

PETITION TO BE PLACED ON MARCH 2018 TOWN OF MIDDLESEX WARNING

The undersigned legal voters of the Town of Middlesex hereby petition the Town Clerk and other Town Officers of the Town of Middlesex, County of Washington, State of Vermont, that the following question be placed on the March 2018 Town Meeting Ballot and voted on separately.

“Shall the Town Voters authorize expenditures of \$1,731 as a one-time outlay (equivalent to \$1 per resident) to support the Cross Vermont Trail Association in conjunction with its fund raising efforts for the construction of 2.75 miles of universally accessible trail and a 200 foot long pedestrian and bicycle bridge across the Winooski River that will be located on and adjacent to the property of the U32 School, which will connect the school trails with the regional trail network.”

ONLY REGISTERED VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF MIDDLESEX MAY SIGN PETITION:

PRINTED LEGAL NAME (as on checklist) SIGNATURE E-911 ADDRESS

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Cross Vermont Trail town meeting vote fact sheet.

We are building the keystone piece of the Cross Vermont Trail statewide route - 2.75 miles of new bike path, including a bridge over the Winooski River, to get the Cross Vermont Trail off of Route 2 in East Montpelier. This project greatly expands the trail network at U-32, and connects the school with the growing region wide trail network, including the Montpelier bike path that runs west to Middlesex and, to the east, the rail trail in Plainfield, and to the north the East Montpelier Trail. It creates a safe, kid friendly way to bike to school, and provides convenient nearby access to natural areas along the river for everyone to enjoy.

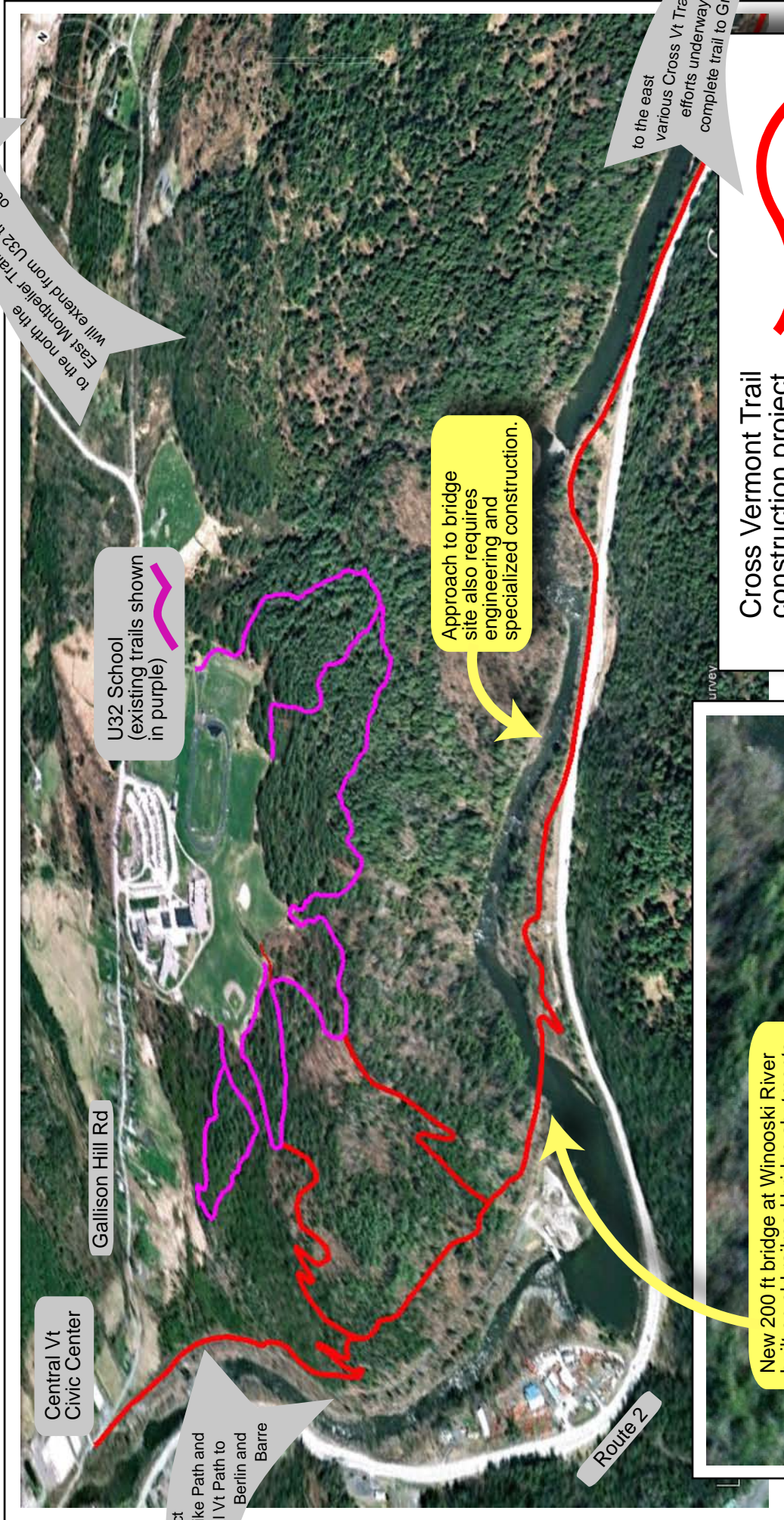
At town meeting day this year we are taking a big step to finish fundraising and start construction. The City of Montpelier has made significant contributions to the project, and has offered to contribute an additional \$1 per resident if the other benefiting towns also contribute as much. The benefiting towns are the members of the U-32 school district, as well as Plainfield. If all these towns contribute, it will raise over \$20,000, which will be further matched 4 to 1 by federal grants, bringing in another \$80,000 to the project.

East Montpelier, Plainfield, Calais, Worcester, and Berlin have all made their contributions and if in 2018 Middlesex also agrees to contribute, then the total amount from all the towns will be matched by Montpelier.

Overall, the total cost of the project is 1.6 million dollars, of which 1.3 million is committed from federal grants, and most of the remainder has been raised from local donations, from over 200 individuals, businesses and organizations. We need just \$90,000 more to match the federal money and complete construction. Most of the money is needed for a few heavily engineered structures to get across the Winooski River and for a short section along side Route 2, where State Agency of Transportation requirements mean full scale design and construction by regular contractors. Elsewhere, the trail will be built by volunteers and Vermont Youth Conservation Corps crews.

This is a one time request for town funding. We are a small organization whose goal is to bring new resources into towns, rather than relying on any regular funding from towns. In time, we believe nearly all of the statewide trail network will be completed in a moderately scaled, incremental way - using common sense, hand tools, and volunteers - securing any funding that may be needed from competitive grants and donations from individual members. However, we currently face a challenge to complete this keystone piece of the trail by making an investment on a much larger scale.

Cross Vt Trail keystone project lies at the center of a growing region wide trail network.



to the north the East Montpelier Trail will extend from U32 through out the town

U32 School (existing trails shown in purple)

Central Vt Civic Center

Gallison Hill Rd

to the west, we connect with the Montpelier Bike Path and Central Vt Path to Berlin and Barre

Approach to bridge site also requires engineering and specialized construction.

New 200 ft bridge at Winooski River built on old railroad bridge abutments is centerpiece of the project; for which engineering is complete.

Cross Vermont Trail construction project (shown in red).

to the east various Cross Vt Trail efforts underway for complete trail to Groton + beyond

In addition to bridge over Winooski and approach to bridge along Rte 2, project includes over two miles of new trail meeting universal accessibility guidelines.

A keystone project joining the planned Central Vt Path to the west, East Montpelier Loop Trail to the north, and Cross Vermont Trail to the east.

Creating safe, and scenic, alternative to what is currently the most problematic on-road section along Cross Vermont Trail state wide route.

