

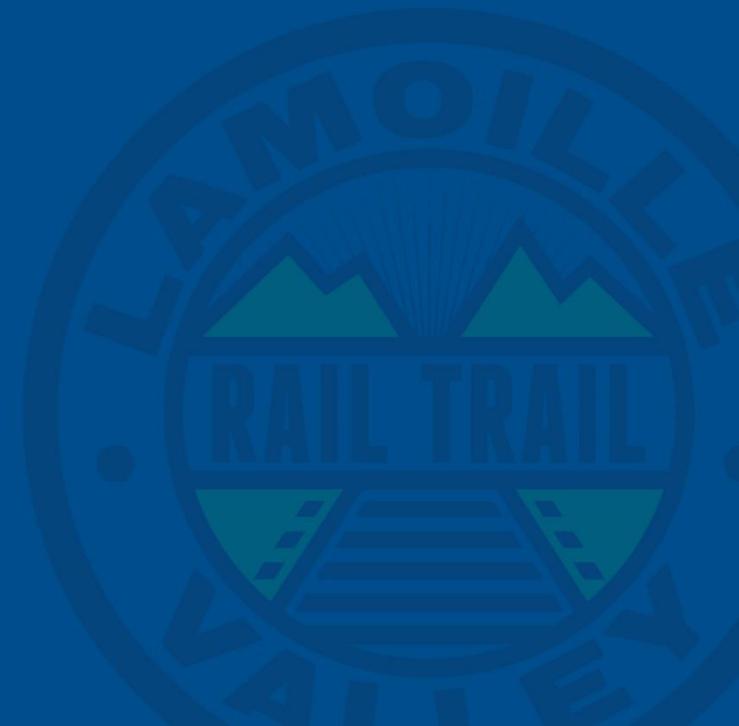


Lamoille Valley Rail Trail: Update on Construction, Sign Plan, Management Plan & Congressional Earmark

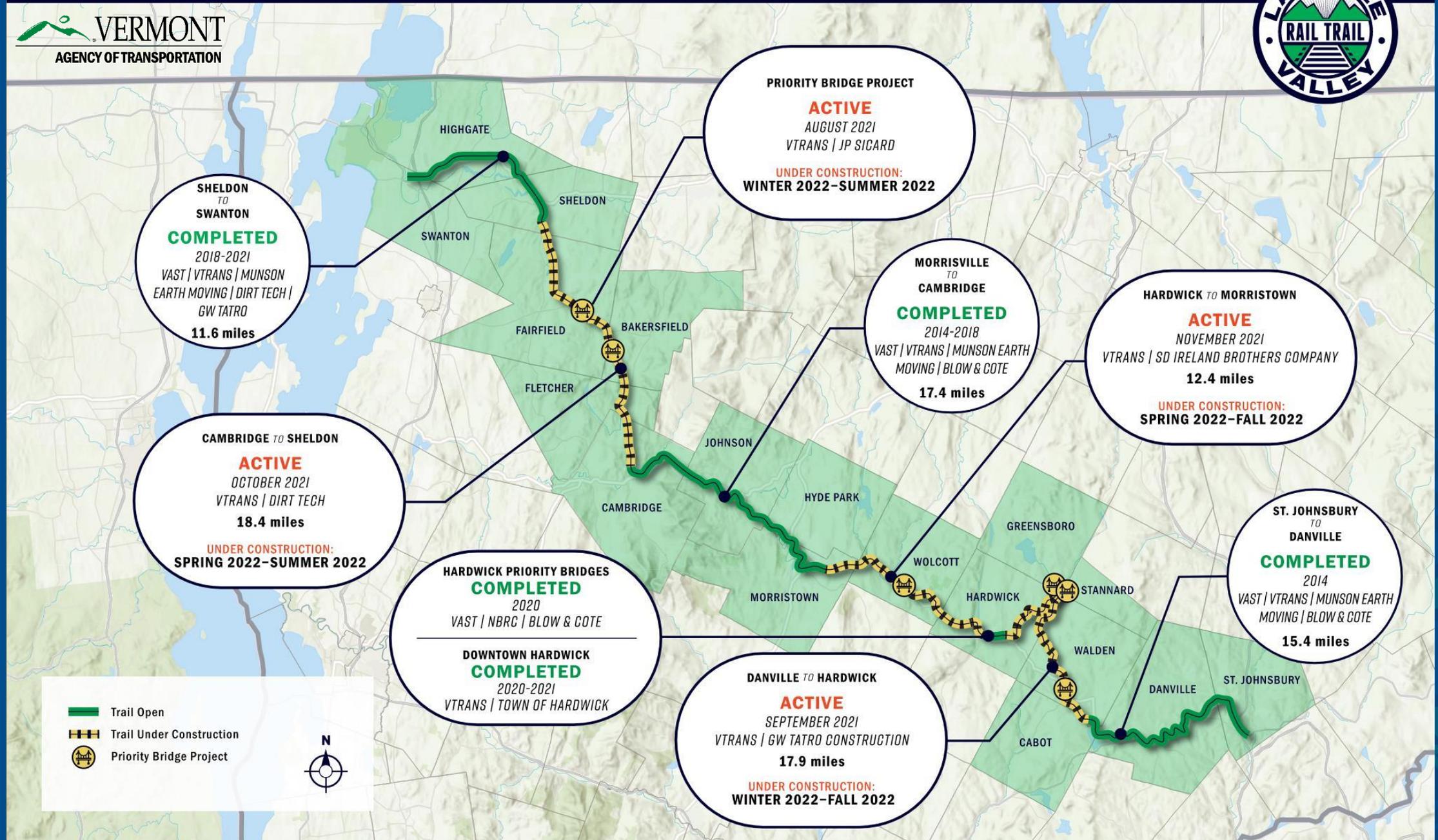
Senate Institutions Committee
April 12, 2022



Construction Update



Trail Construction Update



Trail Open
 Trail Under Construction
 Priority Bridge Project

Projects-Segments	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
St. Johnsbury TO Danville 15.4 MILES	Completed by VAST/VTrans Munson Earth Moving Blow & Cote								
Danville TO Hardwick 17.9 MILES							Awarded: GW Tatro Construction, September '21 Under Construction		
Hardwick TO Morristown 12.4 MILES							Awarded: SD Ireland, November '21 Under Construction		
Morristown TO Cambridge 17.4 MILES			Completed by VAST/VTrans Munson Earth Moving Blow & Cote						
Cambridge TO Sheldon 18.4 MILES							Awarded: Dirt Tech Company, October '21 Under Construction		
Sheldon TO Sheldon Junction 1.5 MILES					Completed by VAST/VTrans Munson Earth Moving				
Sheldon Junction TO Highgate 6.2 MILES							Completed by VAST/VTrans Dirt Tech		
Highgate TO Swanton 3.9 MILES							Completed by VAST/VTrans GW Tatro		
Priority Bridges Project							Awarded: JP Sicard, August '21 Under Construction		

LVRT(10) – Bridge project; Contract awarded to J. P. Sicard, Inc. Construction contract amount: \$3,472,258.50. Completion date August 31, 2022.

LVRT(11) – Sheldon Jct. to Cambridge; Contract awarded to Dirt Tech Company, LLC. Construction contract amount: \$2,476,651.15. Completion date November 12, 2022.

LVRT(12) – Morrisville to Hardwick; Contract awarded to S. D. Ireland Construction. Construction contract amount: \$6,986,878.50. Completion date November 10, 2022.

LVRT(13) – Hardwick to West Danville (Joes Pond); Contract Awarded to G. W. Tatro Construction, Inc. Construction contract amount: \$2,254,046.00. Completion date November 12, 2022

Sign Plan - What it IS



- Review of best practices from other trail systems throughout the country.
- Recommendations for a cohesive set of off-facility signs including how to find the trail from the State Highway and Local Roads and on-trail signs including mile markers, town lines, and geographic destinations.
- Solicitation of input from RPC's, VAST, VTrans and other important stakeholders.
- Development of plans, specifications and an estimate for this project be bid.



Sign Plan - What it is **NOT**

- Temporary traffic control during construction
- Signs pointing users to individual businesses, services or attractions.
- Interpretive signage detailing features of historic or environmental significance along the trail.

Sign Plan Timeline

- Complete review, outreach and development of plans, specifications and estimate Fall of 2022.
- Bid for construction Winter 2022/Spring 2023.
- Construction begins Spring 2023.

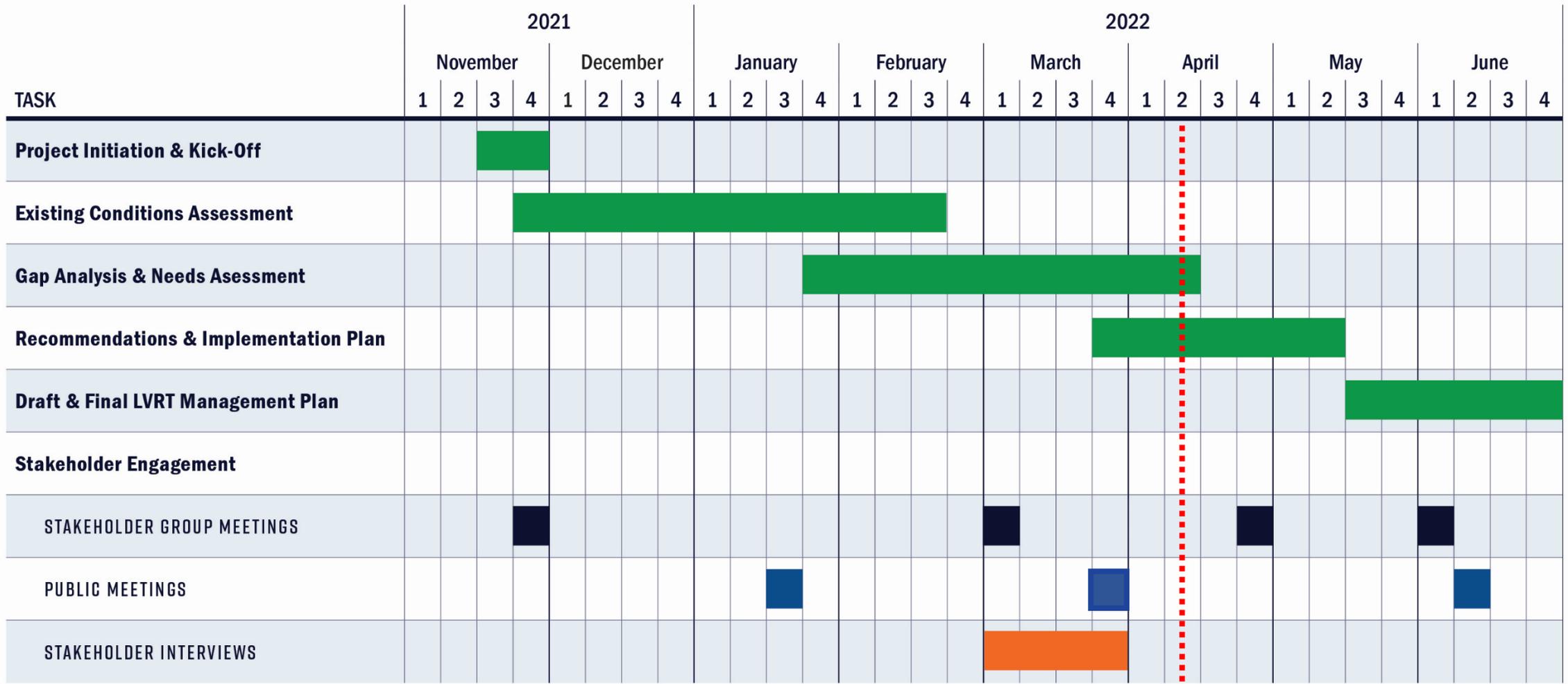
Development of the Management Plan



LVRT Management Plan

- Trail Completion in Fall of 2022
- Existing VAST Management Plan adopted in 2016
- Management responsibilities shifting from VAST to VTrans on July 1, 2022
- Management Plan needed to:
 1. Describe a cohesive vision for the completed trail
 2. Identify long-range strategies for the management, maintenance, and operations of the trail
 3. Support opportunities for community economic development efforts along the LVRT
 4. Provide a model Management Plan framework for the management of other rail trails in Vermont

Where we are...



Public Input to Date

- Public Hybrid Meetings (3) | Jan. 25, Mar. 29 and Apr. TBD
- Stakeholder Group Interviews (5) | February – March 2022
- Stakeholder Committee Mtgs (4) |
- Website & Crowdsourcing Input Tool | Ongoing

Stakeholder Sessions

- 5 Groups
- February – March 2022
 - Northeast Region
 - Lamoille County Region
 - Northwest Region
 - Outdoor Recreation and Transportation Organizations & Businesses
 - Open Session




START LVRT Stakeholder Session

Welcome to the LVRT Management Plan Stakeholder Session for the Northeast Region!

Meeting Goal:
Gather insights, ideas and concerns regarding the long term management of the 93-mile trail system.

Purpose of the Management Plan:
- Describe a cohesive vision for the completed trail
- Identify long-range strategies for the management, maintenance, and operations of the trail
- Support opportunities for community economic development efforts along the trail and in trailside communities
- Provide a framework for management of other rail trails in Vermont

Background

- Railroad built in 1877
- Railbanking approved in 2004
- VAST began rehabilitation of the corridor in 2006
- 2013-2018 VAST completed 33 miles of trail
- In 2018 VTrans assumed responsibility for construction of remaining segments
- July 1, 2022 the management shifts to VTrans
- Completion of the trail Fall 2022
- Corridor spans across 5 counties connecting 18 towns
- Once complete, the trail will be the longest rail trail in New England



Introductions

Please introduce yourself

- What is your name?
- What organization do you represent?
- What do you look forward to most regarding the completed LVRT?

David Smedeker Executive Director NVDA	Eric Benick Hardwick Selectboard Recreation Committee	Geoff Seneker Hardwick Community Development Coordinator	Dan Pradipi Greenboro Planning Commission	Randolph Wilson Walden Selectboard	Ran Linsley Danville Selectboard	Senator Jane Kitchel NVDA Board
Chad Whitehead St. Johnsbury Town Manager	Joe Kasprzak St. Johnsbury Just. Town Manager	Joe Pile St. Johnsbury Academy Director of VT Chamber of Commerce	Marie Rosevear Castalia Director of VT Chamber of Commerce	Gillian Seneker St. Johnsbury Downtown Coordinator	Michelle McCord Hardwick Executive Director Longdon Chamber of Commerce	David Upton Hardwick Town Manager

1 When construction on the trail is complete, what is the one project improvement/enhancement you see as most critical to your community?

2 What do you anticipate being a barrier to your community using the trail or benefiting from users on the trail?

3 Are there projects/improvements/enhancements that your community has planned for in anticipation of the trail being complete?

4 What concerns you the most about the completed trail? Are there issues you anticipate for your community?

5 Are there programs, educational opportunities, or events related to the trail that your community has planned for or you would like to see?

6 Is there anything else we should know or that you wish we had asked about?

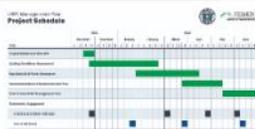
Idea Prioritization

FINISH

Please reach out to us with any ideas, questions, or concerns.

Website: <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/lvrt/>

Contact Info:
Elisabeth Sundberg
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Crowdsource Input Tool



Crowdsource Input Tool

VERMONT AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION **LVRT Issues & Opportunities Feedback** Sign In ?

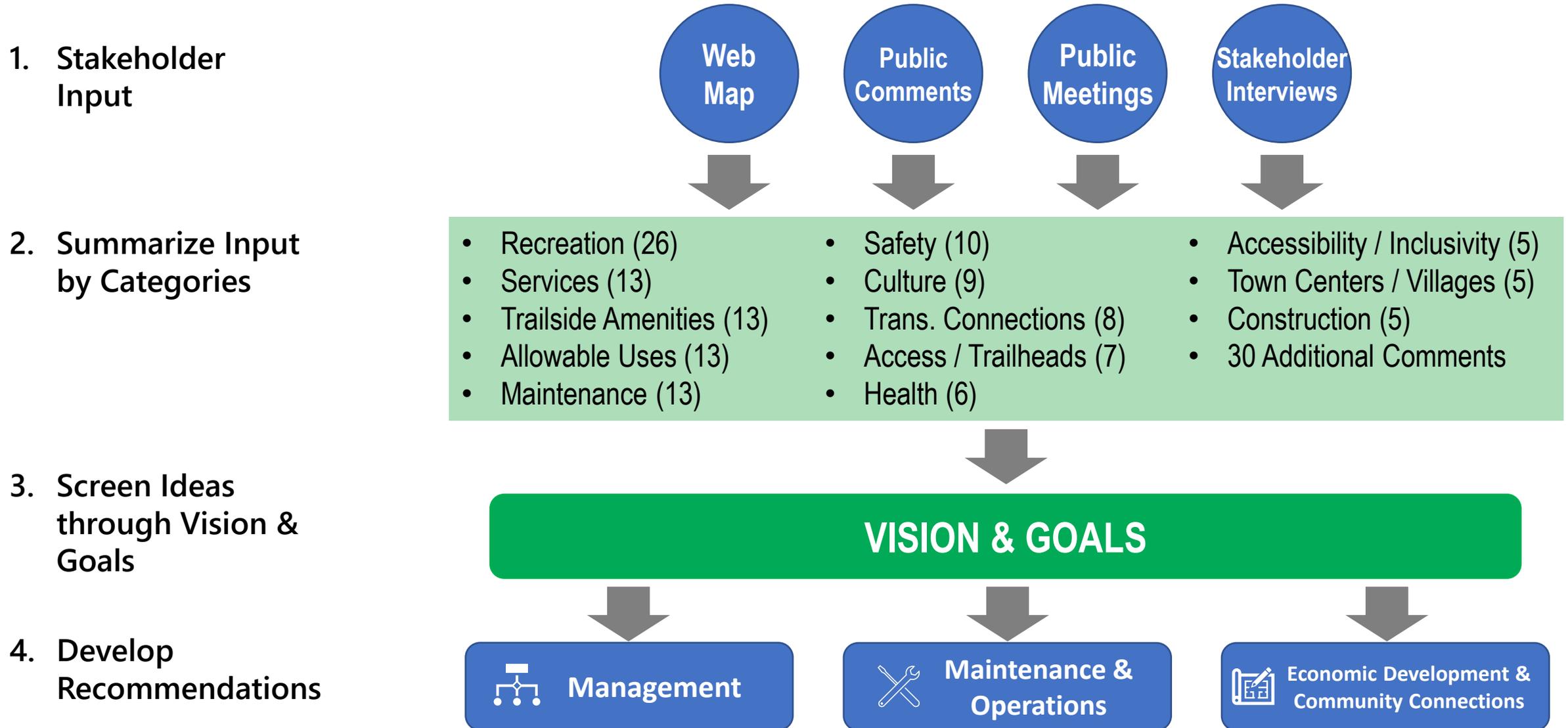
LVRT Comments

+ Add Comment

With a rail trail of this length it will be a desti...	6♥
It might be a good idea to stress the opportu...	4♥
The Sheldon junction connecting the MVRT a...	4♥
Ongoing efforts to control invasive Japanese...	3♥
With all the varied users, it makes sense for ...	2♥
Public Bicycle Repair Station	1♥
Highly suggest the trail be paved because it ...	1♥
It would be wonderful to connect this to the ...	1♥
Add signage for Cambridge Greenway	0♥
Informal Parking- Approx. 6 spots	0♥
Formal Parking- Approx 50 spots	0♥
Possible site for restored bridge to connect L...	0♥

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Development of the Management Plan





Management

- Define Roles & Responsibilities
 - Statewide Rail Trail Manager
- Policies and Procedures
 - Planning & Budgeting
 - Right-of-Way Use Agreements
 - Special Uses & Permits
 - Allowable Uses & User Conflicts
- Coordination of Activities & Personnel
- Coordination with municipalities, trail and volunteer organizations, RPCs, contractors, and many others.



Maintenance & Operations

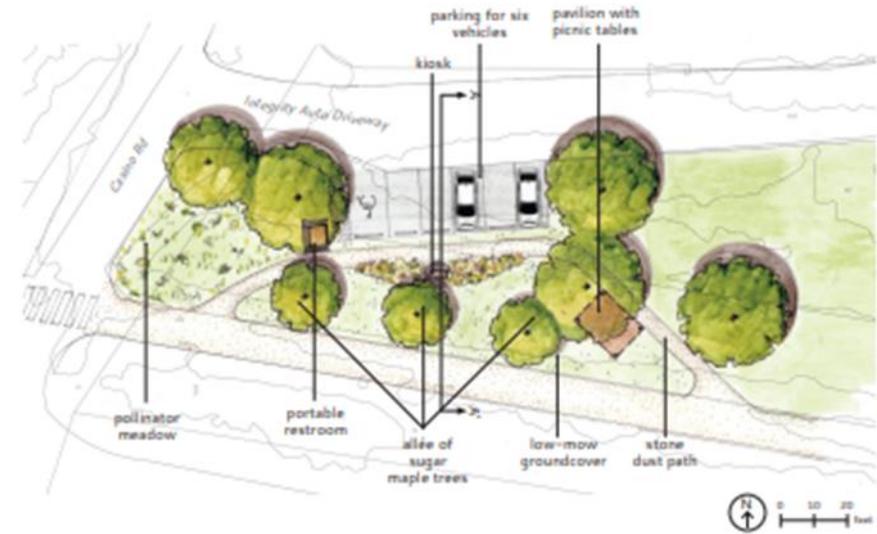
- Asset Condition Assessments
 - Frequency of asset inspection & routine maintenance
- Maintenance Plan
 - Seasonal Maintenance & Operations
 - Example: Mowing, tree clearing, surface management, grooming
 - Special Projects
 - Example: Surface management, bridge/culvert repairs, trail enhancements
- Trail Access, Trailheads, Trailside Amenities





Economic Development & Community Connections

- Community Connections
 - Trailheads & Trail Access Points
 - Connecting Paths, Sidewalks, Trails
 - Wayfinding
- Trip Planning & Information Sharing
 - LVRT Website
 - Mobile Apps
- Events & Programming



Congressional Earmark



Sanders Earmark – March 15th Notice from Senator Sanders' office

- \$2M awarded and now available
- Specifically, this investment will fund community projects to improve the function of the trail including but not limited to trail infrastructure, such as trailheads, picnic areas, kiosks, and connections to downtowns; signage; art and history installations; marketing efforts; and ambassador programs.
- Additionally, this investment could fund a study and 10-year overarching master plan for the trail, which will include a recommendation as to whether the trail should ultimately become a state park.



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<https://vtrans.vermont.gov/lvrt>

[Crowdsource Input Tool](#)