

TOWN OF  
EAST MONTPELIER, VERMONT  
SELECTBOARD

Amy Willis (2017 – 2020)  
Gene Troia (2018 – 2020)

Seth Gardner (2018 – 2021)  
Carl Etnier (2019 – 2022)

November 18, 2019

Scott Robertson  
Municipal Assistance Bureau – Local Projects  
VT Agency of Transportation  
One National Life Drive, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Montpelier, VT 05633-5001

Re: Letter of Support for Cross Vermont Trail's Winooski River Bridge and Shared Use Path

Dear Mr. Robertson:

The Cross Vermont Trail Association (CVTA) is applying for grant funding under the FY2020 Vermont Transportation Alternatives Grant Program for the construction of an extension of the Cross Vermont Trail, including the long-planned Winooski River bridge and miles of new shared use path, from the Montpelier Bike Path across East Montpelier. This trail segment through East Montpelier is a vital component of the Cross Vermont Trail, a multi-use path stretching across the state along the Winooski and Wells River valleys.

The Town of East Montpelier wholeheartedly supports this effort. The town, which includes construction of the Cross Vermont Trail as an Action Item in the Town Plan, has already: provided seed funding for segments of the trail through the town; contributed to the Winooski River bridge fund by a voter-approved appropriation at 2017 Town Meeting; agreed to take over ownership of property with trail easements to lower CVTA costs; and, continues to assist in the linkage of town trails to the Cross Vermont Trail to increase the opportunities for effective use of the trail.

This segment of the trail is a keystone piece of local path infrastructure, forming the center point of the Montpelier Bike Path and Cross Vermont Trail to the west, the Cross Vermont Trail on the existing rail bed to the east, and the East Montpelier trail network to the north. It connects the disparate trails into a logical whole, providing alternative transportation off of busy roads not easily used by pedestrians and bicyclists, and creates safe routes to schools and local amenities.

The Cross Vermont Trail will contribute to the economic revitalization of East Montpelier Village, connecting the village by bike path to Montpelier to the west and the Groton State Forest to the east. The village's central location on the trail makes it a viable destination spot and should stimulate investment in the development of expanded services in the area.

The town would like to see the vision of this trail connecting so many Central Vermont communities come to fruition. We encourage you to look favorably on the CVTA funding request.

Sincerely,

Seth B. Gardner  
Chair, East Montpelier Selectboard