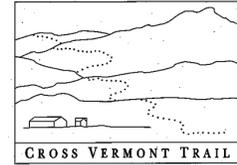


Cross Vermont Trail Association
PO Box 116
29 Main Street, Suite 4
Montpelier, VT 05601
802-498-0079
www.crossvermont.org



December 2018

Dear Friends,

I have exciting news to share! We are on track to break ground next season for the big Winooski River bridge in East Montpelier. Greg Western has been working very hard on all the quiet but necessary steps to get us to the construction stage, and the beginning is in sight!

I've enclosed our annual report showing how the Cross Vermont Trail Association has impacted your communities in 2018. This is also quiet work unless you happen to live there. Greg worked with community volunteers in 20 towns, our string of pearls along the main Cross Vermont Trail, including the wider network of connected community paths and side trails in East Montpelier, Groton, Wells River and across the state.

Our marquee project and the hardest we'll ever tackle is the 200-foot long bridge over the Winooski River in East Montpelier. The project includes almost a mile of approach trail on either side of the crossing in the communities of Montpelier, East Montpelier, Berlin and Barre Town, plus a technically challenging trestle bridge alongside Route 2.

We are on a three-year timeline to complete the entire project: next year we'll build approach trails with youth crews and volunteers, and we'll contract for bridge building. In 2020 we'll begin building the big bridge, and this will likely take two years.

In 2018 Greg checked the box on many important feats to prepare for construction:

- We crossed a giant milestone this past summer when the engineering plans for the project were finalized and OK'd by all the involved landowners.
- With the design final, we are at long last able to lock down all the various landowner permissions for the project. We need a total of eleven agreements and (after the involvement of what feels at times like a hundred and eleven lawyers) these are now all in their final forms too.
- Last, with both the final design and the landowner permissions squared away, we are ready to secure the remainder of the permits needed for construction. We've been prepping these permit applications for many years in anticipation of this day. Even so, the permitting process will likely take several months this winter - after which, we're looking forward to spring and digging trail!

There is one more thing that goes on behind-the-scenes I want to share: Greg is our Executive Director who wears all the hats: fundraiser, grant writer, trail builder, easement negotiator, volunteer coordinator and publicity maven. **He is also our biggest volunteer. This season, please make a donation to the Cross Vermont Trail**, so that we can build the big bridge, maintain trails in 20 communities, and keep Greg fully employed to fairly compensate him for all his terrific work.

"The purpose of the Cross Vermont Trail Association is to assist municipalities, recreation groups, and landowners in the creation and management of a four-season, multi-use trail across the state of Vermont for public recreation, alternative transportation, and awareness of our natural and cultural heritage."

This work has been possible through the help of many volunteers, youth groups, and partners. Read our annual trail report (enclosed) for more about our collective accomplishments.

Update on fundraising for the big Winooski River bridge

We are still working to raise all the money we need to build the bridge in East Montpelier. We have a large federal grant that will pay for much of it (the latest word from state officials is that our deadline is DEFINITELY in 2021) and we are still applying for additional larger grants to help pay for various parts of the project. However, we need a total of \$250,000 in local donations - to date we have raised \$200,000 locally, and we have just \$50,000 to go.

We have naming opportunities for generous donors who wish to make contributions to this huge project, please see our special bridge fundraising insert.

On behalf of Greg and our entire board, I'm wishing you the best this holiday season.
I hope to see you on the Cross Vermont Trail in 2019!

Kimberley McKee, CVTA Board Chair

How to contribute to the CVTA

It's easy! You can donate securely online at our website www.crossvermont.org or send a check to CVTA, P.O. Box 116, Montpelier, VT 05601. See our website for volunteer opportunities too and to give us feedback on your trail experience.

Do you give at your workplace or have an employer matching program?

We received our largest aggregate pledge to date from **United Way** donors, over \$ 3,000, which will be received in installments over the coming year. Please consider making a CVTA pledge during your annual workplace United Way appeal.

If you have an **employer match program**, please consider maximizing your contribution to CVTA by informing your employer.

First Day Hike: Save the date for January 1, 2019.

1+ hour snowshoe walk on easy terrain led by CVTA's Greg Western. Meet at 1:00 at the Nature Center in Groton State Forest (1.6 miles from Route 232.)

Roundup of 2018 Cross Vermont Trail Achievements and a Peek at 2019

2018 Trail Progress—the big bridge isn't the only thing we had going on in 2018 by a long shot!

✓ A new permanent trail easement in East Montpelier ensures we are building a bridge to SOMEWHERE—but you never doubted that! Parcel by parcel, we are acquiring permanent rights to locate the CVT off state roads and onto pleasant, family-friendly greenways through the countryside. Another easement is in the works, expected **2019**.

✓ Relo in East Montpelier -- Greg and volunteers rerouted a trail section and built a temporary bridge at the big railbed washout east of Rt. 14 in East Montpelier. Greg raised funds for the permanent bridge to be built in **2019**.

✓ Johnnie Brook Trail in Richmond – The big rebuild of Johnnie Brook Trail was underway this fall, and will be completed next spring. This will finish the many-years-long to-do list for this section of trail, whew! It has become very popular (photo right.) Greg raised several thousand dollars and contributed his trail expertise to this project.



On the Johnnie Brook Trail.

✓ Muddy Brook connection in Williston – It is decided! A bike path connection will be included in the design for the new highway crossing over Muddy Brook, on the border between Williston and South Burlington, when the cities replace a culvert several years from now. This part of the CVT has always been a gap in the trail. Thanks to CVTA board member Ben Rose and local CVT advocates for continuing to press for a trail solution rather than just a culvert!

✓ Newbury and Blue Mountain Union School – Trail reconstruction began this fall on the railbed in Newbury and Wells River, near the Blue Mountain K-12 school. CVTA signed a new license agreement with the school and we're excited to be planning a lot more trail improvements with them for **2019**.

✓ Marshfield -- Greg has had encouraging conversations with key landowners in Marshfield, stay tuned! Do you know landowners along the trail route? We'd like your introduction to talk with them. In **2019** CVTA will continue to increase the amount we're helping landowners with maintenance of the railbed – such as hoping to fix the "muddy spot" where the railbed crosses the Martin Covered Bridge park.

✓ Groton – Upgrading the Telephone Line Trail, a side trail of the CVT in Groton State Forest, has been a long term CVT project. Our awesome AmeriCorps members and volunteer trail crew rebuilt two more sections in August. The final section of rebuild will happen in **2019**. Also, kudos to the Town of Groton for taking steps to protect the multi-use nature of five miles of town-owned railbed, one of the prettiest sections along the entire CVT, reaffirming CVTA's partnership with the Town to help keep the railbed open as a trail into the future.

√ Karen Clark Trail, part of the East Montpelier Trails system, was upgraded by CVTA in collaboration with EMTI and it is now open to bikes.

√ Middlesex Wayside – CVTA volunteers maintained the 3 Mile Bridge Road wayside by mowing and cutting invasive plants. Installation of a trail info kiosk and bench will happen in **2019**.

AmeriCorps and Volunteer Crews.

We doubled our AmeriCorps crew this year - Taro Memon and Kristen Hemphill were dedicated, enthusiastic and a big help with events, volunteer coordination, and trail work. Kristen and Taro were especially key to the success of our annual volunteer trail crew. Do you know a young person (of any age) who might be interested in spending a full week, month or all summer out on the trail next year? We're recruiting now!

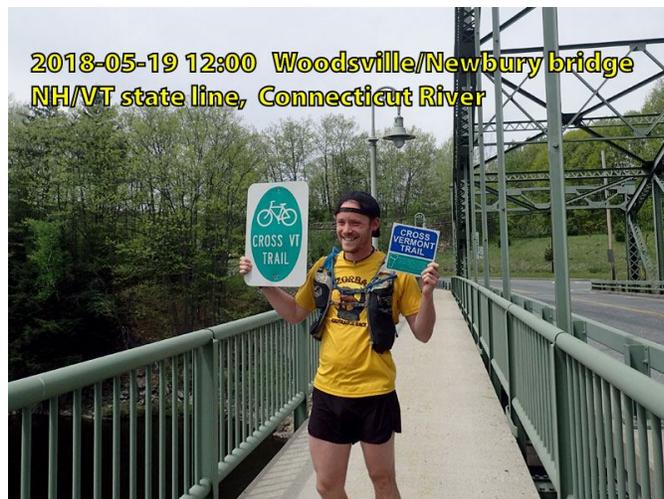


Taro and Kristen

A big THANK YOU to the many community volunteers who cheerfully dug, raked and hauled along the trail, and registered, fed and took care of event participants throughout the year!

Events, Outings and Save the Dates

Groton State Forest Marathon (and half marathon) on September 8 was a big success in its first running. The route included the CVT in Groton State Forest. The Central Vermont Runners and event organizers donated a portion of the proceeds to CVTA trail efforts. THANK YOU! This was a good introduction to the trail to many new people. Next year's event is scheduled for **September 7, 2019** – there's a link at crossvermont.org to the registration page.



Run Rob Run was the cheer for *ultramarathoner* Rob Rives who ran an epic 90.8 miles, the entire CVT route, on May 19 - 20. Starting at Noon in Wells River Village, he ran through darkness and rainy drizzle to finish 19 hours later in Oakledge Park in Burlington. One of Rob's goals was to raise awareness of the CVT and his feat was covered by Times-Argus and WCAX. Along the way Rob was greeted by cheering CVTA staff and board members.

Ultramarathoner Rob Rives

CVT Fall Foliage Ride from Groton State Forest to Blue Mountain Union School was lots of family fun. Our energizer bunny board member Mike Thomas organized the 21st fall foliage ride on September 29. He's amazing! Beautiful weather, beautiful foliage and good food at the end. Remember: it's all downhill on the CVT in this direction. We expect next year's event to be held the last Saturday in September—that would be **September 28, 2019**.

Central Vermont Cycling Tour on June 24 – an "Original Gravelgrinder" - was a fun day with cooperative weather. Everyone who's ever done it says the route is some of the prettiest scenery in Vermont. This is our big annual fundraising event and our annual meeting with creamies and hula hoops for all. We can always use help staffing food tables, registration, and trail marshals. If you are looking for a way to get involved in CVTA that doesn't involve digging or lifting, this is your opportunity! Held the last Sunday in June every year, we'll start and end at Morse Farm Maple in East Montpelier on **June 30, 2019**. Early registration is open now.



Carolyn Grodinsky on the Central Vermont Cycling Tour.

First Day Hike: Save the date for January 1, 2019. 1+ hour snowshoe walk on easy terrain led by CVTA's Greg Western. Meet at 1:00 at the Nature Center in Groton State Forest (1.6 miles from Route 232.)

Financial Statements

You can always read our full financial statements, IRS filings, and annual audit of our accounts by an independent CPA – posted online at: http://crossvermont.org/about_us/annrpt.php.

Meet the board

Our board meets four times per year in Montpelier and helps out with events and other goings on. We are looking for a few more board members, especially from towns not represented already.

Rick Hopkins, East Montpelier, Treasurer
Kim McKee, Calais, Chair
Bill Merrylees, East Montpelier
Collin Oneil, Northfield
Rose Paul, Plainfield, Secretary
Ben Rose, Williston
Keith Swann, Plainfield
Michael Thomas, Wells River, Vice Chair
Dan Towle, Montpelier

**We are very grateful to the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission
for providing office space and administrative support!**

CROSS VERMONT TRAIL ASSOCIATION 2018

Annual Report for year July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018.

Trails and Conservation

Acres of land conserved to date for permanent greenway: 24.3 acres

Trails & Cons. Easements Stewarded 6

Miles of trail permanently protected for public access, to date: 1.75 miles

Miles of trail on public land currently managed in partnership with state and local governments: 23.5 miles

Miles of trail on private land currently managed in partnership with individual landowners: 5.65 miles

Miles of scenic on road bike route currently managed in partnership with state and local governments: 60.5 miles



Our Mission is to "assist municipalities, recreation groups, and landowners in the creation and management of a four-season, multi-use trail across the state of Vermont for public recreation, alternative transportation, and awareness of our natural and cultural heritage."

CVTA works with communities to promote, improve, and extend local trails. The ultimate goal is a four season, off road network - complete state wide through Chittenden, Washington, Caledonia and Orange Counties - following the Winooski River and Wells River valleys.

People

Donors this year: 97

Volunteers this year: 58

Board of Directors:

Keith Swann, Chair	Plainfield
Rick Hopkins, Treasurer	East Montpelier
Kim McKee, Secretary	Calais
Michael Thomas, Vice Chair	Wells River
Bill Merrylees	East Monpelier
Ben Rose	Williston
Collin Oneil	Northfield
Rose Paul	Plainfield

Greg Western, Executive Director

Finances

Current Assets: \$ 248,943

Land: \$ 10,000

ASSETS \$ 258,943

Current Liabilities: \$ 38,180

Net Assets: \$ 220,764

LIABILITIES + NET ASSETS \$ 258,944

REVENUES: \$ 120,823

EXPENSES: \$ 100,264

full financial statements posted at www.crossvermont.org



Complete state wide maps and route description, events and outings schedules, trail building projects and volunteer work parties available online or contact us directly:

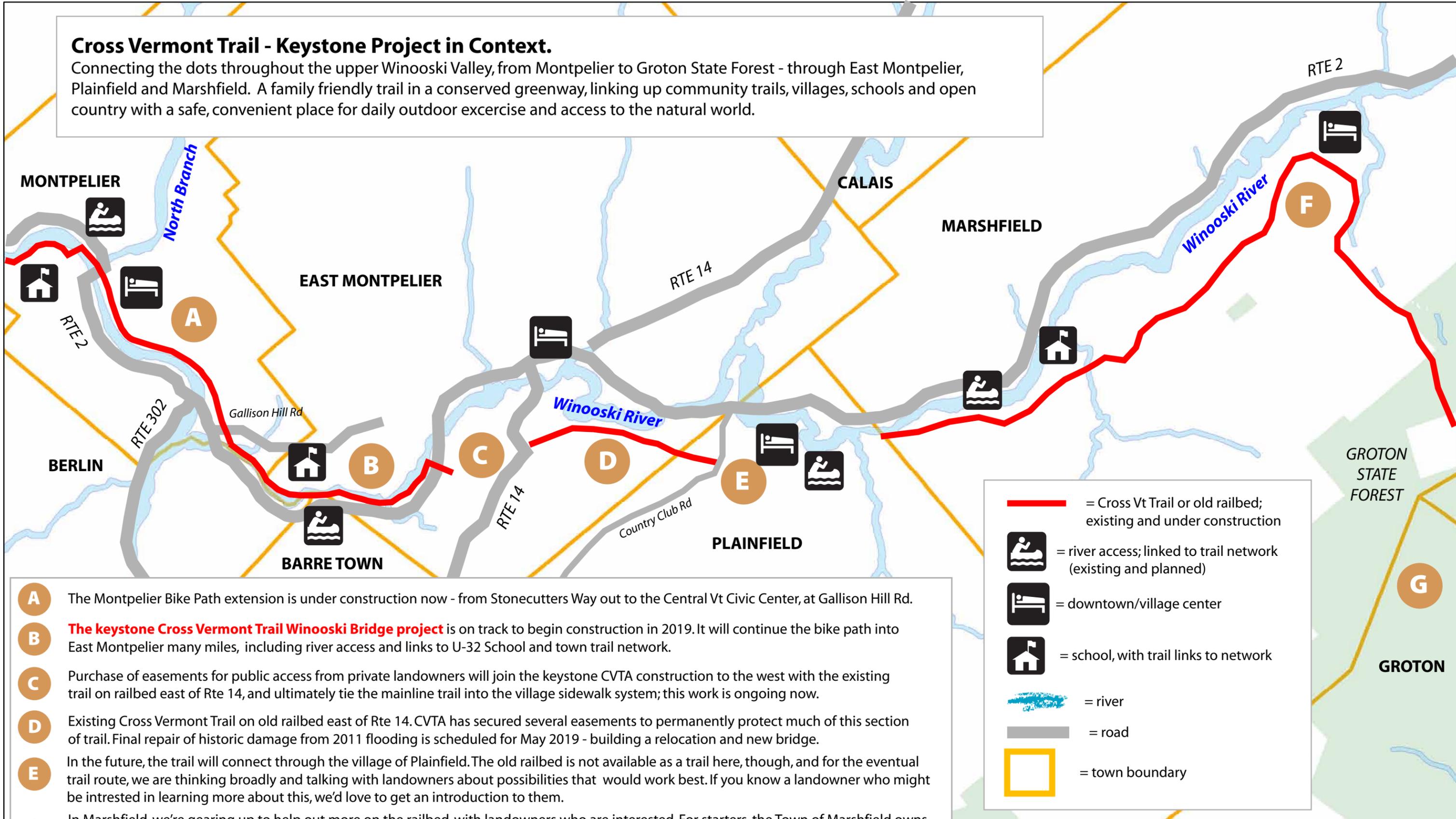
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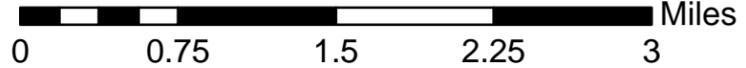
Cross Vermont Trail - Keystone Project in Context.

Connecting the dots throughout the upper Winooski Valley, from Montpelier to Groton State Forest - through East Montpelier, Plainfield and Marshfield. A family friendly trail in a conserved greenway, linking up community trails, villages, schools and open country with a safe, convenient place for daily outdoor exercise and access to the natural world.



- A** The Montpelier Bike Path extension is under construction now - from Stonecutters Way out to the Central Vt Civic Center, at Gallison Hill Rd.
- B** **The keystone Cross Vermont Trail Winooski Bridge project** is on track to begin construction in 2019. It will continue the bike path into East Montpelier many miles, including river access and links to U-32 School and town trail network.
- C** Purchase of easements for public access from private landowners will join the keystone CVTA construction to the west with the existing trail on railbed east of Rte 14, and ultimately tie the mainline trail into the village sidewalk system; this work is ongoing now.
- D** Existing Cross Vermont Trail on old railbed east of Rte 14. CVTA has secured several easements to permanently protect much of this section of trail. Final repair of historic damage from 2011 flooding is scheduled for May 2019 - building a relocation and new bridge.
- E** In the future, the trail will connect through the village of Plainfield. The old railbed is not available as a trail here, though, and for the eventual trail route, we are thinking broadly and talking with landowners about possibilities that would work best. If you know a landowner who might be interested in learning more about this, we'd love to get an introduction to them.
- F** In Marshfield, we're gearing up to help out more on the railbed, with landowners who are interested. For starters, the Town of Marshfield owns over a mile of the old railbed, and we are planning to contribute some signage and tread improvements to the town owned sections in 2019. Beyond that - there are over forty private landowners along the old railbed in Marshfield. We are currently having positive conversations with a number of them, and are looking forward to meeting and talking with many more in the coming year.
- G** Cross Vermont Trail continues into Groton State Forest on the old railbed, where it forms the central piece of an extensive and growing network of trails, paddling access, and more. When complete, Cross Vt Trail will invite easy access to the great opportunities in the Forest for people who live in neighboring communities and also will invite campers and Forest visitors to explore beyond the State boundaries into nearby villages.

- = Cross Vt Trail or old railbed; existing and under construction
- = river access; linked to trail network (existing and planned)
- = downtown/village center
- = school, with trail links to network
- = river
- = road
- = town boundary



Prepared by Cross Vermont Trail Association (CVTA), 12/2018
Data Source VCGI, CVTA. Information for planning purposes only.

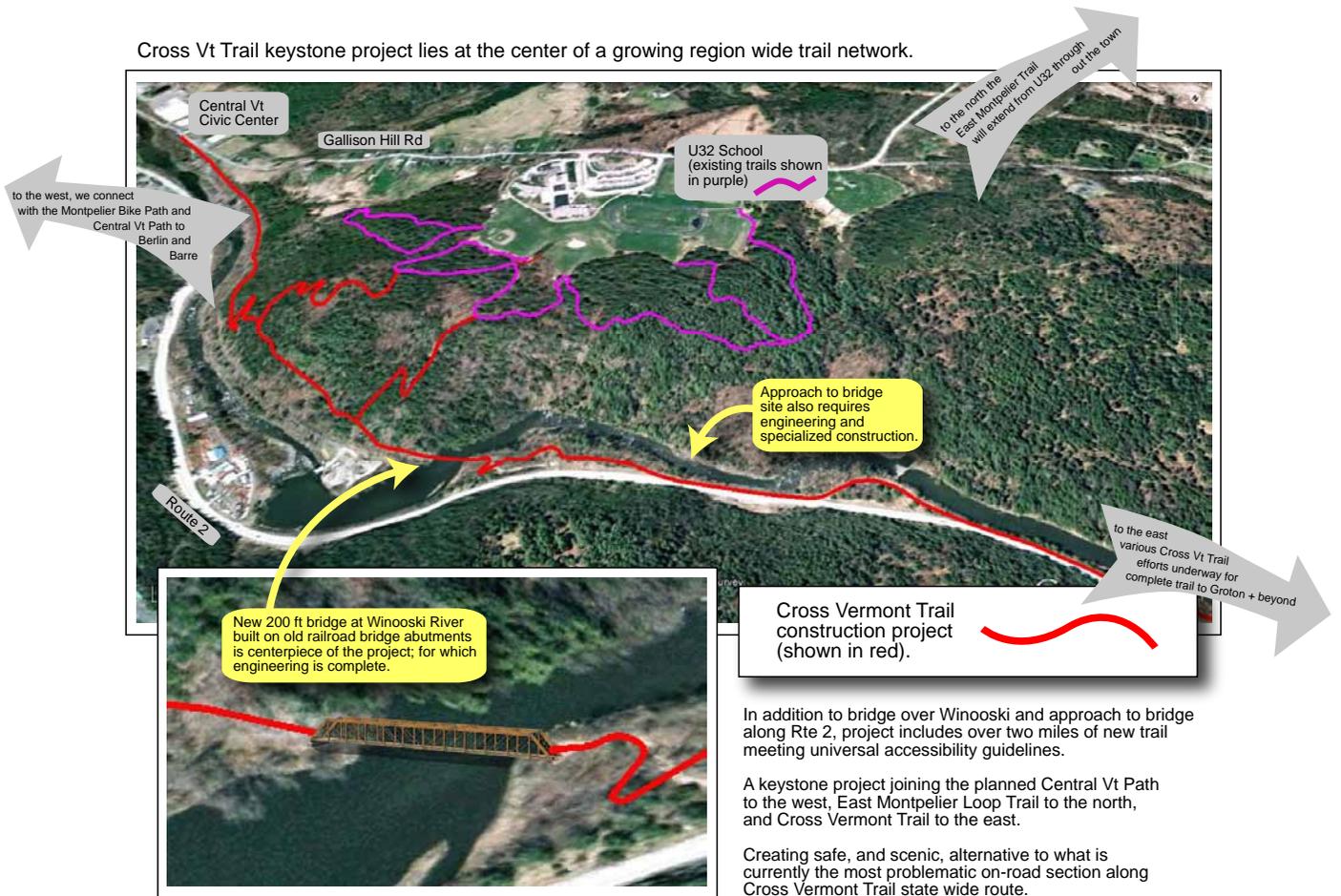
Cross Vermont Trail WINOOSKI BRIDGE PROJECT timeline, budget and plan

TIMELINE: Engineering is done. Landowner agreements are finalized and will be fully executed first part of 2019. Environmental permitting is prepared, and will be completed by spring 2019. We are on track to break ground starting next summer.

BUDGET: With final engineering comes final construction cost estimates - final estimate for all phases of the project (from Gallison Hill Rd all the way out to where trail will climb from Rte 2 up to Rte 14, and including connections to U-32 and East Montpelier trails) - is 1.5 million dollars. Most of this (1.25 million) will come from various large grant sources - much of it already awarded, and for the remainder we are pursuing numerous open leads. In addition to these grants and larger gifts, we also need \$250,000 of local donations, of which \$200,000 has been received, with \$50,000 to go.

PLAN: Construction will happen in phases, and take a total of three years. As soon as the final OK is received next summer, we will begin the first phase of construction with volunteers and youth groups (the "trail in the woods"). And we will put out to bid the larger, contractor built, phases (the bridge over the Winooski, and some of the work adjacent to Rte 2); we assume it will take some time to get on contractors' schedules, but that they would be fully mobilized by 2020. The deadline to complete all the work is summer of 2021. It's going to be a pretty cool trail!

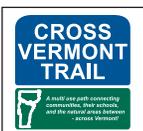
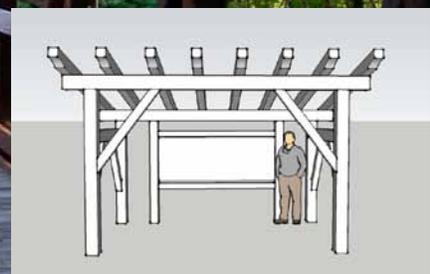
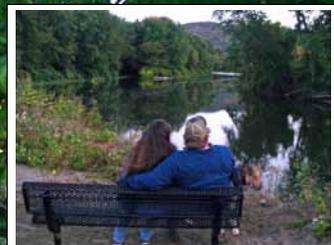
Cross Vt Trail keystone project lies at the center of a growing region wide trail network.



Permanent recognition of your major gift to Build the Bridge!

Bench	\$5,000
Granite Milemarker and Interpretive Panel	\$12,500
At the Bridge, a larger plaque with quotation	\$20,000
Trailhead Kiosk	\$25,000
Bridge Name	\$50,000

Major gifts can be commemorated on the trail - for example, on a bench at a scenic vista, or with a plaque on a major structure. Your donation helps to make an important part of the trail a reality, which can be dedicated in the name of your family, or to someone important to you. At the Winooski River Bridge, and along the 2.75 miles of new trail being built as a part of the project, there are several sites available. Let us know if this is something you'd be interested in talking more about.



Cross Vermont Trail Association - Our Keystone Project

We're tackling the biggest construction job on the entire statewide route of the Cross Vermont Trail. Building a new 200' bike/ped bridge over the Winooski River, getting the trail off miles of busy highway and onto a path in the woods, along the river. Your gift now can take us across the fundraising finish line so we can start construction!

CVTA PO BOX 116, Montpelier, VT 05601 | 802-498-0079 | www.crossvermont.org