to Burlington (serving both routes)
E3	Ethan Allen Express extension to Essex Junction



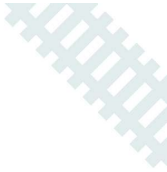
# Initial Ridership Result Trends

*These results reflect potential ridership only, and do not consider any costs associated with that scenario*

Scenario Type	Ridership Trend	Notes
Increasing speeds	<b>+5-15% growth</b>	Limited impact going from 60mph to 79mph maximum
Adding frequency	<b>+80-100% growth</b>	Doubling from one train per day to two results in almost doubling of ridership from those stations
Connections to Montreal	<b>+20-40% growth</b>	Represents only increases from VT stations to Montreal – many additional riders are generated from MA/CT/NY through VT to MTL
Connections to Bennington and Essex Junction	<b>+15-30% growth</b>	The Burlington to Essex Junction connection generates higher ridership than the Bennington connection

# Rail Plan— Overview

March 10  
Brattleboro Town  
Offices – 3pm



	Aug '24	Sept '24	Oct '24	Nov '24	Dec '24	Jan '25	Feb '25	March '25	April '25	May '25	June '25
VRAC	1			2			3			4	
Public Mtgs			1					2		3	
Interviews	[Yellow bar spanning Aug '24 to Oct '24]										
Existing Conditions	[Blue bar]	[Blue bar]									
VT topics		[Blue bar]	[Blue bar]	[Blue bar]							
Recommendations					[Blue bar]	[Blue bar]	[Blue bar]				
Performance Measures						[Blue bar]	[Blue bar]	[Blue bar]			
Draft & Final Reports								[Blue bar]	[Blue bar]	[Blue bar]	
VTrans and FRA Review										[Blue bar]	[Blue bar]
Acceptance by 7 July '25											[Green bar]



# Thank You!

*Comments or Questions?*  
Zoe Neaderland, VTrans System Planning  
[Zoe.Neaderland@vermont.gov](mailto:Zoe.Neaderland@vermont.gov)  
(802) 793-2778.

## **RSG Contact Information**

Jim Brogan, RSG Project Manager: [Jim.Brogan@rsginc.com](mailto:Jim.Brogan@rsginc.com)

Jonathan Slason, Deputy Project Manager: [Jonathan.Slason@rsginc.com](mailto:Jonathan.Slason@rsginc.com)



VT RAIL PLAN & VT FREIGHT PLAN UPDATE

# Vermont Rail Plan Update

## Public Meeting #2

Monday, March 10, 2025 3:00 to 4:30 PM

Brattleboro Municipal Center, 230 Main Street, Brattleboro, Vermont

Or online via Teams

## AGENDA

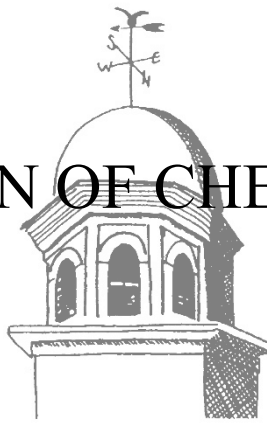
- 1) Welcome
- 2) Orientation
  - a. Why is rail so important to Vermont?
  - b. What is a rail plan & why is it being updated?
  - c. Important changes and progress made since the 2021 Rail Plan
- 3) Preliminary Draft Recommendations
  - a. Context
  - b. Preliminary draft recommendations by goal
  - c. Discussion
- 4) Next Steps

## RESOURCES

Visit the VTrans Rail Plan webpage (<https://vtrans.vermont.gov/rail/reports>) to find resources ahead of or following the meeting, including:

- 2021 Rail Plan and executive summaries
- Interactive Mapping and Feedback Tool
- Click on [Meeting Documents](#) for the presentation, background, and, after a week, the recording of the meeting.

# TOWN OF CHESTER



556 Elm Street  
P.O. Box 370  
Chester, VT 05143

(802) 875-2173  
Fax (802) 875- 2237

## Town of Chester

### Select Board Resolution

The Town of Chester Select Board expresses its support for Draft Preliminary Third Tier Location-Specific Recommendation ID #2506 as proposed in the VT Rail Plan Mid-Point Discussion document dated February 11, 2025, as follows:

*ID 2506: Investigate a coordinated connection (rail, bus, etc.) at both Rutland and Bellows Falls to connect passengers between the Ethan Allen Express and the Vermonter to Killington, Ludlow/Okemo, and Chester.*

The Town of Chester Select Board provides this comment for the Vermont Rail Plan Update Public Meeting #2 scheduled for March 10, 2025, and requests that Recommendation ID #2506 be included as a final element in the 2025 Vermont Rail Plan.

This Resolution is hereby adopted by the Select Board of the Town of Chester, Vermont, on this 5<sup>th</sup> day of March 2025.

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Arunas "Arne" Jonynas, Chair

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Lee Gustafson, Vice Chair

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Tim Roper

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Peter Hudkins

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Arianna Knapp