

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

VERMONT WALK BIKE SUMMIT

Transformative Transportation:

Bridging Active Transportation, Recreation, and Community Development

June 20, 2024

St. Johnsbury, Vermont

The 2024 Vermont Walk Bike Summit Committee invites you to share your expertise and creative endeavors at our upcoming conference. We are planning to meet in person, and there will be a mix of inside and outside meeting space available. We encourage you to think outside-the-box to design sessions that can be conducted partially or completely outside (e.g. in an available outdoor “room,” while walking or biking, etc). At least one presenter should be available in person. Innovative session formats, such as facilitated roundtables, live polling, or discussion groups, are encouraged.

This year’s Vermont Walk Bike Summit will focus on the intersection of purposeful transportation, restorative recreation and beneficial economic development, and is inspired by the transformative power of large infrastructure investments, such as the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail. Vermont is home to four rail trails, three rails with trails, a bike ferry, a U.S. bicycle route, a slew of hiking trails, and paved paths with more facilities to come. We seek to give voice to the catalytic opportunity of such infrastructure to invite folks to explore walking and biking in different, perhaps previously inaccessible, ways and spaces; inspire communities to promote accessibility for all transportation users to this infrastructure and host these users; and overall promote a more inclusive active transportation landscape. *In short, how do we ensure that Vermont stays true to the “triangle”: Transportation, Recreation, and Economy?*

We anticipate organizing presentations into the following tracks, but encourage proposals that explore the linkages between the themes of transportation, recreation and economy through new and inspiring frames. Program tracks will be finalized after receipt of proposals.

1. Active Transportation and Recreation
How can Vermont’s purposeful active transportation system leverage recreational facilities enjoyed by Vermonters and worldwide guests to provide safer and more accessible transportation for everyday living?
2. Community Development and Tourism
What opportunities exist for these recreational and transportation facilities to economically benefit communities?
3. Equity and Accessibility
How does equitable and accessible design benefit all users as well as the local community?
4. Planning, Design and Maintenance

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What are the factors that need to be considered to create mutually beneficial transportation and recreation assets?

5. Mobile Workshops

Examples of presentation topics:

- Success stories/case studies
- Leveraging bike/hike tourism to create great local active transportation networks
- The impact of active transportation recreation on Vermont towns
- Rails *with* Trails: Is there a future in Vermont?
- Connecting East Vermont: Bicycle Route 5
- Introducing the Western New England Greenway: Bicycle Route 7
- Winter riding and walking - for purpose and for fun
- Reinventing the wheel? Coordinating the provision of...(bike/hike friendly businesses/services; trail stewards; trip planning services, etc.)
- Placemaking and caretaking: creating (preserving?) a culture of attachment and custodianship to create destinations
- The economic value of walkable communities
- Designations for Downtowns, Villages and Growth Centers: What are they, how are they changing and what does it mean for transportation planners, engineers and advocates?
- Resilient infrastructure
- Who are we designing for? Level of Traffic Stress Maps and why your community should have one
- Creating all ages and abilities infrastructure
- Perspectives from members of BIPOC communities on accessibility
- Urban trails
- Safe trails to school?
- Safe routes to the park
- Active commuting
- Building active transportation tourism
- Walking, biking and trails tourism (organized walks, rides, etc.)
- Designing for recreation/designing for transportation: overlaps and divergences
- Coordinating with transit
- PROWAG
- Quick builds and pop ups: community stories
- Accessible design
- Safe pedestrian crossings
- Partnerships with health professionals
- Bicycle amenities (e.g. tool stations, showers, and parking)

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- Coalition building
- Best practices for working with local government
- Community education and outreach
- Funding for walk/bike/roll programs and facilities
- Community design and planning
- Innovative on-road bicycle design
- Designs for cycling and walking facilities - specific treatments
- Integrating active transportation design with private development
- Low-hanging fruit - biking and walking safety improvements
- Bike/ped friendly business programs, for residents and visitors
- Downtown/Village Center projects to spur private investment
- Bike/ped rules of the road
- Post federal funding – keeping programs alive
- Successful law enforcement programs
- Bicycle parking
- Placemaking projects that result in quality bicycling or walking environments
- Winter maintenance (operational needs)
- Traffic calming toolbox

Process and timeline:

Sessions are 90 minutes long and will contain multiple presentations. We seek presentations between 5 and 45 minutes including questions and answers. Mobile workshops could take the full 90 minutes. Please be clear about your expected length or any other special considerations. To submit a proposal, please complete the [online form](#) by April 30. You will be notified two weeks after if your proposal has been accepted. Any questions may be sent to the Conference Committee via email at VTWalkBikeSummit@gmail.com.