

2019 Grant Application Cover Sheet

Primary Applicant Municipality: NORTHFIELD
Project Title: NORTHFIELD RIDGE AND RIVER ROUTES
Local Project Manager: JEFF SCHULZ
Mailing Address: 51 SOUTH MAIN ST
City Zip Code: NORTHFIELD, VT 05663
Telephone Email: 802-485-9822, JSCHULZ@NORTHFIELD.VT.US
VTrans District: 4-WHITE RIVER JUNCTION
Regional Planning Commission: CVRPC - CENTRAL VERMONT RPC
Total Better Connection Funds Requested: 63,000
Total Clean Water Funds Requested: \$35,000

Other Municipalities Involved in the Project (if applicable):	Contributing Match
CLICK HERE TO ENTER TEXT	Select an item
CLICK HERE TO ENTER TEXT	Select an item
CLICK HERE TO ENTER TEXT	Select an item

Certifications

- ☒ I understand that consultant selection will follow the policies and requirements of the Vermont Agency of Transportation's Procurement Procedures. <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/contract-admin>
- ☒ I mailed the five (5) required hard copies of my application with authorized signature (below).
- ☒ I emailed the one (1) required electronic copy of my application.
- ☒ This application was prepared by staff of the primary applicant or staff of one of the involved municipalities **OR**
- ☒ This application was prepared by the following compensated consultant:
Consultants may assist in preparing the municipality's application. However, to satisfy federal and state requirements, use of an appropriate means of consultant solicitation and selection is required prior to selection of a consultant. To avoid conflicts of interest, applicants should be aware that if consultant assistance is used in the preparation of the Program grant submission (i.e. in the development of the scope of work for the study), that consultant will not be eligible to conduct the work.

Local Project Manager Title: Town Manager
Name: Jeff Schulz

Authorized Signature*



**Please include and note the original authorized signature on (1) of the (5) mailed hard copies of the application form.*

2019 Grant Application Form

This form cannot exceed 10 single-sided pages, with a minimum of 11-point font.

Project Overview

Municipality Northfield
Project Name Northfield Ridge and River Routes
Amount of grant funds requested \$63,000

Primary Contact

Local project manager (name and title) Jeff Schulz, Town Manager	
Mailing address 51 SOUTH MAIN ST NORTHFIELD, VT 05663	
Phone 802-485-9822	Email address JSCHULZ@NORTHFIELD.VT.US

Fiscal Information

Accounting System (CHECK ONE) AUTOMATED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MANUAL <input type="checkbox"/> COMBINATION <input type="checkbox"/>
DUNS# 036120046
Fiscal year end month June

Project Description

Please give a brief project description. In no more than 1000 characters, describe the project and the expected outcomes.

The Northfield Ridge and River Routes project will create a master plan to better connect Northfield's four population nodes to each other and the outdoor activity centers within our local community through community engagement and infrastructure improvement planning. The outdoor activity centers lie along the River bottom adjacent to the Dog River and on the Ridge along the spine of Paine Mountain. The plan will examine opportunities for improved multimodal access including trailhead amenities, traffic flow, pedestrian safety, trail access, water quality protection, and the potential economic benefits from these improvements.
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This plan will inform the community on short term (1-3 year) and long term (4-10 year) investments, and serve as a basis for the actionable implementation of a cohesive connection between our attractions, businesses and recreational opportunities.

Award Criteria

Applications may receive a total of 120 points.

- Up to 100 points are based on an applicant's responses to five (1-5) required criteria.
- Up to 20 bonus points (5 points each) are awarded for the following:
 1. The project is located within (or adjacent to) a state designated downtown, village center, neighborhood development area, new town center or growth center.
 2. The project represents inter-municipal efforts.
 3. The applicant(s) demonstrate a local commitment to the project (as represented by the commitment of in-kind staff services, an overmatch of local funds, strong community and partner support (evidenced through letters of support or complementary local activities or initiatives).
 4. The project supports water quality improvements that reduce nutrient and sediment pollution. (by applying for the Clean Water Fund planning project – pages 9-10).

The Clean Water Fund projects will be scored independently of the standard Better Connections project award criteria. See additional details on pages 9-10.

Applications are scored using the following priorities and criteria. Please address and answer each criterion below (1-9) and the appendices.

Required Criteria

1. Well-defined Purpose and Need (25 points)

The application should clearly identify the project scope, it's purpose and community need. Explain how the project addresses a local or regional transportation, land use, water quality, housing and economic development issue, need or opportunity.

a. Project Purpose (15 points)

Explain the project's purpose and expected outcomes.

Northfield is composed of four historic villages – South Village, Center Village, Factory (Northfield) Village, and Northfield Falls which are our population and economic centers. Previous planning efforts in Northfield have remarked on the need to “Connect the dots: safer and more attractive physical connections need to be provided between the Dog River Corridor, the Common/downtown core, the University and the surrounding neighborhoods”. (V-DAT, 2014). The Northfield Area-Wide Plan (2016) promoted the development of a riverwalk to enhance connections to the downtown area. The project's purpose is to further these previous plans and the communities' vision by developing an actionable implementation plan to make these connections. The Plan will provide an opportunity for Northfield to build community vitality and economic growth by the creation of a multimodal transportation web that connects our State designated village centers to the villages beyond; South and Center villages including Norwich University, and Northfield Falls.

The Northfield Common is at the heart of our community and our multimodal transportation web. From here the community plans to make connections that will improve the safety of pedestrians traveling to dinner, shopping, work, school, and Norwich University. The Plan will identify the needed infrastructure improvements including sidewalks, parking access, signage, wayfinding kiosks, and stormwater treatment along with the development of new routes connecting areas not easily or safely accessible, for instance; Northfield Falls and Paine Mountain. Northfield will also study the corresponding economic benefits of these improvements along with the potential project costs to construct them. Forged together, the fibers of our future multimodal transportation web stretching from our four villages and the ridgeline will create a healthy, vibrant community in our little valley that others will want to visit and potentially call home.

b. Community Need (10 points)

Describe and document (reference applicable data such as demographic, transportation, land use, safety, health, economic data and previous plans and studies such as municipal plan, regional plan, scoping studies, etc.) the relevant transportation, land use, water quality, housing and/or economic development needs, goals, or issues the project will address.

The Plan will address the fragmented resources of our community. The completion of recent projects, including the Shaw Outdoor Center, Water Street Park and the Promise Community Playground, have left us with a disconnected community and without a safe connection for pedestrians and cyclists to use between them and our two designated village centers. These gaps in our connections severely limit the pedestrian access to all the destinations people wish to reach. Currently the only connection to all of our Villages is Route 12. This route connects but also divides our Villages and population nodes while offering no safe multimodal route to access them. Since 2012, six accidents involving pedestrians and one involving a bicycle have occurred in our project area; five with injuries and one fatality. Of the seven crashes, four were along Route 12. Northfield also has one of the highest populations of walkers in Vermont with approximately 170 (28%) of students walking to school on a daily basis and over 400 (15%) people walking to work. A count in 2016 conducted by CVRPC of the sidewalks around the Common showed an average of 418 people visited that area every day. Among this high walking population are many residents without vehicles, including the 700 freshmen at Norwich University, who are forced to make the trek to our local stores and recreation areas along roadsides without sidewalks; further supporting the need for safe routes that would accommodate populations on foot. Additionally, Northfield lacks connections to other important destinations, including Memorial Park which lacks sidewalks leading to it, resulting in the 30 or so students that walk to the park from school walking on the shoulder of roads; and the new Water Street Park which is located 1000 feet from the Mayo Healthcare Center. Mayo Healthcare is a 44 bed residential and memory care center for older adults. The Center estimates that one visit per day is performed by people associated with the Center to the Water Street Park. Several residents in fact have walking as part of their care plan, and are accompanied by Mayo staff on a regular basis to the Park. The creation of the Water Street Park is seen as an improvement to facilities associated with Mayo's, however gaps in the sidewalk on the corner between the Park and Center leave the areas without a safe path to connect them. This demonstrates the need for safer routes for children as well as older adults to be able to access our park areas for sports, recreation, and well-being. With these identified improvements, residents from Mayo and Northfield Senior Housing Facility could safely walk to the park, village Farmer's market on the Common; children in Northfield Falls could bike or walk safely to school, children could safely access the community fields, pool, playgrounds and library, and Norwich

Cadets could more easily frequent village amenities via an improved walking route to the Common that is welcoming and attractive.

2. Clear Linkage to Better Connections Purpose and Objectives (25 points)

The project and application must support the Better Connections Program Purpose and Objectives (as described on pages 2 of the [Application Guidance Packet](#)). The application should demonstrate how the project will support the following:

a. Transportation (5 points)

Provides safe, multi-modal and resilient transportation system that supports the Vermont economy.

The Plan will create active, multimodal transportation connections throughout our project area that are safe, inviting, and enhance the natural environment. Options to walk or bike via river and ridge routes between the population nodes and activity areas will improve the health of our community from young children to older adults and create community oriented outdoor recreation. More dollars will be spent locally once Northfield becomes known for its connectivity and active transportation options that could be extended to Montpelier and Berlin, sparking an economic renaissance. The Plan will draw on the lessons learned by the community from the flooding of 2011 that inundated all of Water Street and lead to the development of the Water Street Park. This park's flood resilient design will inform the streetscape design and implementation of a more resilient transportation web, while enhancing the historic land use patterns of Northfield's compact centers surrounded by rural country side.

b. Land Use and Economic Development (5 points)

Supports downtown and village economic development and revitalization efforts.

The Plan will build on recent planning efforts (Brownfields Area Wide Plan 2016; V-DAT, 2014) to link our villages through sidewalk and streetscape improvements, enhancement of our river corridor with a riverwalk, and creating safe multimodal transportation to enable pedestrians to move securely throughout the community. The Plan will also build on the efforts of the Northfield Planning Commission to update the Town Plan to include adjustments to the parking and land use requirements to encourage higher density mixed use development in Northfield's Villages. It will also help to maintain the vitality of Northfield's villages by diversifying the economic inputs for Northfield by connecting our villages to Paine Mountain, Norwich University, and the Dog River. By strategically siting trailhead amenities and linking our villages to our outdoor resources we will solidify Northfield's status as a recreation destination, while maintaining Northfield's land use goal of "keeping undeveloped land available for a variety of uses. River valley land is good for bicycle and pedestrian use; more remote areas of town provide access to scenic vistas and hiking and mountain biking. New development needs to consider the multiple values of each area of the town." (Town Plan 2014) Northfield visitors and townspeople will have improved access to village shops and recreation opportunities, boosting downtown vitality and economic development. Increased foot traffic will boost patronage to Northfield's business community.

If Northfield is better able to accommodate visitors and citizens wanting to shop in our villages, walk the river path, and explore the Town Forest and Norwich University, it will be an economic game changer. The gap in retail services will shrink as more needs can be met locally.

c. Community Capacity and Readiness to Implement (15 points)

Leads directly to project implementation (demonstrated by community capacity and readiness to implement). Describe the community's capacity, support and readiness to manage and conduct a robust planning process. In addition, explain how the project implements the ideas and actions identified in municipal and/or regional plans or builds on previous planning efforts. The application should clearly articulate how the project will be implemented and integrated in the municipal capital plan and/or support the implementation of capital projects identified in the regional and municipal plan, municipal capital plan or the VTrans Capital Program.

Northfield believes that it is ready and able to implement the short and long term projects that will be identified in the Master Plan. We believe this because the Northfield community has been able to complete 14 implementation projects over the last eight years; including five projects identified in the V-DAT Plan and two in the Brownfields Area Wide Assessment. Northfield has also successfully completed a Promise Community Grant which helped to build a new playground in Northfield Falls and a tree house park at the Brown Public Library. Community efforts helped to secure the purchase of the top of Paine Mountain through the Save our Summit campaign. The addition of bathrooms and picnic facilities at Memorial Park, and the completion of the Water Street Park are only the most recent demonstrations of Northfield's ability to rally around community enhancement projects. We bring to the table engagement from key community groups; Northfield Selectboard, Northfield Municipal Staff, Northfield Community Development Network, Northfield Conservation Commission, Northfield Recreation Committee, Greater Northfield Area Riders, an active Rotary chapter, a Farmer's Market, and Friends of the Winooski.

One of the key implementation tools that the project will create for the community is the implementation matrix. This matrix will include route planning and construction information that will assist the community in evaluating options and identifying priority route corridors for implementation. The matrix will break the routes out into short term (1-3 year) and long term (4-10 year) implementation years and include a route profile, type, ease of construction, landowner information, and potential funding sources. The community has taken additional steps to improve its capacity and readiness including the establishment of an Economic Development Fund to support expansion of existing businesses and the establishment of new businesses. The Northfield Selectboard is also committed to the improvement of pedestrian facilities in and around the villages and has budgeted \$115,000 in 2019 for sidewalk improvements along East St. and Main St. This represents approximately 16% of Northfield's total Highway Capital Improvement budget. Northfield Ridge and River Routes will build on the ideas identified in the 2014 V-DAT report as well as the 2016 Brownfields Area Wide Plan. The Northfield Ridge to River Routes Plan will examine the path forwards toward connecting our community via safe, multimodal routes as identified in the Brownfields Area Wide Plan. We will engage the community through implementation of our engagement plan and involve landowners through individual letters inviting them to a discussion of their potential role in enhancing Northfield's active transportation landscape.

3. Quality Work Plan, Schedule and Budget (25 points)

Provide a detailed work plan, schedule and budget for the scope of work. The work plan is well developed, detailed, focused and tasks are appropriate for the proposed project, timeline and budget. The work plan is broken up by task and cost estimates are well-documented by task. The work plan clearly articulates the expected outcomes of the projects, the deliverables, the responsible parties for each task, the project schedule, phasing and public engagement timeline. Applicants may submit a combined work plan, budget, and schedule if preferred to developing separate answers to items (a) through (c) below.

Include a description of the identified project manager's ability and experience to effectively manage the project and ensure project completion. Sample work plan and budget template [here](#). If applicable, document other resources (beyond required cash match). In-kind staff contributions and other federal or state funds are allowed but may not be used toward the local cash match requirement. Include an estimated cost using the following format:

Total project cost (TPC):	\$70,000
Grant funds requested:	\$63,000
Local cash match (10% of TPC minimum):	\$7,000
Additional cash match (if applicable):	\$0

a. Work Plan (15 points)

Provide a detailed work plan and description of tasks for the scope of work including desired deliverables and outcomes. The work plan should be clear, focused and implementable. Include a description of the local project manager's qualifications.

Below is a detailed work plan and description of tasks including desired deliverables for the Northfield Ridge and River Routes Master Plan. The Town of Northfield and staff from Central VT Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) will share the project manager responsibilities for this grant. Northfield will act as the fiscal manager, while Daniel Currier, Program Manager at CVRPC, will act as the project manager. Daniel currently leads CVRPC transportation planning program and is familiar with both VTrans and ACCD grant and procurement requirements. Daniel has acted as project manager for two CVRPC Transportation Planning projects under our program funding and two stormwater improvement projects for the Town of Northfield using Clean Water funding. He has also assisted Northfield with numerous planning level inventories and plans so is well connected and familiar with the community of Northfield. Daniel's time as project manager will be covered under CVRPC Transportation Planning Initiative funding.

Task	Description	Deliverable
1	Review of Purpose and Needs Statement for the Northfield Ridge and River Routes	
	Consultant will work with the Northfield Project Committee to review the grant's purpose and need statement. This statement is used to define the reasons for the project, outlines goals and objectives that should be included as part of the	Meeting minutes, Project outline. Project timeline, Draft purpose and need statement

	study and help focus data gathering. The statement will be presented at the Night on the Crescent Kick-off event.	
2	Gather Background Information	
	Consultant will gather and review existing documents and data and extract relevant information. The review will include but is not limited to the Existing Plans, Town Plan, Zoning, Natural Resource Data, Archaeological and Historic sites/districts, Public and Recreation Lands.	Narrative report. Maps and/or illustrations of the existing conditions
3	Develop Survey, Data, and Maps	
	Consultant will map existing trails, sidewalks, resource constraints, and origins and destinations. Count existing and future trail and sidewalk use, create an input survey, and develop route alignment alternatives.	Summary of existing data, existing and future use values, input survey, and route alignment alternatives
4	Engage Stakeholders	
	Consultant, with help from the Committee, will table at various Northfield community events including a Kick-off event at the Night on the Crescent and a Pop-up Event on East Street to close out the work.	Meeting minutes and Memos on input from events
5	Develop Resources to Inform the Project and the Community	
	Consultant will gather route profile and type, build a resource guide of potential funding sources, and develop a route planning and implementation matrix.	Route profiles and type information report, Resource guide of potential funding sources, and Implementation matrix
6	Economic Analysis	
	Consultant will analyze the economic impacts and benefits of the routes on the Northfield economy.	Economic impacts and benefits analysis report
7	Stormwater Planning	
	Consultant will conduct a stormwater planning analysis to identify potential stormwater problem areas.	Summary report of potential stormwater problem areas, 30% design of one priority site and cost estimates for construction.
8	Develop final master plan report including the writing of individual chapters.	Master Plan

b. Budget (5 points)

Provide a detailed budget broken down by task and deliverables.

Below is a detailed budget by task for the Northfield Ridge and River Routes Master Plan.

Task	Description	Budget (90% Grant + 10% Local = Total)
1	Review of Purpose and Needs Statement for the Northfield Ride and River Routes	\$2,389.50 + \$265.50 = \$2,655.00
2	Gather Background Information	\$2,092.50 + \$232.50 = \$2,325.00
3	Develop Survey, Data, and Maps	\$9,000.00 + \$1000.00 = \$10,000.00
4	Engage Stakeholders	\$34,740.00 + \$3,860.00 = \$38,600.00
5	Develop Resources to Inform the Project and the Community	\$5,556.60 + \$617.40 = \$6,174.00
6	Economic Analysis	\$4,089.60 + \$454.40 = \$4,544.00
7	Stormwater Planning	\$35,000
8	Develop final Master Plan Report including the writing of individual chapters	\$5,131.80 + \$570.20 = \$5,702.00

c. Schedule (5 points)

Provide a detailed schedule with project timeline and public engagement activities.

Below is a detailed schedule by task for the Northfield Ridge and River Routes Master Plan.

Task	Description	Schedule
1	Review of Purpose and Needs Statement for the Northfield Ride and River Routes	June 2019
2	Gather Background Information	August 30, 2019
3	Develop Survey, Data, and Maps	September 2019 through November 2019
4	Engage Stakeholders	June 2019 through September 2020
5	Develop Resources to Inform the Project and the Community	November 2019 through February 2020
6	Economic Analysis	February 2020
7	Stormwater Planning	November 2019 through September 2020
8	Develop final Master Plan Report including the writing of individual chapters	September 2019 through December 1, 2020

4. Quality Public and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (20 points)

Describe how the public engagement plan is developed with activities that educate and involve the public in the process and are integrated into the work plan. The application should demonstrate cooperation and coordination with relevant local, regional and state organizations and partners, the local business community, and the public. Projects that engage the public and stakeholders from the start and propose multiple, innovative, outreach activities (i.e. charrettes, community events, pop-up demonstration projects, etc.) score the highest under this criterion.

The project will continue the robust community outreach and engagement that is already occurring in Northfield by continuing to engage with stakeholders such as Northfield Recreation Committee, Northfield Conservation Commission, Northfield Community Development Network, Northfield Planning Commission, Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC), Greater Northfield Area Riders, Norwich University Shaw Outdoor Center and Civil Engineering Department, Friends of the Winooski, Vermont Department of Health Office of Local Health, Northfield Selectboard, and Northfield municipal government.

The Project Committee which includes member from all the above mentioned groups is led by Lydia Petty (Committee Chair and Northfield Resident) with assistance from Daniel Currier CVRPC. This committee will work with the consultant to implement the engagement plan which will reaching out to the community and stakeholders in a variety of ways including: hosting a kick-off event at the Night on the Crescent in June. This event started last year and was highly attended by the community with lots of vendors, games and food trucks. The Crescent is within our project area and this vibrant event will be a great opportunity to introduce our project.

The consultant, with help from the Project Committee, will develop a survey and create a website for easy access to Northfield Ridge and River Route info. Surveys will be administered online as well handed out in person at a variety of public events such as the Farmer's Market.

A series of "walks and talks" will be held from a central location. These walks will provide a chance for the public to see firsthand some of the problems and opportunities within our project area and provide our team with important public input. One potential walk would be to follow an alternative route from Memorial Park to the Falls to get an idea of what a path might look like. We will engage local businesses to help host these events.

The Paine Mountain Trail Race in July will offer another public event for tabling and survey dissemination. This event draws people from out-of-town to Northfield and highlights the opportunity for expanding our reputation as a recreation destination.

Throughout the year Ridge and River Routes will work to reach the community at annual events such as the Labor Day Parade weekend, the Night on the Common, and Norwich University events, to name a few. Being present at multiple events will help us reach a broad segment of the community to share our message and gather input.

A pop-up event in the summer of 2020 will give us the chance to highlight some of the proposed ideas. The pop-up event will be the culmination of all the engagement and input. We will use this event as a stepping stone to help launch the implementation of our connectors. This event will highlight local businesses and demonstrate how changes would impact the area visually as well as encouraging multimodal transportation. This event could involve temporarily setting up outdoor seating at local restaurants, putting out bike racks, chalking in pedestrian bump-outs, placing attractive planters or artwork, and creating a temporary route to connect our recreation hot-spots with our village centers.

5. Application Quality (5 points)

The application submission is complete, well-written, clearly identifies the project, and is internally consistent. *No response necessary.*

Bonus Criteria

6. Is the project located within (or adjacent to) a state designated downtown, village center, neighborhood development area, new town center or growth center? If so, describe how the project will support the state designated center. (Up to 5 points)

Yes. The project is located in and between Northfield's two designated village centers. The project will give the community the technical assistance needed to encourage new economic opportunities and development in our compact, designated areas while providing a stepping stone to connect them together. Currently, no sidewalks or bike lanes connect the two centers, so our project will increase connectivity between our highest density residential and retail areas, and provide safe routes between Northfield's parks, many of which are currently difficult to access without a car.

7. Does the project represent an inter-municipal effort? If so, explain. (Up to 5 points)

The project focuses on the short term needs that Northfield has in connecting our four villages to our outdoor activity centers. Northfield also has a long term vision to expand these connections outside of Northfield to the Berlin trail network on Irish Hill; to Montpelier along the Dog River valley; and to the Mad River Valley over Moretown Mountain.

8. Explain and demonstrate a local commitment to the project, as represented by the commitment of in-kind staff services, an overmatch of local funds, strong community, business and partner support (evidenced through letters of support, or complementary local activities, or initiatives). (Up to 5 points)

The following commitments show strong community support for this project.

- Jason Enders, a local graphic designer, has developed trail maps for Paine Mountain and the Shaw Outdoor Center trails.
- Norwich University civil engineering professor Adam Sevi has led Norwich engineering student design groups in transportation related designs for underserved entities, including towns, churches, and non-profit organizations. These have included bridge and intersection designs, parking designs, flood mitigation, stormwater runoff control, as well as dock and trail facilities. Preliminary engineering of associated corridor connections associated with Ridge and River Routes will be offered as a yearlong, senior capstone project performed by university students. This can include route finding and mapping, bridge design, trail cross-section (prism), stormwater runoff control, as well as Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) and will include construction scheduling and cost estimation.
- The Greater Northfield Area Riders (GNAR) has committed to maintain trails on Paine Mountain and provide support for trail projects on the ridgeline.
- Economic Development funds (\$7,500) were committed by the town of Northfield for the matching portion of this grant. Over \$90,000 remains in this fund.
- Ironwood Adventures sponsored the first annual Paine Mountain trail run in 2018 in coordination with the Shaw Outdoor Center. Darn Tough collaborated by awarding socks to participants.
- Northfield Gardeners, an alliance of Extension master gardeners and interns, along with a group of students from the middle school, has taken ownership of multiple gardening maintenance projects within the two villages.
- Northfield Rotarians have supported tree planting throughout the village.
- Friends of the Winooski has been instrumental in riparian buffer repair along the Dog River and supports our efforts in securing this grant.

9. Does the project support water quality improvements that reduce nutrient and sediment pollution (Yes or No)? If yes, complete the Clean Water Fund section on page 9 and 10). If no, skip the next section (pages 9-10) and move on to the appendices. (Up to 5 points)

Yes, please see completed Clean Water Fund section for additional detail.

Clean Water Funds (optional)

Only complete this section if you are applying for additional Clean Water Funds.

This year, the Better Connections Program has an additional \$100,000 in Clean Water Funding from the Agency of Natural Resources, [Clean Water Fund](#). Municipalities may apply for up to \$35,000 of “add on” Clean Water Funds for FY2019 Better Connections planning projects. No local match is required for these funds.

Clean Water Funds shall be used in coordination with the FY2019 Better Connection project for developing plans and preliminary designs that improve water quality by reducing nutrient and sediment pollution through stormwater management and green stormwater infrastructure best practices (see [Title 10 V.S.A. § 1389](#)).

The Clean Water Fund supports: stormwater master plans or assessments; the identification of potential locations and high-priority projects; the planning and preliminary design of stormwater projects to address and mitigate stormwater runoff; and the planning and preliminary design of low impact development and green stormwater infrastructure. The Clean Water Funds can also be used to determine the feasibility and preliminary designs of stormwater treatment options that collect, store, infiltrate, and filter runoff from transportation infrastructure. The Clean Water funded projects must be developed and designed in coordination with the land use and transportation planning projects identified through the FY2019 Better Connections planning process.

The [Vermont Green Streets Guide](#) (link), [ANR’s Green Stormwater Infrastructure \(GSI\) website](#) and a new [story map on Green Stormwater Projects](#) are resources to help you plan your clean water project in coordination with transportation and land use planning. In addition, the [Ecosystem Restoration Program grant application manual](#) provides detailed information about clean water projects as it relates to stormwater and road projects ([see appendix 2](#) for project type, definition and performance metrics).

- 1. List the amount of funds (up to \$35,000) requested. (No local match required):**

\$35,000

- 2. Please list the [watershed](#) (waterbody identification number) the project is located and describe any water quality planning or implementation projects completed in the**

municipality in the past 10 years (see a list of clean water projects on the [Clean Water Dashboard](#)).

Northfield is in the **Dog River watershed (VT08-17)** which is part of the larger **Winooski watershed**.

Northfield has had the following water quality improvement projects completed:

- Stormwater mitigation site construction (Central and Main Streets).
- Stormwater mapping
- Dog River floodplain restoration and design
- Northfield Village green bioretention installation
- Village of Northfield Stormwater mapping project
- Dog River Corridor Plan 2009
- Dog River floodplain restoration
- Statewide trees for streams, T02, 2015 Northfield
- Statewide trees for streams, 2015, Dog River, Northfield
- Statewide trees for streams, 2014-2015, Union Brook, Northfield

- 3. Please explain the purpose, need and the desired outcomes of the water quality planning project. In addition, please describe how the project will improve water quality and manage stormwater to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution. [Up to 15 points]**

The stormwater master planning work will help the community to identify priority locations to install stormwater treatment to help protect the water quality of our rivers and streams. Our proposed improvements in multimodal transportation connections in Northfield will provide an important opportunity to complete additional clean water planning. Nutrient and sediment reduction would be achieved by additional green stormwater solutions such as rain gardens, riparian buffer plantings, native revegetation, infiltration practices, and green street design thus mitigating stormwater overflow.

- 4. Please describe how the project builds upon and implements prior planning efforts and community goals related to water quality (regional plans, municipal plans, tactical basin plans, stormwater master plans and/or assessments, inventories, flow reduction plans, phosphorous control plans, or river corridor plans). [Up to 10 points]**

This work will complement Northfield's existing stormwater master planning efforts by expanding outside the village areas to the surrounding hillsides and adjacent villages. The 2014 Northfield Town Plan calls for riparian vegetation restoration along the Dog River which can be accomplished during the construction of a river walk. The recent completion of Water Street Park which helped to reconnect portions of the Dog River Floodplain is another example of how this work will build on past implementation projects.

- 5. Please describe how the project will engage the public, project partners, and stakeholders in developing and planning the water quality projects. Please also**

explain how the project will educate and inform the community about the importance of clean water projects. [Up to 10 points]

An informational kiosk along the Riverwalk and educational vantage points with signage explaining the green stormwater interventions used will engage and educate the public on clean water best practices. A storyboard presence at community events and the local Farmer's Market would also provide educational content to citizens. A website designed for our master plan would serve to highlight the clean water efforts undertaken to limit nutrients and sediment from entering the Dog River.

The Northfield Conservation Commission (NCC) is a major stakeholder and partner in this clean water initiative. Friends of the Winooski supports this effort as well.

- 6. Please describe how the clean water planning project supports the Better Connections Program Purpose and Objectives related to multimodal transportation, downtown and village revitalization, and project implementation (see page 2 of application guide for program purpose and objectives).** [Up to 10 points]

A proposed riverwalk and associated green stormwater infrastructure including riparian buffer plantings, native revegetation, and green street design would improve aesthetic focus along the Dog River and provide an active exploration point to engage town residents and tourists alike. Revitalization of the river corridor in proximity to the village of Northfield would create a unique village asset that could spark further economic development. Visitors to Northfield could attend a Farmer's Market on the Common, walk the river trail, and end their day by patronizing the local eating and drinking establishments.

Clean Water Project Work Plan, Schedule and Budget

Provide a detailed budget broken down by task, deliverables, responsible party, schedule and cost. [Up to 10 points] – **The Clean Water project work plan may be combined with the Better Connections work plan, budget and schedule if preferred.** (see page 7, item 3 above).

Task	Deliverables	Responsible Party	Schedule	Total Cost
	The stormwater planning work plan, budget and schedule is combined with the Better Connections work plan, budget and schedule.			
Total Cost				

Appendices - Additional Supporting Documents

In order to help VTrans and the Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) understand the status, context and local commitment to the proposed project, the application should provide additional support documents and information:

- 1. Previous planning efforts.** Include a comprehensive list of all prior and current planning efforts, including but not limited to municipal plans and regulations, economic development studies, scoping studies, the years those were completed and/or adopted, and who assisted in the preparation of the plan(s).

- Northfield Vermont Council on Rural Development 2002 Community Visit - assisted by the Vermont Council on Rural Development
- Village Common Planning and Feasibility Study, 2006 - assisted by Town of Northfield
- Dog River River Corridor Plan 2009 – assisted by the Central VT Regional Planning Commission
- Northfield Vermont Downtown Action Team Report 2014 - assisted by the Vermont Downtown Action Team
- Northfield Town Plan 2014 – assisted by the Northfield Planning Commission
- Northfield Brownfields Area Wide Plan 2016 – assisted by the Central VT Regional Planning Commission
- Northfield Town Plan Revision 2019 – assisted by the Northfield Planning Commission and PlaceSense

- 2. Previous investment.** List all appropriate capital improvements, public and private investment that has occurred in the study area and relates to the project scope and work plan.

- Central Street Stormwater Treatment Structure
- Legion Stormwater Treatment Structure
- Shaw Outdoor Center 2012: Significant alumni donation for construction of trails and base facility
- Common Revitalization Project 2010-2014: Replacement of the retaining wall, burying utility lines, streetscape lighting, new sidewalks on the North, West and South sides of the Common, new paving, drainage improvements, pedestrian bump-outs
- Central Street Sidewalk project 2014: New sidewalks and curbing, stormwater retention system
- Northfield Falls General Store Renovations and Re-opening 2014: Complete building renovation, to improve general store and yoga studio as an iconic anchor building next to three of Northfield's covered bridges
- Kenyon's Stormwater Project 2016: Friends of the Winooski and municipality provided equipment and labor
- Northfield Savings Bank improvements 2017: Bank renovation, parking improvements, removal of extra buildings behind Mayo Nursing Home, sidewalk improvement, soil contaminant remediation
- Water Street Park 2018: Creation of new park in flood zone, demolition of flood damaged houses, flood plain reclamation, walking paths through park, picnic pavilion, kids play equipment, river access
- Launch of new local businesses; Cornerstone Burger Company, Good Measure Brewing Company, Carrier Coffee Roasters over past 3 years
- Purchase of Paine Mountain Summit 2018: 45 acres on Paine Mountain. \$25,000 approved by voters with \$10,000 raised through Save our Summit Campaign between March and August
- Promise Community Playground 2018 in Northfield Falls near the ball fields

- Promise Community Treehouse Park at Brown Public Library 2018: Library supported the project with extra funds needed for completion
- East Side of Common 2018: Included sidewalks

- 3. Open grants.** Explain if the municipality has open Agency of Natural Resources (ANR), ACCD, Vermont Department of Health, and/or VTrans grants, discuss any relationship to this project application and the municipality's capacity to simultaneously complete multiple grant projects. Explain below:

Northfield has five open grants including:

- Main Street Stormwater and CSO Project - grant/loan for engineering services to address CSO overflows
- VAOT Better Roads Grants - Barrows Road roadway and drainage improvements and Dole Hill culvert replacement
- Municipal Grants in Aid Grant - Dole Hill roadway and drainage improvements
- Police Education and Road Safety Grants
- VTrans Systemic Local Roads Safety Program Assistance Agreement to improve safety by installing new road signs in Northfield

Northfield sees these grants as complementary to the Better Connections Grant as they improve safety, water quality, and resiliency of Northfield's infrastructure. We do not see these grants impacting the Town's ability to administer and complete the proposed Better Connections Grant project.

- 4. Letters of Support.** Attach letters of support from local, regional or state partners to illustrate strong community and partner support for the project.

List attached letters of support
1. The Promise Community Steering Committee
2. Montpelier Area Mountain Bike Association
3. Greater Northfield Area Riders
4. Carrier Roasting and Good Measure Brewing Co.
5. Norwich University
6. Northfield Recreation Committee
7. Northfield Conservation Commission
8. The Department of Health District Director
9. Friends of the Winooski River

Application Submission

Application Materials MUST be submitted BOTH electronically and in hard copy. Electronic applications are due 4:00PM, Wednesday, January 31, 2019.

Email them to Jackie.Cassino@vermont.gov. If your materials exceed 10MB, divide them into two emails. Put the municipality's name and project in the subject line, along with 1 of 2 and 2 of 2. Set your email to automatically request a read or delivery receipt if you want confirmation that your application has been received.

Also mail or hand-deliver five (5) paper copies of all electronically submitted application materials. Paper copies must have an original signature (on at least one of the five paper copies) and be submitted on white, 8-1/2" x 11" paper. No covers or additional binding.

Mailed applications must be POSTMARKED by Wednesday, January 31, 2019 and sent to:

Jackie Cassino, Planning Coordinator
VT Agency of Transportation
Policy and Planning
1 National Life Drive
Montpelier, VT 05633

Better Connections Program Contacts

For questions regarding the Better Connections Program, contact the Program Managers:

Jackie Cassino | Planning Coordinator
Policy, Planning and Intermodal Development
Vermont Agency of Transportation
1 National Life Drive
Montpelier, VT 05633-5001
802.272.2368
jackie.cassino@vermont.gov

Richard Amore | Planning and Project Manager
Community Planning + Revitalization
Agency of Commerce and Community Development
1 National Life Drive
Montpelier, VT 05620-0501
802.828.5229
richard.amore@vermont.gov

MUNICIPAL OFFICES

Town of Northfield, VT
www.northfield-vt.gov



Phone 1-802-485-9822
Fax 1-802-485-8426

51 SOUTH MAIN STREET
NORTHFIELD, VERMONT 05663

Resolution for Better Connections Grant

WHEREAS, the Town of Northfield is applying for funding as provided for in the FY 2019-2020 Budget and may receive an award of funds under said provisions; and

WHEREAS, the Agency of Transportation and the Agency of Commerce and Community Development may offer a Grant Agreement to this Municipality for said funding; and

WHEREAS, the municipality is maintaining its efforts to provide local funds for planning purposes or the municipality has voted at an annual or special meeting to provide local funds for planning purposes,

Now, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

1. That the Legislative Body of Northfield enters into and agrees to the requirements and obligations of this grant program including a commitment to provide a cash match of 10% of the project cost:

2. That the Municipal Planning Commission recommends applying for said Grant:

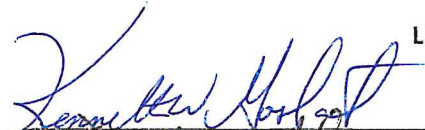
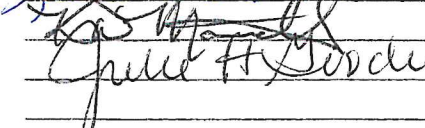
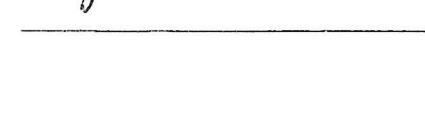
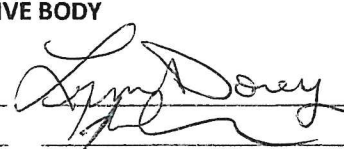


Laura Hill-Eubanks, Planning Commission Chair

3. That Daniel Currier, CVRPC Transportation Planner, is hereby designated as the Local Project Manager, the person with the overall Administrative responsibility for the Better Connections program activities related to the application, and any subsequent Grant Agreement provisions.

Passed this 8th day of January, 2019.

LEGISLATIVE BODY

 _____  _____  _____	 _____ _____ _____ _____
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Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Town of Northfield, Vermont prepared a municipal plan in accordance with Chapter 117 of Title 24 of the Vermont Statutes, and the Regional Planning Commission found that the Municipal Plan meets all the requirements for approval under both the Commission's review process and Section 4350 of Chapter 117;

AND WHEREAS, Title 24, VSA, Section 4350 requires that CVRPC consult with member municipalities with respect to their planning efforts, requires that a municipality have a plan approved by its regional planning commission in order to have its planning process confirmed, and requires that a municipality maintains the use of local funds for local and regional planning;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

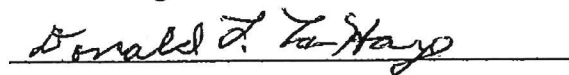
The Regional Planning Commission concludes that the Municipal Plan:

1. is consistent with the goals established in Section 4302 of the Act;
2. is compatible with the Central Vermont Regional Plan;
3. is compatible with the approved plans of other municipalities in the region; and
4. contains all the elements as required in Section 4382 of the Act;

AND does hereby **APPROVE** the 2014 Town of Northfield Municipal Plan.

FURTHERMORE, in compliance with Title 24 VSA Section 4350, CVRPC has consulted with and confirms the planning process of the Town of Northfield. It is noted that when an adopted municipal plan expires, its approval also expires. Recommendations made by the Regional Planning Commission's Review Committee are attached and should be considered when developing the next edition of the Municipal Plan. If the municipality has zoning or other regulatory bylaws or is considering adopting bylaws, it is important that the bylaws are in compliance with the current Municipal Plan.

ADOPTED by the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission at its November 11, 2014 meeting.



Don La Haye, Chair

jeff schulz

From: jeff schulz
Sent: Thursday, January 3, 2019 3:19 PM
To: 'Chris.Bump@vermont.gov'
Cc: Jackie.Cassino@vermont.gov
Subject: Northfield - Better Connections Grant

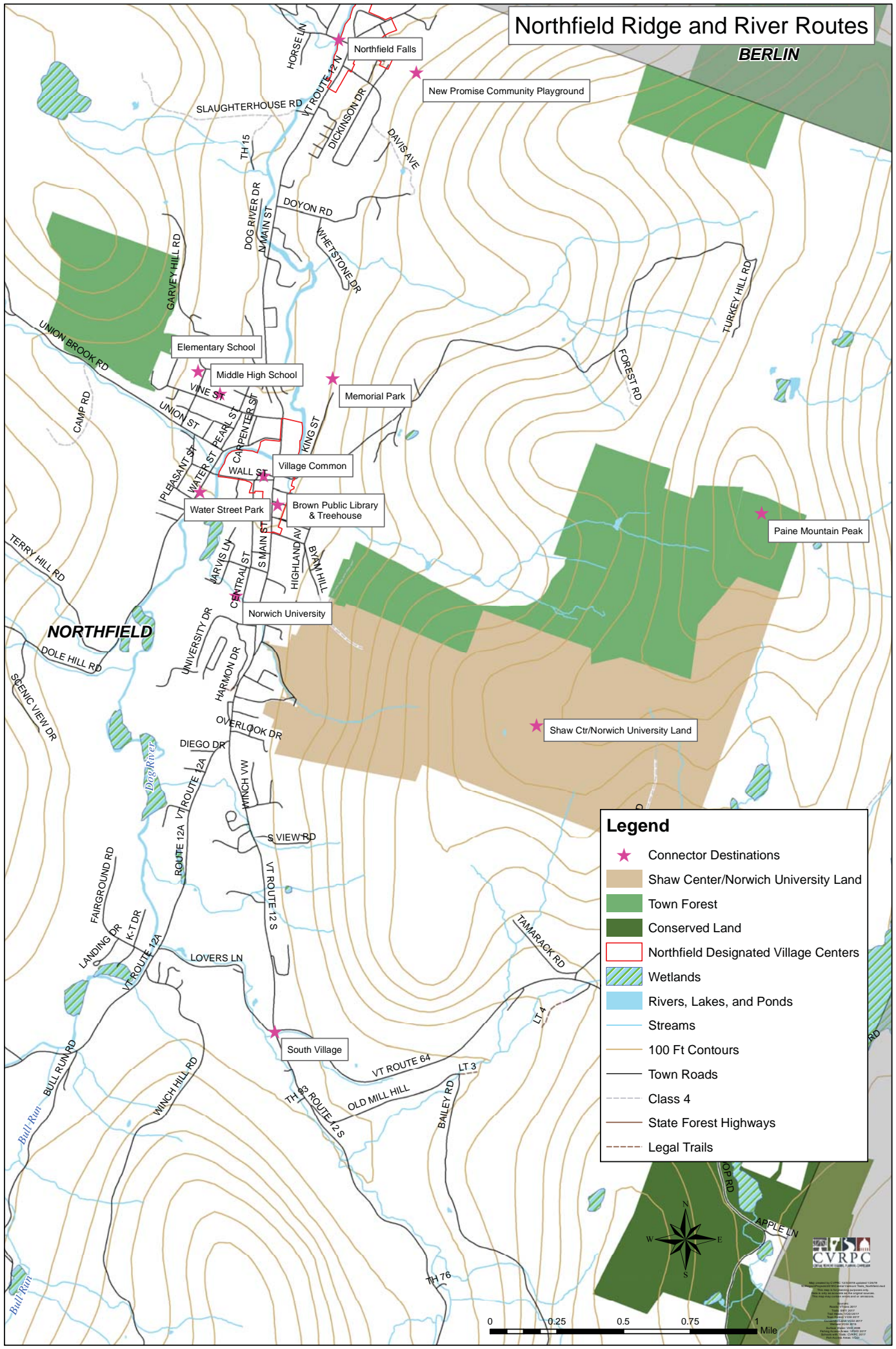
Hello Chris,

The email is to notify you that the Town of Northfield is applying for a Better Connection's Grant through VAOT and the VT Agency of Commerce and Community Development for funding for a pathways study in Northfield; which will study and recommend path locations on Town owned parcels and possibly on short sections on private property. Upon completion of the Study, the Town will notify VAOT of any potential impacts of the recommendations on State highways.

Jeff

Jeff Schulz, Northfield Town Manager
802-485-9822

Northfield Ridge and River Routes



Legend

- ★ Connector Destinations
- Shaw Center/Norwich University Land
- Town Forest
- Conserved Land
- Northfield Designated Village Centers
- Wetlands
- Rivers, Lakes, and Ponds
- Streams
- 100 Ft Contours
- Town Roads
- Class 4
- State Forest Highways
- Legal Trails

Rebecca Pearish, Steering Committee Member
Northfield Promise Community
252 Slate Ave.
Northfield, VT 05663
317-626-5320
rebeccapearish@gmail.com

January 22, 2019

Better Connections Grant
Program Managers
1 National Life Drive
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Grant Selection Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Northfield Promise Community in support of the Northfield Rivers and Ridges Group's application for the Better Connections Planning grant. In 2017, Northfield was the recipient of the State of Vermont Promise Community grant, wherein we received \$150,000 to support Kindergarten Readiness in our community. The Promise Communities process provided us with a unique opportunity to seek a great deal of community input about the goals, values, and needs of residents in Northfield.

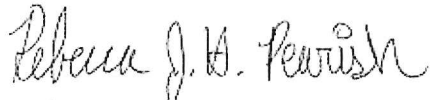
Though our focus was on creating better learning outcomes for children ages 0-6, many of the goals and ideas that Northfield community members identified would also have a tremendously positive impact on the community as a whole. Chief among these ideas was a strong and enthusiastic consensus around the need for more shared community spaces as well as better and more cohesive access to the various recreational opportunities our town has to offer. Based on this feedback, we were able to build a new educational playground for young children as well as a new treehouse-style pavilion in a pocket park for outdoor story time behind our library.

Essentially, we were able to address the first goal of the community by enhancing two underused sites to create new gathering spaces, but were unable to adequately address the second goal of making these destinations more accessible to everyone. For example, our new playground is located in Northfield Falls, which means those living in Northfield who do not have access to a vehicle will not be able to easily and safely reach the play area. Similarly, people who live in Northfield Falls cannot easily access any of the recreational opportunities in Northfield, including our new space at the Library. Any enhancement of the connections between these areas, and others throughout town, would greatly build upon the work of the Northfield Promise Community over the past two years.

From our experience, we believe that Northfield has proven that we are a community that will benefit from the master planning process. We have seen Northfield learn about what the

community needs, and then be willing to implement what they learned through real, built improvements in the community's infrastructure. When this process is directed by positive and passionate community groups like the Northfield Ridge and River Routes Group, there is no end to what we can accomplish. Support from fantastic programs like the Better Connections and Promise Community grants are necessary in order to continue connecting people and resources, and building a better Northfield.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rebecca J. A. Pearish".

Rebecca Pearish
Steering Committee Member
Northfield Promise Community

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bonnie Donahue".

Bonnie Donahue
Project Manager
Northfield Promise Community

January 15, 2019

Better Connections Grant
Program Managers
1 National Life Drive
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Grant Selection Committee,

On behalf the Montpelier Area Mountain Bike Association (MAMBA), I am writing to express my support for the Northfield Ridge and River Routes Steering Committee to receive a better Connections Grant from the State of Vermont. Many of our members, including myself, recreate frequently at the Shaw Outdoor Center.

This Grant and the projects it will help to determine is especially of interest to MAMBA because it will provide access to each community's existing trail networks by the Ridge connector trail, which will offer an alternative to driving to the other community to use their trails, as well as improve the overall recreation experience. It also sets a great local precedent for inter-community cooperation on the creation of a trail network that links numerous area communities, regardless of municipal and geographical boundaries.

MAMBA is a long-standing trail advocacy group with a history of trail construction, improvement, and maintenance, and we will lend our support to the efforts of the Northfield community.

Sincerely,



Nolan Langweil

MAMBA President



January 18, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

Greater Northfield Area Riders (GNAR) is a grassroots association of mountain biking enthusiasts, dedicated to stewardship and access of Northfield's outdoor recreational areas. As GNAR, our members have been riding and maintaining the local trail network since April 2016, with many of the same members providing thousands of hours of volunteer trail building in prior years. Since coalescing, there is a renewed focus in expanding our workforce .

With over 170 Facebook members, we've been able to quickly mobilize for routine trail work days in order to maintain the integrity of the trail network. We also have provided a critical voice among various stakeholders to preserve and promote existing access to these areas.

We strongly support the initiative of the Northfield Ridge and River Routes in seeking to devise a plan for expansion of these trails, particularly as it enables Northfield youth and families to have easier access to recreation and alternative modes of transportation. We echo the demand and practical application of such a network, bridging the residential and commercial hubs with Town Forests and Parks.

We look forward to developments and please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Happy Trails,

Greater Northfield Area Riders



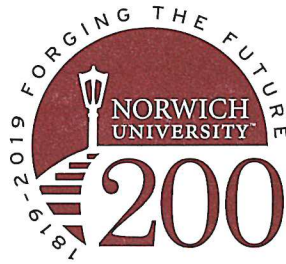
Carrier Roasting Co. & Good Measure Brewing Co. Statement of Support
Better Connections Grant Submission 2019
January 13, 2019

Carrier Roasting Co. and Good Measure Brewing Co. support Northfield's Better Connections grant application. As a local business we are constantly looking for new ways to draw customers to the area. Northfield's reputation for being an outdoor recreation hub has steadily grown and continues to draw visitors in all four seasons. A professionally developed plan that connects Northfield's recreation assets to the village centers/businesses would amplify awareness of the outdoor recreation offering. This awareness would draw more people to the area which would be an economic engine that would benefit local businesses, including ours.

We look forward to finding new ways to partner with the town to continue to develop Northfield as a four season destination for fun and recreation.

Ross Evans – Founding Partner

Scott Kerner – Founding Partner



A History of Service. A Promise to Lead.

January 11, 2019

Better Connections Grant
Program Managers
1 National Life Drive
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Grant Selection Committee:

I am writing to express Norwich University's support for the Northfield Ridge and River Routes Steering Committee to receive a Better Connections Grant from the State of Vermont. It is my understanding that this Grant and the Northfield contribution will be used to create a Master Plan to guide development, improvements, and maintenance of the area's trails and recreation paths. These funds will help to create great value from the significantly increased access to safe walking and biking paths that will connect the four primary population centers within Northfield, which includes the Norwich Campus.

Furthermore, Norwich's Manager of the Shaw Outdoor Center is serving on the Steering Committee because he sees great value from both aspects of the Plan. The benefits that he has expressed are, the creation of a safe and inviting pedestrian and bike path between our campus and the village center, and the improved access to Northfield's Town Forest and Norwich's adjacent Shaw Outdoor Center land.

Through efforts like this, and the anticipated improvements to follow, the long term partnership between Norwich University and Northfield will be strengthened. Norwich University will assist in these efforts as appropriate.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Schneider
RADM, USCGR (Ret.)
President

drg

MUNICIPAL OFFICES



Town of Northfield, Vermont
www.northfield-vt.gov

Phone 1-802-485-6121
Fax 1-802-485-8426

51 SOUTH MAIN STREET
NORTHFIELD, VERMONT 05663

December 21, 2018

Ms. Jackie Cassino, Planning Coordinator
VT. Agency of Transportation
Policy and Planning
1 National Life Drive
Montpelier, VT. 05633

Dear Ms. Cassino,

This letter is to inform you of the support the Northfield Recreation Committee is prepared to give the Northfield Ridge and River Routes Program in order to build, expand and maintain the walking/bike paths we hope to have and already have in our Northfield area. We believe in this project so strongly that some of the Recreation Committee members are also members of this committee and we have been working hand in hand since its conception. We will do what it takes to get things done.

Sincerely,

Sally A. Davidson
Northfield Recreation
Committee Chairman
802-485-5211



Northfield Conservation Commission Statement of Support
Better Connections Grant Submission 2019
January 7, 2019

The Northfield Conservation Commission (NCC) strongly supports Northfield's Better Connections grant application. Northfield needs a master plan to coordinate non-vehicular transportation and access to our recreational resources. Better connection of the Northfield Town Forest to the village core and local businesses could foster economic growth. Our recent addition of 48.9 acres to town forest on the summit of Paine Mountain has created opportunity for trail expansion and connection. This grant could facilitate partnership with the Berlin Conservation Commission to connect the existing trail network on Paine Mountain to Irish Hill trails in Berlin. Protection and stewardship of Northfield's conserved land and promoting citizen access to these lands is core to our mission.

Nathaniel Miller, Northfield Select Board
Laura Hill-Eubanks, Chair, Northfield Planning Commission
Ruth Ruttenberg, Northfield Planning Commission member
Russ Barrett, Vice Chair NCC and Northfield town forester
Pam Knox, Chair, NCC
Deborah Zuaro, NCC member on Better Connections grant team
Commissioners



State of Vermont
Department of Health
Office of Local Health
5 Perry Street, Suite 250
Barre, VT 05641-4272

Phone: (802) 479-4200
Fax: (802) 479-4230
www.healthvermont.gov

Agency of Human Services

January 3, 2019

Better Connections Grant
Program Managers
1 National Life Drive
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Grant Selection Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Northfield Ridge and River Routes plan to receive a Better Connections Grant. The town of Northfield is a community consisting of four villages, lying within an open river valley and surrounded by forested uplands, containing a number of both developed and undeveloped trail systems, making it an excellent candidate for this grant.

Our Department of Health's Local Office of Health staff have worked closely with the Ridge and River Routes planning committee from its inception. What started as a grassroots movement has grown into an organized, highly functional group with broad support from local government, businesses, social and economic development organizations, the Northfield Public Schools and Norwich University, and town residents from many areas of the community.

Northfield is a vibrant community, alive with many popular seasonal events, and a solid base of new and long-term residents eager to grow their social and economic connections and improve opportunities for healthy recreation in the town.

The Better Connections Grant support of the Ridge and River Routes plan will enable the town to connect their wealth of existing natural resources with the population centers that use them and the business core that serves them, contributing to a healthy and diverse environment, that will support local economic and community development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joan Marie Misek", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joan Marie Misek, MS
District Director
Vermont Department of Health
Barre District Office of Local Health



Friends of the Winooski River

PO Box 777
Montpelier VT 05601

info@winooskiriver.org

January 10, 2019

Friends of the Winooski River supports the Town of Northfield's application for a Better Connections Program grant. Northfield would benefit from professional help in planning a strategy to create safe, active transportation connections between existing resources such as the new Water Street Park, the Promise Community playground, the Brown Public Library, the Northfield schools, the downtown area, the Falls Village and Norwich University.

The need to connect community resources in Northfield has been recognized for more than a decade, and the Town has existing plans for sidewalk extensions. Since Norwich University has recently invested in the redevelopment of Paine Mountain as a high-quality outdoor recreation resource, and the Town coordinated the restoration of a substantial section of the Dog River floodplain in the village center, there are two new resource areas that should be included in a resilient, healthy, outdoor recreation network in Northfield.

The Dog River is an iconic natural resource that contributes much to the identity of Northfield. The clean water portion of the Better Connections grant would enable Northfield to plan to incorporate protection and restoration of the river corridor in transportation and economic development master planning. There has already been a conceptual plan developed for a river walk that connects a Norwich University footpath at the south end of the village center with a municipal footbridge at the north end of the village center. A clean water focus in the Better Connections planning work would ensure that flood resilience and ecosystem health are taken into account.

Friends of the Winooski River was a major partner in the Water Street floodplain restoration and park development project. We worked with the public schools to plant hundreds of trees and shrubs in the riparian buffer area of the project. We would be happy to engage with the Town in future restoration work on the opposite bank of the river, where the future river walk is proposed.

Sincerely,

Michele Braun
Executive Director



Looking North along 12 from North Main Auto. This bottleneck is the main point of connection between Northfield Falls and the rest of town. The shoulder on the East (right) side of the road is riprap. To the West, a rustic path hugs the outside of the guard rail.



Looking East from the Wall St. Bridge. No sidewalk exists between the bridge and Depot Square, which connects the common with a dense residential neighborhood and Water Street Park. It is a high traffic area for both vehicles and pedestrians, and includes a railroad crossing.



Looking down East St. from route 12. A restaurant, brewery, and coffee shop bring a lot of traffic to East St. No sidewalk connects to King St, home to Memorial Park and the municipal pool. In a better connected Northfield, this block is a major hub of economic and recreation activity.



Photo Credit: Jeb Wallace-Brodeur / Staff Photo / Barre-Montpelier Times Argus

The recently built pavilion at the Water St. Park. Opportunities exist to better connect this new park to our downtown as well as to Norwich University and the Mayo Healthcare facility. Gaps in existing sidewalk are problems that need to be addressed. A riverwalk could extend from the park to Norwich and the Downtown.



Photo Credit: Bonnie Donahue

The Promise Community recently completed work on a new playground in the Falls and the Treehouse Park at the Brown Public Library. These new resources are awaiting better connections to our village centers and schools. A path from the Memorial park facilities to the new playground would provide safe access to students and families looking to recreate and keep vulnerable pedestrians off rt. 12. Routes from the Treehouse Park to the Town Forest and Shaw Center would increase access for community members and youth to Outdoor Recreation and encourage patrons to stop at the library.



Uphill and East from downtown is Cheney Meadow, 10+ acres of public land with panoramic views. Less than half a mile from downtown, it's the gateway to the town forest and Paine Mountain Trail, which leads to the summit, recently purchased by the community.



Access to the Town Forest is limited. Entrances on Byam Hill Rd (left) and through Norwich University's Shaw Outdoor Center both lack adequate parking. Community access to Town Forest is also limited by the steep grades leading to the entrance at Byam Hill.



The Town Forest and Shaw Outdoor Center are popular year-round destinations for families and adventure seekers alike. Opportunities exist to create routes connecting these outdoor resources to our downtown village centers and regional trail networks at Irish Hill and Berlin Pond.