

Vermont Route 22A Truck Route Study

Project Goal

The goal of this project is to enhance the economic vitality of downtown Vergennes and the quality of life for residents and visitors by reducing the impact of truck traffic (noise, fumes, and vibrations) while supporting the statewide movement of freight.

The Current Situation

An average of 11,000 vehicles travel through downtown Vergennes daily, including 400 tractor trailer trucks and 700 total trucks per day.

Tractor trailers, up to 72 feet long and weighing up to 80,000 pounds, negotiating the steep hill in downtown Vergennes create noise, vibrations, fumes and dust. Pedestrians, bicyclists and those dining at sidewalk cafes experience these impacts. The percentage of trucks on this route is more than double the percentage on US 4 in Woodstock and US 7 in Rutland.



Community leaders have been considering how to address the truck situation since 1995 when the feasibility of constructing a new north-south truck route to bypass the downtown area was assessed. The *2002 Greater Vergennes Traffic Impact Feasibility Study* reconfirmed public interest in finding a solution. City officials recently identified a potential new strategy and asked that VTrans conduct a new study to be managed by the Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC). The ACRPC, in conjunction with VTrans, has contracted with Stantec Engineering and Adamant Accord to assess three alternatives for addressing the impact of truck traffic in downtown Vergennes.

Alternatives To Be Considered

- A. **VT 22A Truck Route.** VT 22A would continue to serve as a truck route with modifications made to the roadway and traffic controls within Vergennes to allow for safer pedestrian and bike accommodations and smoother, quieter truck operations.
- B. **New Alignment Truck Route.** A new road would be constructed on an alignment that bypasses downtown Vergennes. Through trucks would be restricted from using VT 22A through downtown Vergennes.
- C. **VT 17 Truck Route.** VT 17, including major intersections, would be reconstructed to accommodate increased truck traffic. Northbound through trucks (and perhaps all through trucks) travelling on VT 22A would be restricted from passing through downtown Vergennes and directed to VT 17 between VT 22A and US 7.

Community Engagement and Project Schedule

The project team will work closely with the ACRPC Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC). The TAC is designed to have representatives from all towns in Addison County.

A public meeting will be held **September 26, 2018** to review the project goals, present existing conditions data, and hear community members' concerns. The consultant team will evaluate the three alternatives with respect to community interests. Another public meeting will be held in **January 2019** to present draft findings. Then final report and recommendations will be submitted to the ACRPC in **February 2019**.

For more information contact: Public Involvement Coordinator Cindy Cook, ccook@adamantaccord.com, 802-223-1330

PROJECT SCHEDULE

