

SECTION IV. LETTERS OF SUPPORT



1. CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
2. MAD RIVER VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
3. MAD RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT
4. MAD RIVER VALLEY HEALTH CENTER
5. WAITSFIELD SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL
6. WAITSFIELD PLANNING COMMISSION
7. MAD RIVER PATH ASSOCIATION

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION



Valerie Capels
Waitsfield Town Administrator
9 Bridge St.
Waitsfield, VT 05673

7/11/13

Dear Valerie,

The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission finds your application to the VTrans Bicycle & Pedestrian Program consistent with the Regional Plan. This proposal will build upon VTrans investments in sidewalk projects on the west side of VT 100, and provide a complete street in this area of the Village. Fully implementing the feasibility study to extend in the sidewalk network in Waitsfield Village, and improving pedestrian facilities are recommendations of the Regional Transportation Plan.

The proposed application is also consistent with the following regional goals and policies:

Promote a transportation system that encourages concentrated development, allows greater access to residences, employment, and services, and facilitates carpooling, bus and rail service, and non-motorized travel.

Promote projects that limit the conflicts between the motor vehicle traffic stream, and pedestrians.

Encourage traffic calming efforts to minimize conflicts between traffic and surrounding neighborhoods.

Promote a transportation system design that strives for aesthetic and functional characteristics that improve the quality of life.

Support the design of visually attractive and durable infrastructure such as roadways, pathways, and bridges.

To promote a regional transportation system that preserves and enhances residential and economic development potential in growth areas.

Encourage transportation system improvements that renew and improve downtowns, growth areas, and neighborhoods.

Please call me if I can be of further assistance in the preparation of your grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Gladczuk', written in a cursive style.

Steve Gladczuk
Transportation Planner



July 11, 2013

Jon Kaplan, Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager
VT Agency of Transportation
Local Transportation Facilities
1 National Life Drive
Montpelier, VT 05633

Re: State of VT Agency of Transportation grant – VT Bicycle and Pedestrian Program

Dear Mr. Kaplan:

Please accept this letter on behalf of the Mad River Valley Chamber of Commerce in support of an infrastructure grant application for a potential sidewalk extension on the west side of Rt 100 in Waitsfield Village from Valley Players to Farr Lane.

The west side of the road is a mix of business and residential buildings resulting in significantly more traffic exiting and entering those driveways. The proposed west side extension of that stretch of sidewalk would mean increased safety of pedestrians.

The town-owned parcel of green space located on Old County Rd (west side of Rt 100) is being increasingly utilized for Frisbee, dog training, kite flying, and accessing the town orchard. Increased community usage of the Waitsfield Church is resulting in more pedestrian activity as people seek offsite parking, as none currently exists at the church. A crosswalk by the church would be a, dare I say, Godsend.

To continue the vision outlined in the town's village parking and pedestrian circulation as outlined in the town plan is strongly supported by the business community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan M. Klein".

Susan M. Klein
Executive Director

Discover Our Good Nature.

MAD RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT

June 24, 2013

Jon Kaplan, Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager
VT Agency of Transportation
Local Transportation Facilities
1 National Life Drive
Montpelier, VT 05633

Re: 2013 Vermont Bicycle and Pedestrian Program | Waitsfield Main St. Westside Sidewalk

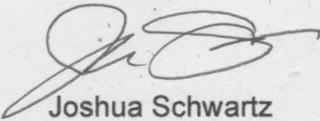
Dear Mr. Kaplan,

Please be advised that the Mad River Valley Planning District wholeheartedly supports the Town of Waitsfield's application to the 2013 Vermont Bicycle and Pedestrian Program for support in designing, engineering, and constructing the final phase of the Main St. Westside Sidewalk in Waitsfield Village.

The proposed project, 670' sidewalk and related improvements, will provide a strong and safe pedestrian connection within the Village and implement the final piece of the 2011 Waitsfield Town Sidewalk Conceptual Alignment Analysis. The creation of safer ways to travel along and across busy Rt. 100/Main St. will increase pedestrian activity and further boost the Village's economic vitality. The Town of Waitsfield is making great investments in its Village, this project will help the community meet a key milestone.

MRVPD sees this application as an important way of increasing pedestrian activity that will improve the health and well being of its residents, school children, and visitors.

Sincerely,



Joshua Schwartz
Executive Director

Representing the Vermont Towns of Fayston, Waitsfield and Warren

P.O. Box 471, Waitsfield, VT 05673 • (802) 496-7173 • mrvpd@madriver.com



July 11, 2013

Jon Kaplan
Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager
VT Agency of Transportation
Local Transportation Facilities
1 National Life Drive
Montpelier, Vermont 05633

Dear Mr. Kaplan:

I am writing in support of the application from the Town of Waitsfield for additional funding to pay for a concrete sidewalk on the west-side of Route 100. The Mad River Valley Health Center is a non-profit organization that supports health education and promotion and serves the Mad River Valley.

This project will facilitate better pedestrian activity in the Village of Waitsfield. There are obvious health benefits associated with walking, and the addition of sidewalks along the west-side of Route 100 should reduce the risk associated with pedestrians crossing back-and-forth across Route 100 should there not be a complete sidewalk along the west-side of Route 100. Traffic on Route 100 can be fairly busy at times. Thus, the Mad River Valley Health Center supports this project for both health promotion and accident prevention reasons.

This project complements the improvements anticipated with the Safe Routes to School grant. It is consistent with planning activities that have taken place within the Town of Waitsfield that have involved a number of different organizations.

Please let me know, if you require any additional information relative to the Mad River Valley Health Center support of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Duncan S. Brines".

Duncan S. Brines
President

July 11, 2013

Jennifer Stella, Coordinator
Waitsfield Safe Routes to School
Po Box 87
Waitsfield, Vermont 05673

Jon Kaplan, Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager
VT Agency of Transportation
Local Transportation Facilities
1 National Life Drive
Montpelier, VT 05633

RE: Waitsfield West-Side Sidewalk Project Application

Dear Mr. Kaplan,

As coordinator of Waitsfield's Safe Routes to School Program, I write to you in support of the Town of Waitsfield's application to the VTrans Bike/Ped Program. The Waitsfield School serves just over 150 students and is located directly on busy Route 100. Although students, staff and parents are committed and enthusiastic towards walking/biking to and from school,^{1,2,3} the lack of adequate sidewalks/paths to and from the school continues to be a top safety concern of Waitsfield parents, second only to speed and volume of traffic.^{4,5}

The sidewalk/crosswalk project scoped for the west side of Route 100 from Farr Lane to Old County Road is expected to help mitigate safety concerns for children, other residents and visitors alike because it would provide for off-road travel, safe crossings and enhanced connectivity and may even help to calm traffic speeds. This spring, many were excited to learn that Waitsfield received a \$250,000 grant through the Safe Routes to School program that, according to our town administrator, "will fund 100% of the construction of a new segment of sidewalk on the west side of Main Street/Route 100 from Old County Road to the Valley Players Theater, where it will connect with the existing sidewalk."⁶

It is my understanding that additional funds are required to finalize the engineering and design of this project but that it is "ready to go" from here. It is therefore my hope that Waitsfield's application to VTrans Bike/Ped program will be looked upon favorably. Thank you in advance for your consideration!

best regards,

Jennifer Stella, Coordinator, Waitsfield Safe Routes to School

¹ Video: children walking along east side of route 100, [October 2009](#)

² Video: children commuting along west and east sides of Rte. 100, [Oct. 2012](#)

³ Press Release: Waitsfield Elementary School Awarded The Carbon Cup. [June 2, 2013](#)

⁴ Waitsfield SRTS Travel Plan • [May 2010](#)

⁵ Waitsfield SRTS Travel Plan • [October 2012](#)

⁶ Waitsfield Town Administrator's Report, [May 23, 2013](#)



TOWN OF WAITSFIELD

July 10, 2013

Jon Kaplan, Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager
VT Agency of Transportation
Local Transportation Facilities
1 National Life Drive
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Mr. Kaplan,

We are writing in support of the Town of Waitsfield's grant application to fund sidewalk improvements in the Historic Waitsfield Village District. Waitsfield has long encouraged efficient and safe pedestrian travel within the Village.¹ The proposed sidewalk will invite increased pedestrian activity and improve pedestrian safety in the Village, which furthers the goals and policies set in the Town Plan. Policy 8.F-15 instructs the town to:

“Provide an interconnected network of sidewalks and other pedestrian and bicycle paths in Irasville and Waitsfield Village, including incorporation of identified road and sidewalk connections into development and subdivision plans. New development shall provide such sidewalks and paths to be connected to existing or planned facilities.”²

The proposal also furthers the goals of the Waitsfield Village Parking and Pedestrian Circulation Study, which was prepared in March 2006. The Safe Routes to School travel plan identified needs of the Waitsfield Elementary School, which would also be served by this project.³

The project will reinforce the Village as a town center and enhance the economic vitality of the Village.⁴ An improved sidewalk will promote the well-being of our citizens and visitors by being a pedestrian-friendly, accessible location for people of all ages and abilities. It would also help reduce vehicle trips in town which will lower our carbon footprint and fossil fuel consumption. This is supported by the Town Plan, as well.⁵

¹ See “Pedestrian and Bicycle Travel” section, Waitsfield Town Plan 2012-2017, page 58.

² *Id.*, page 61. See also “Traffic Calming” section, page 57; Policy 8.F-18, page 61; Task 8.G-3, page 62.

³ See <http://saferoutes.vermont.gov/sites/saferoutes/files/WaitsfieldTravelPlan-Oct2012.pdf>

⁴ See “Capital Improvements” section, *Id.*, page 26.

⁵ See Policy 9.I-10, *Id.*, page 76.

Route 100 is deemed a scenic road by our Zoning Bylaws. A new sidewalk in the Village will beautify that side of the main corridor for travelers and enhance the scenic character of this historic area of our town.

We understand that the scoping for the project was completed in November 2011, which means it is ready for engineering and design. Hopefully, that positions our proposal to take advantage of this grant opportunity. Waitsfield has long planned for improved sidewalk access to its Village and town centers, and this grant will provide the funding we need to realize this goal.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Shea", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steve Shea, Waitsfield Planning Commission Chair
Todd White, Vice Chair
Kari Dolan
Hadley Gaylord, Jr.
Ted Laskaris
Brian Voigt
Stan Ward

Mad River Path ASSOCIATION

July 15, 2013

Jon Kaplan, Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager
Vermont Agency of Transportation
Local Transportation Facilities
1 National Life Drive
Montpelier, VT 05633

Re: Town of Waitsfield Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Application
(Main Street West Side Sidewalk)

Dear Jon,

The Mad River Path Association is pleased to offer its enthusiastic support of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Program application submitted by the Town of Waitsfield to construct Phase 2 of a sidewalk along the west side of Route 100 (Main Street) in Waitsfield Village.

The Mad River Path Association is a 400 member non-profit organization, working to foster a healthy community by connecting the people, businesses and special places of the Mad River Valley through the creation of public pathway systems. Although much of our work focuses on the creation of community trails and paths, we also strongly support the installation and improvement of sidewalks because they provide a vital means of access to our path system.

The Waitsfield sidewalk project will directly and meaningfully improve pedestrian safety in Waitsfield Village. The project will fill an obvious gap in the village sidewalk network by completing the sidewalk along the west side of Main Street, by several important local businesses. The absence of sidewalks in this area means that pedestrians traveling to and from locations in the village are likely to risk crossing Route 100 in order to utilize the newly renovated sidewalk on the east side of the road. This project will provide pedestrians on the west side a safe path to follow, thereby reducing the need or desire to cross Route 100 in an unsafe location or manner.

The project will enhance pedestrian access to community facilities. A new sidewalk will improve pedestrian access to and from the Mad River Path system for visitors and residents. The new sidewalk will also improve access to community gardens, an orchard, stores, homes, recreational resources and the community health center, in addition to the Elementary School.



Supporting Community, Ecology and Health through Public Pathways.

General Wait House • 4061 Main St. • P.O. Box 683 • Waitsfield, Vermont 05673 • 802.496.PATH(7284)

path@madriver.com

www.madriverpath.com

Jon Kaplan
July 15, 2013
Page 2

We believe a sidewalk on the west side of Route 100 would be an important asset to the community. Accordingly, we strongly support the Town of Waitsfield's application for Bicycle and Pedestrian Program funds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William E. Flender". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

William E. Flender
Executive Director