

TOWN OF
EAST MONTPELIER, VERMONT
SELECTBOARD

Tom Brazier (2024 – 2027)
Scott Hess (2023-2025)

TBD (2024-2027)
Carl Etnier (2022 – 2025)

Chair, Seth Gardner (2024 – 2026)

East Montpelier Selectboard
40 Kelton Road
PO Box 157
East Montpelier, VT 05651

September 23, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the East Montpelier Selectboard, please accept this letter as a strong endorsement for the proposed sidewalk extension project along Vermont Route 14, creating a safe and accessible pedestrian connection between the Upper and Lower Villages. This project represents a long-standing priority for our town and is essential for enhancing public safety, connectivity, and quality of life for our residents.

The current lack of a safe pedestrian route along Route 14 forces residents to walk on the shoulder of a busy state highway, putting their safety at risk. This is particularly concerning given the significant number of residents who walk or bike to access key locations such as the post office, the general store, rail trail, and other businesses. This sidewalk extension will provide a vital link, ensuring all members of our community—including children, seniors, and those with limited mobility—can travel safely between the two village centers.

This project aligns with the town's broader vision for a more walkable and bicycle-friendly community, as outlined in our Town Plan. The Town has already made progress on other sections of village sidewalks, and this extension represents the next logical and necessary step to create a complete and cohesive pedestrian network.

Local Match and Ongoing Maintenance

In support of this critical project, the East Montpelier Selectboard confirms that the necessary local match will be provided through the Town's Capital Budget Opportunity Fund, as approved by voters at Town Meeting. This commitment ensures that the financial requirements for securing grant funding will be met.

Furthermore, we assure the continued viability of this infrastructure by committing to all future maintenance responsibilities. Once the sidewalk extension is constructed, maintenance, including but not limited to snow and ice removal, routine repairs, and general upkeep, will be the

responsibility of the Town's Public Works Department. The Public Works Department will incorporate the new section into its standard operating procedures for the village's existing sidewalk network.

The East Montpelier Selectboard unanimously supports this initiative and is committed to its success. We believe it will not only improve safety but also foster a greater sense of community by encouraging more residents to walk, socialize, and support local businesses.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical project.

Sincerely,
East Montpelier Selectboard

Seth Gardner, Chair _____
Scott Hess, Vice Chair _____
Carl Etnier _____
Tom Brazier _____