

**PC Multi-Modal Transportation Subcommittee  
Special Meeting  
Friday, November 17, 2023 8:15AM - Zoom Only**

---

To be held via Zoom:

Topic: Multi-Modal Transportation Subcommittee

Time: Nov 17, 2023 08:15 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87885329130>

Meeting ID: 878 8532 9130

888 475 4499 US Toll-free

---

1. Approve Agenda
2. Correspondence [in packet]
3. Public comment for items not on the agenda
4. Administrative
  - Subcommittee Name, Charter and Membership
5. Route 5 Bicycle Corridor
6. Adjourn

My family and I think a route 5 bike corridor is a great idea. We have often thought that the seldom used railroad tracks along the CT River would make an incredible bike path.

Mike Kornfeld, Norwich

---

Hi:

Frequently, I walk the short stretch of River Rd between Ledyard Bridge and the Norwich Rt 5 intersection and loop back into the village of Norwich via Rt 5.

I also cruise on my ebike from the bridge as far as north as Thetford and south to White River Jct. , where my daughter and family live.

I can't count the number of cyclists I see on these routes— there are so many!

How wonderful it would be to have a convenient, safe space to recreate along that beautiful rt 5 corridor! Most VT drivers are very courteous around bikes and pedestrians but there are always those few exceptions that make me nervous.

Thanks for your time,

Selina French

Norwich, VT

---

Hi! Thanks for making this request! We have already sent a letter to the Planning Committee. My wife and I, when Cedar Circle is open, bike along Rt. 5. Although the repaving last year was a great upgrade; Improvements, to enhance safety for both bikers and runners would be greatly appreciated. That stretch of Rt. 5 is a real gem riding along the river. I'm sure it will attract more cyclists to come to our town, helping our local economy.

Be well, Paul Manganiello

[226 Turnpike Rd]

---

That would be AMAZING!!! So many people in Strafford, Thetford, Norwich, and so forth commute to Hanover and this would be a safe and efficient route. Our family would consider a long bike trip if there were an option like that. Yes, yes, yes! We'd contribute time, effort and money to support such a thing.

Annie Hanaway

---

I vote a strong YES to a bike corridor. Thanks for working on this.

Would be a superb bike route, help with both local and long distance biking, and is much needed.

Thanks.

Edie Farwell  
645 Turnpike Road  
Norwich, VT 05055

---

Saw your post in the listserv regarding the proposed bicycle corridor along Rt. 5. I live right on Rt. 5 on the Norwich/Thetford line and believe this is a fantastic idea. Although not a bicycle owner myself, I witness the incredible amount of bicycle traffic along this stretch of roadway. It's a beautiful corridor, supported by the numbers of people I see biking in all seasons of the year. There is also almost no shoulder in many areas, which lends to difficulty in navigating around corners, curves, or hills where sight lines are limited and bicyclists are present. A dedicated corridor would alleviate many of these safety concerns and encourage more use of this great stretch of road. I might be more willing to consider an e-bike or alternative transportation if I had a safer/dedicated space to ride. It would also make it more feasible for children and others to utilize this roadway into Norwich or East Thetford. As it is now, it is not possible for my young kids to ride their bikes into town as it's simply too dangerous. I've often thought that if the old railway line were ever abandoned (less than 3-4 trains a week on it, and typically very few freight cars) it would make a wonderful bike/multi-use trail.

Hope this is helpful and let me know if there's anything else I can offer!  
Dylan Mroszczyk-McDonald

---

Thanks for your listserv post asking for feedback for the VTrans survey. I followed the links from the 11/7 PC meeting packet, to see the actual survey and want to give you my answers below to the actual questions.

(There's not much time, but asking people about the factors that discourage biking would be very helpful to the PC, I think.)

FYI, I've been involved for several years with the regional e-bike loan [program](#) and got an e-bike for myself 2 years ago, but I don't consider myself an active bike user -- only an aspiring one.

Linda Gray

\*\*\*\*\*

How important is improving bicycling conditions on or along a route that is roughly adjacent to U.S. 5. in your town or region?

- Not important • Somewhat important • **Very important**

How would you anticipate a bicycle corridor on or along a route that is roughly adjacent to U.S. 5 to be used in your town or region? Please choose up to 5 responses. •

Local and/or regional transportation •

**Connection to local destinations (within community)** • **Connection regional destinations (nearby communities)** • **Commute to and from place of employment** •

Connection to schools, college, and/or university •

Connection to restaurants or other entertainment •

For grocery or other shopping • **Exercise and health** •

Socializing or community building events and activities •

**Access to outdoor recreation opportunities** •

Connection to existing trail networks in the region • Other

How do you rate present bicycling conditions on U.S. 5 in your town or region? • **Poor** • Fair • Excellent

What factors currently DISCOURAGE bicycling on U.S. 5 in your town or region? Please choose up to 5 responses.

• **Lack of connected facilities (multi-use paths, sidewalks and bicycle lanes)** • **Deficient or unmaintained facilities (multi-use paths, sidewalks or bicycle lanes)** •

Lack of information about existing facilities (multi-

use paths, sidewalks and bicycle lanes) • Unsure of safe routes •

Unsafe street crossings • Hazardous or unsafe railroad crossings • Steep Hills •

Destinations are too far • **Aggressive motorist behavior** • **Narrow shoulders** •

**Significant vehicular traffic on route** •

Lack of workplace amenities (showers, bike racks) • Lack of nearby destinations •

Personal safety concerns • Requires a high level of fitness to bike along Route 5 •

Lack of bicycle shops in the region • Other

Thinking about your town or region, are there specific destinations you feel should be highlighted and incorporated into the planning and development of a bicycle corridor adjacent to U.S. 5. Please list up to 5 locations below. **Village areas of all the towns**

Thinking about your town or region, are there specific locations along U.S. 5 that you observe significant vehicular traffic and would benefit from additional inquiry? Please list up to 3 locations below. **King Arthur Baking, Norwich Farmers Market, Dresden athletic fields**

Thinking about your town or region, are there specific locations along U.S. 5 that you consider particularly dangerous? Please list up to 3 locations below.

Thinking about your town or region, are there any specific locations along U.S. 5 that you observe high volumes of bicycle and pedestrian activity? Please list up to 3 locations below.

**From:** Ivy T. Schweitzer <Ivy.T.Schweitzer@dartmouth.edu>

**Sent:** Sunday, November 5, 2023 10:57 AM

**To:** Brennan Duffy <BDuffy@norwich.vt.us>; Planner <planner@norwich.vt.us>;  
selectboard@norwich.us

**Subject:** Fwd: Route 5 safety

Dear Town officers,

My name is Ivy Schweitzer and I live at 24 Hopson Road in Norwich. I walk and bike up and down Route 5 (and elsewhere) in Norwich and I would very much like to see the construction of a safe biking and walking pathway along the Rt. 5 corridor. For reasons of health and sustainability. I urge you to support it.

Thank you.

Ivy Schweitzer

[Ivy.Schweitzer@Dartmouth.edu](mailto:Ivy.Schweitzer@Dartmouth.edu)

**From:** Thomas H. Luxon <Thomas.H.Luxon@dartmouth.edu>

**Sent:** Friday, November 3, 2023 11:13 AM

**To:** Brennan Duffy <BDuffy@norwich.vt.us>; Planner <planner@norwich.vt.us>;  
selectboard@norwich.us

**Cc:** Ivy T. Schweitzer <Ivy.T.Schweitzer@dartmouth.edu>

**Subject:** Route 5 safety

Dear Town officers,

*"My name is Thomas Luxon from Norwich, and I'm calling/writing to urge you to support the creation of a safe biking and walking pathway along the Route 5 corridor. Thank you."*

Please, please, please support efforts to create bike and pedestrian pathways along Route 5!

Thank you,

Tom Luxon

24 Hopson Road

-----Original Message-----

From: John Stephens <[john\\_stephens@alum.mit.edu](mailto:john_stephens@alum.mit.edu)>

Sent: Sunday, November 5, 2023 11:22 AM

To: Planner <[planner@norwich.vt.us](mailto:planner@norwich.vt.us)>

Subject: Route 5 bike/walk corridor

I'm an avid cyclist and very frequent bike commuter from my home on Turnpike Rd to my work in Lebanon. Every day I bike-commute I ride portions of Rt 5. I often include Rt 5 N from town up as far as Wells River on my weekend rides. I would love to see better accommodations for bikers and walkers along the Route 5 corridor. I urge you to support the creation of a safe biking and walking pathway along the Route 5 corridor.

Thank you.

John Stephens  
Turnpike Road, Norwich



**From:** Tom Sexton <tom@railstotrails.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 7, 2023 9:51 AM  
**To:** Select Board <selectboard@norwich.vt.us>  
**Cc:** Planner <planner@norwich.vt.us>; Brennan Duffy <BDuffy@norwich.vt.us>  
**Subject:** U.S. Highway 5 Bicycle Corridor Priority Assessment Survey

Good morning, Norwich Selectboard,

I'm writing to urge you to take part in this survey and support further study of bicycling and pedestrian safety improvements on Route 5.

As you may recall, Route 5 was once part of an active federal bi-state Connecticut River Byway with New Hampshire almost 20 years ago. During my trip to your area two weeks to "ride along" with VTrans to see the rebuild of the Lamoille Valley Rail-Trail (LVRT), I again noticed old Byway signs and literature in some visitor centers.

The original idea behind the survey came from recently passed legislation that focused on the fact that Route 5 has many people in towns every 5 to 10 miles along its length, and often paired with towns on the New Hampshire side. Bicyclists currently enjoy "loop" bike rides of various lengths along this section by using the half dozen bridges between the two states. But the experience can be greatly improved, and the economic opportunities spread beyond just the immediate trail corridors.

Also, Route 5 is also critical to completing the 1000-mile New England Rail-Trail Network Vision. <https://www.railstotrails.org/our-work/trailnation/newengland/>

Route 5 is the western half of the 45-mile on-road section of this network from White River Junction to the St. Johnsbury area and it would connect with New Hampshire's Northern and Ammonoosuc rail-trails, and of course the LVRT and the Cross Vermont Trail, and hopefully the future Twin State Rail-Trail which will extend from St. Johnsbury into Whitefield, NH.

Thank you and please contact me with any questions, Tom Sexton, Northeast Region Director, 717-512-7245 or [tom@railstotrails.org](mailto:tom@railstotrails.org)

Tom

Tom Sexton  
Director, Northeast Region  
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy  
717-512-7245  
[tom@railstotrails.org](mailto:tom@railstotrails.org)