



# VT Climate Economy Initiative Model Communities Program Greater Middlebury Climate Economy Initiative

## TASK FORCE ACTION PLAN

**Advance public transportation, facilitate more ridesharing, and make Middlebury and surrounding towns the best possible place for biking and walking**

Community Chair: Likely **Laura Assemily**

Facilitator: **Paul Costello**, *Executive Director*, VT Council on Rural Development

Resource Team Members: **Jennifer Wallace-Brodeur**, *Director, Transportation Efficiency*, VEIC

**Amy Rast**, *Public Transit Coordinator*, Vermont Agency of Transportation

The Middlebury area is well-positioned to develop a transportation system that provides great, affordable, healthy and low-impact options for community members and visitors alike. There is already a leading rural public transit system thanks to ACTR, and great options for biking and walking in and around Middlebury. And yet ownership of multiple personal or family vehicles and single-person trips remain both normal, necessary and a significant financial burden for many people in Addison County. Ridesharing represents an emerging strategy to increase options and reduce vehicles on the road. There are also innovative opportunities to increase transit ridership and to improve options to provide better service to individuals, businesses, and institutions. A more comprehensive transportation system coupled with parking on the outskirts of town could reduce the need for parking downtown and elsewhere. Working closely with partners including ACTR, this Task Force could do a holistic review of the transportation system in and around Middlebury. The Committee can then develop and implement a plan for transportation systems improvements including improved public transit options, better infrastructure and systems to support biking and walking, and increasing ridesharing options and participation. Large employers including Middlebury College and Porter Hospital could all have a role in moving this conversation forward.

### **Action Steps: (IN ORDER OF PRIORITY)**

- 1. The Task Force will act as a convener to bring together ACTR with BETCHA Transit to improve collaboration and reduce redundancy in routes.**
- 2. To Build Ridership and encourage the expansion of ACTR routes over time, the Task Force will develop a “Ride the Bus” campaign to encourage use of public transit.**
- 3. The Task Force will lead an “Idle Free Part II” campaign to expand on idle reduction efforts and zero in on idle reduction devices for vehicles.**
- 4. The team will work together to be a strong voice for biking safety encouraging safe shoulders, bike lanes and bringing dangerous storm drains to grade.**

5. The Task Force will work to advance major bike/ped infrastructure currently in the works (planned bike paths) and for the future.
6. The Task Force will consider developing a town or region wide “Bike and Bus Community Arts Campaign.”
7. The group will advocate for zoning that supports walkable neighborhoods.
8. The team will support the full implementation of the new train station as a multi-modal transportation center for the future.
9. The group will build a covered bike parking project
10. The Task Force will explore the feasibility of developing an electric jitney service.
12. It will connect to the medical community to advocate for walking and biking, potentially with ‘Prescriptions for Exercise’ and even, potentially, a contest.
13. It will encourage schools to improve biking infrastructure.
14. It will educate about ride sharing and the use of the VTrans ride share software system.

## **Resources**

1. The VTrans Open Trip Planner is a new structure to facilitate ride sharing
2. For Idle Reduction there are state and federal grants; contact the Air Quality Division at the VT Agency of Natural Resources.
3. The Vermont Community Foundation could be a supportive partner in this work.
4. VTrans can provide people, technical support, and, potentially, grant support to local initiatives.
5. The Addison County Regional Planning Commission could potentially lend support or help with grant writing.
6. Go Vermont! At [connectingcommunities.com](http://connectingcommunities.com) has connections to people and resources, including Ross McDonald, who can help.
7. The large employers, including the college, Porter Hospital, and Exchange Street businesses are essential partners, especially to expand bus routes or jitney services.

**8. Middlebury College Students could be invaluable and eager leaders in helping to advance these initiatives and evaluate their carbon impact.**

**Next Meeting Date, Place and Time:**

**TBD**

**Task Force Signups**

David	Andrews	<a href="mailto:vtrevda@yahoo.com">vtrevda@yahoo.com</a>	
Laura	Asermily	<a href="mailto:lasermily@yahoo.com">lasermily@yahoo.com</a>	(802) 388-9478
Shelia	Austin	<a href="mailto:saustin@protonmail.com">saustin@protonmail.com</a>	(802) 760-7893
Barrie	Bailey	<a href="mailto:barrbailey@gmail.com">barrbailey@gmail.com</a>	(802) 352-4231
Nadine	Barnicle	<a href="mailto:nbarnicle@middlebury.edu">nbarnicle@middlebury.edu</a>	
Dana	Barrow	<a href="mailto:barrow@middlebury.edu">barrow@middlebury.edu</a>	(802) 377-7936
Bill	Cunningham	<a href="mailto:bcunningham@actr-vt.org">bcunningham@actr-vt.org</a>	(802) 388-2287
John	Dale	<a href="mailto:jdale@breadloaf.com">jdale@breadloaf.com</a>	(202) 494-7915
Eric	Davis	<a href="mailto:ericd@middlebury.edu">ericd@middlebury.edu</a>	
Adam	Franco	<a href="mailto:adamfranco@gmail.com">adamfranco@gmail.com</a>	(802) 458-0622
Neil	Gruber	<a href="mailto:ngruber@gmail.com">ngruber@gmail.com</a>	(802) 989-5055
Russell	Luke	<a href="mailto:norwoodluke@yahoo.com">norwoodluke@yahoo.com</a>	
Nancy	Luke	<a href="mailto:nancy@unitedwayaddisoncounty.org">nancy@unitedwayaddisoncounty.org</a>	(802) 388-7189
Laura	MacLachlan	<a href="mailto:laura@veep.org">laura@veep.org</a>	(802) 775-1421
Dorothy	Mammen	<a href="mailto:dorothy.mammen@gmail.com">dorothy.mammen@gmail.com</a>	(802) 388-7240
Bethany	Mankart	<a href="mailto:bethanybarryvt@comcast.net">bethanybarryvt@comcast.net</a>	(802) 462-2000
Miles	Peterle	<a href="mailto:mnpeterle@att.net">mnpeterle@att.net</a>	
Chris	Robbins	<a href="mailto:a.c.robbins73@gmail.com">a.c.robbins73@gmail.com</a>	(802) 388-1952
Molly	Robinson	<a href="mailto:mscostanza@yahoo.com">mscostanza@yahoo.com</a>	(802) 388-6562