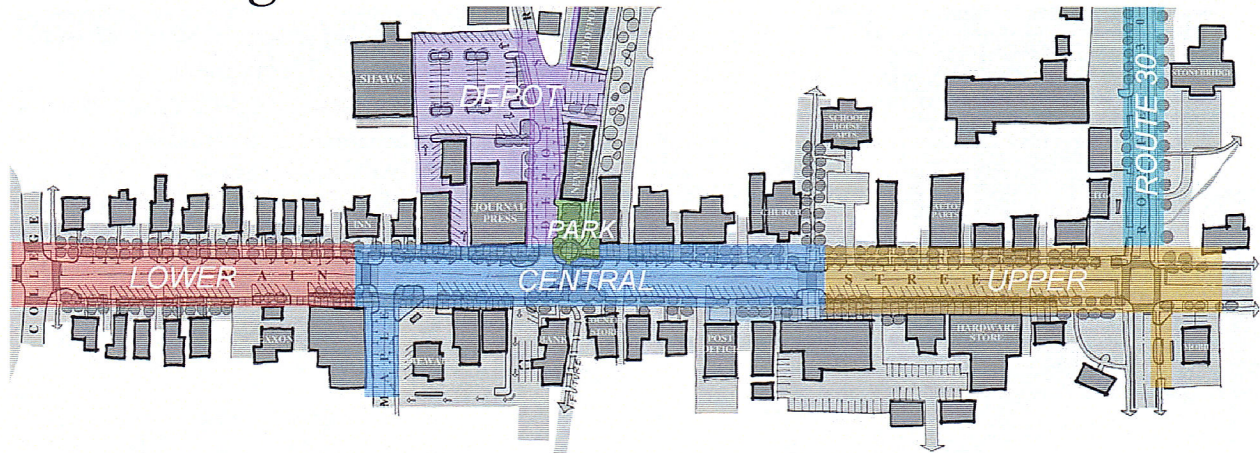


### 3. Improvement Costs and Implementation Strategies



#### Phasing and Opinions of Probable Cost:

It is assumed that the project will be phased over as much as a 10-year period as funds are raised locally or secured through grants and other sources. Based upon the Committee’s review of the phasing, the following order of phases as a general order of priorities is proposed:

- The table below summarizes the probable cost of the improvements interested parties can view the detailed estimate sheets at the Poultney Town Offices.
- The figures shown are a good faith effort the design team and town officials to project the range of technical and other factors that contribute to a cost effective project. Costs shown are best estimate based upon limited mapping accuracy. The 20% contingency reflects numerous uncertainties resulting from the conceptual nature of the plans, and the potential for a 20% bid spread.
- The project overall cost can be broken down in many ways so that the project can be phased over a long period of time. In that regard:
  - A bare essential level of cost vs. a total project cost by subarea of the downtown has been included.
  - A minimum amount of “creative” funding such as gifts, donations in memory and other sources including volunteer efforts are included.
- Market rates for all improvements at prevailing bid prices from VTTrans, recent town project history, and prevailing unit prices from regional experience.
- If Poultney becomes a designated downtown, all improvements will be grant eligible. We have selected an 80% grant/20%local match level, but that may vary.

#### Summary of Cost Estimates by phase

Phase:	Basic project cost <sup>1</sup>	Total project cost <sup>2</sup>	local % / Grant other%
1. Lower Main Street	\$235,242	\$305,000	20/80
2. Central Main Street	\$460,805	\$565,000	20/80
3. Depot Park	\$86,980	\$110,000	20/80
4. Depot Street	\$134,171	\$160,000	20/80
5. Upper Main Street	\$373,481	\$450,000	20/80
6. Route 30	\$44,423	\$65,000	20/80

<sup>1</sup> See appendix for detailed costs, basic project cost does not include items that could be phased at a later time. Items phased for future include: ornamental paving at crosswalks, street trees, decorative lighting, and signage.

<sup>2</sup> Total cost includes contingency, % of A/E costs, mobilization, and other overhead costs that are repeated in each phase. See appendix for detailed costs.

## Next Steps:

The plans developed in this report are conceptual in nature and considerable design development will be needed before they can be the basis for construction. For the purpose of moving ahead with the project a series of immediate tasks are listed below to get that process going: Base mapping; detailed base maps for engineering and final design are not available currently. The village should use either remaining funds from the current planning grant or appropriate additional funds to complete detailed survey work including ROW and property lines for the village.

1. Utility coordination: the location and condition of existing utilities should be assessed.
2. Continued Revitalization coordination: considerable additional work will be needed to continue the process of getting into the VT downtown program, and then applying for additional funds for streetscape and other improvements.
3. The town should plan to apply to the VTTrans Enhancement Program and the VT Recreational trails fund for improvements grants for the Main Street project and the downtown trailhead.
4. The next phases of design could address several small scale projects ( costing no more than a few thousand dollars each...) that could be more readily funded: design development of the Depot Park, creating gateway signage and Main Street Directory signage, initiating cooperative efforts with the gas stations, and pursuing VTTrans funds to replace the signals at RT 30.

## Funding Opportunities

Potential funding sources for improvements recommended within this study include the following:

### Local Funding and Financing:

The Village of Poultney has an annual budget for street and sidewalk repairs that can be used as matching funds for grants received. This amount is between \$20 –35,000 per year. Additional funds could be set aside of a period of years through the capital fund to accrue additional funds for matching grants or to undertake town only funded projects.

As part of a local funding strategy, voluntary membership in the downtown organization, or establishment of an “improvement district” through the designated downtown program. Locally, Rutland uses this same system to raises significant annual funds for promotion and improvement projects. Funds set aside through this program are outside of the Act 60 process, and can be retained for local use for downtown revitalization.

The Downtown Revitalization Committee and the Poultney Chamber of Commerce are also sources of potential funding through a program of donations and private fundraising and cooperative projects.

### Federal Funding

#### Land and Water Conservation Fund

LWCF funding for grant to municipalities has recently been reinstated; \$170,000 is available for the FY 2001 round, with a minimum 50% match required. Eligible activities include outdoor recreation facility development, and land acquisition to serve conservation or future outdoor recreation development. FY 2001 applications due July 28, 2000. Contact Laurie Adams-Smith, VT Dept of Forests, Parks and Recreation, at 802-241-3690,

#### National Park Service Rivers & Trails Program

RTCA provides technical and planning assistance to states, communities and conservation organizations for a wide variety of trail, river, and greenway projects. NPS staff works cooperatively with local trail groups, conservation organizations, and state agencies on greenways, rail-trails, river corridors, publications and

workshops. September 1 deadline. Contact the Vermont/New Hampshire Field Office at 802-457-3368 ext 21 (PO Box 178, Woodstock, VT 05091), [www.ncrc.nps.gov/rtca](http://www.ncrc.nps.gov/rtca)

Periodically, the **National Center for Recreation and Conservation** of the National Park Service compiles a guide to Federal Funding and Assistance for Rivers, Trails and Open Space Conservation. Contact the National Center for Recreation and Conservation, National Park Service, Room 3606, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240-0001, 202-565-1200, [www.ncrc.nps.gov/rtca](http://www.ncrc.nps.gov/rtca).

### **Other Federal Funding Opportunities**

Sources of federal financial and technical assistance are compiled in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance ([www.gsa.gov/fdac](http://www.gsa.gov/fdac)). The Catalog is available at depository libraries nationwide or contact the Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog Staff, General Services Administration, 300 7th St. S.W., Washington, D.C., 20407, Telephone 1-800-669-833.

### **National Organizations**

#### **National Trust for Historic Preservation:**

Preservation Services Fund, Joanne Favrot Fund, 7 Fanueil Hall Marketplace, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boston, MA 02109

#### **American Greenways Awards / Conservation Fund**

Non-profit organizations, public agencies, and individuals are eligible for \$500 to \$2,500 to stimulate the planning and implementation of greenways in communities throughout America. March 1 and June 1 deadlines. Contact the American Greenways Coordinator at The Conservation Fund, (703) 525-6300 (1800 North Kent St., Suite 1120, Arlington, VA 22209), [www.conservationfund.org](http://www.conservationfund.org)

#### **River Network's Watershed Assistance Grants**

A new grants program to support innovative efforts that build the capacity of community-based partnerships to conserve or restore watersheds. Two types of grants are available: Project Grants (\$4,000 to \$30,000) and Mini-Grants (under \$4,000). Feb/June deadlines. Contact Kathy Luscher at 503-241-3506 ext. 16 (Watershed Program, River Network, PO Box 8787, Portland, OR 97207), [kluscher@rivernetwork.org](mailto:kluscher@rivernetwork.org)

#### **Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI) Grants**

Conservation Grants – grants averaging \$5,000 for grassroots organizing and D.C. lobbying to protect lands and waterways, make them more accessible to people who enjoy the outdoors, and better utilize and preserve our natural resources for recreation. March-Oct deadline. Community Recreation Grants – grants of \$500 to \$5,000 for outdoor programs that increase access, encourage involvement, and promote safety for outdoor muscle-powered sports. March-Oct deadline. Great Places Grants - \$15,000 to \$25,000 for projects protecting muscle-powered recreation sites. Feb 15 deadline. Contact the Grants Administrator at 1-800-426-4840 (REI, PO Box 1938, Sumner, WA, 98352), [www.rei.com](http://www.rei.com)

#### **American Hiking Society's National Trails Endowment**

A new fund designed to support trail organizations in building trails, improving existing trails, securing land for future trails, or increasing the constituency for a specific trail project. Recent grant amounts \$2,000 to \$9,500. November deadline. Contact AHS at 888-766-4453 (AHS, PO Box 20160, Washington, DC 20041-2160), [ahs.simplenet.com](http://ahs.simplenet.com)

#### **Bikes Belong Coalition, Ltd.**

Grants of up to \$10,000 each for projects funded by TEA-21 transportation monies, to develop bicycle facilities and put more people on bicycles. Contact Bikes Belong Coalition at 617-734-2800 (1368 Beacon St., Suite 116, Brookline, MA 02446-2800), [www.bikesbelong.org/grants.htm](http://www.bikesbelong.org/grants.htm)

#### **D.I.R.T. (Direct Impact on Rivers and Trails) Grant Program**

Supported by PowerBar, this program supports projects that increase or maintain access to the outdoors, or increase the size of an outdoor recreational resource. Grants range from \$1,000 to \$5,000. June deadline. Contact DIRT Program PowerBar, Inc.(2150 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, CA 94704), [www.powerbar.com](http://www.powerbar.com)

## State/Regional Organizations

**Capital Budget** through the Vermont Legislature – contact your local Legislators.

**Certified Local Government Program/ Vermont Downtown Program.** For information contact Jane Lendway, Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, National Life Building, Drawer 20, Montpelier, VT 05602-0501, telephone 802-828-3042.

**Community Development Block Grant Program.** For information please contact the Department of Housing and Community Affairs, 109 State Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Montpelier, VT 05609-0501, Tel: 802-828-3211.

### **State of Vermont Agency of Transportation's TEA-21 Enhancement Program:**

Funding is available for transportation enhancements including: provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles, acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites, scenic or historic highway programs, landscaping and other scenic beautification, historic preservation, rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation, buildings, structures or facilities (including historic railroads and canals), preservation of abandoned railway corridors and conversion to bicycle trails, control and removal of outdoor advertising, archeological planning and research, mitigation of water pollution due to highway runoff, tourist and welcome centers, and transportation museums. September letter of intent, November deadline. Contact Lani Ravin or Micque Giltman at the VT Agency of Transportation, Planning Division, 133 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05633-5001, Tel: 802-828-3885. Lani.Ravin@state.vt.us  
OR Mr. Alan Neveau, Vermont Agency of Transportation, National Life Building, Montpelier, VT 05633, Tel: (802) 828-3433.

### **Vermont Agency of Transportation: Bicycle and Pedestrian Program**

The VAOT works with the regional planning commissions (RPC) and metropolitan planning organizations (MPO) each year to identify bicycle and pedestrian facility projects that can be funded through the Local Transportation Facilities Program. \$2M in planning and construction funds available for bicycle/pedestrian planning and construction of bikepaths, sidewalks, and rail-trails. April deadline. Contact Amy Bell, VT AOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, 802-828-5799 (VT AOT, 133 State St., 5th Floor, Montpelier, VT 05633), Amy.Bell@state.vt.us

### **Federal Highway Administration/Vermont Agency of Transportation.**

For rehabilitation of historic bridges. For information, contact Warren Tripp, Agency of Transportation, Structures Division, 133 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05633-5001, Tel: 802-828-2621.

### **Preservation Trust of Vermont.**

Technical assistance grants and large grants program. For information contact Paul Bruhn, Preservation Trust of VT, 104 Church Street, Burlington, VT 05401, Tel: 802-658-6647.

### **Vermont Historical Society's Cultural Facilities Grants Program.**

For information contact the Vermont Historical Society, 109 State Street, Pavilion Building, Montpelier, VT 05609-0901, Tel: 802-828-2291.

### **Partnership Programs - Lake Champlain and Connecticut River**

The goal of the Partnership Programs is to encourage grassroots projects that demonstrate practical ways to address economic and conservation challenges that enhance historic, cultural, scenic and natural resources within the Lake Champlain and Connecticut River watersheds. Eligible trail-related projects include planning and development of new trails, trail improvement, land conservation, public access, bikeways enhancements, signage and publications. Project support is generally between \$500 and \$5,000. Spring deadlines. For Lake Champlain watershed projects, contact the Lake Champlain Basin Program at 802-372-3213 (PO Box 204, 54 West Shore Rd, Grand Isle, VT 05458), [www.anr.state.vt.us/champ/grants.htm](http://www.anr.state.vt.us/champ/grants.htm) For Connecticut River watershed projects, contact the Connecticut River Joint Commissions at 603-826-4800 (PO Box 1182, Charlestown, NH 03603), [www.crjc.org](http://www.crjc.org)

### **Vermont Housing and Conservation Board.**

Funds for land conservation and affordable housing projects. Contact: VHCB, 136 ½ Main Street, Drawer 20, Montpelier, VT 05602-3501, Tel: 802-828-3250.

### **Public Lands Highways**

Funding for projects that are on, adjacent to, or providing access to federal public lands (e.g. Green Mountain National Forest, Army Corps). In Vermont, PLH funding has been used for the West River Trail, protection of scenic properties along highways and visitor improvement at Quechee Gorge. January application request. Contact Paul Tober at 802-828-2822 (VT Agency of Transportation, 133 State St., Montpelier, VT 05633)

### **Scenic Byways Program**

For projects including acquisition, development and planning along designated scenic byways. January application request. Contact Paul Tober at 802-828-2822 (VT Agency of Transportation, 133 State St., Montpelier, VT 05633)

### **Vermont Recreation Trails Grants**

VRTF provides funds to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational trail use. The grants program is financed by the portion of state and federal gas tax monies attributable to off-highway vehicle use (such as snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, etc). Eligible projects include trail development, maintenance, and restoration, development of trail-side and trailhead facilities, creating accessible trails, acquisition of trail easements or fee acquisition of trail corridors, maps/publications, and purchase of trail-building hand tools. Two grant programs are offered: an 80-20 match grant (\$3,000 - \$10,000+; a reimbursable program) and a mini-grant (\$3,000 or less; paid up front with no match requirements). February deadlines. Contact the Recreation & Trails Administrative Assistant, VT Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation at 802-241-3690 (VT Recreation Trails Grant Program, 103 South Main St., 10 South, Waterbury, VT05671-0601).

### **Vermont Watershed Grants**

Funded by sales of Vermont's Conservation License Plates, mini-grants of \$200-\$1,000 and larger grants of over \$1,000 are available for a wide range of water-related projects, including developing or enhancing recreational access and trails. November deadline. Contact Vermont Watershed Grants at 802-241-3770 (VT Agency of Natural Resources, Water Quality Division, Building 10 North, 103 South Main St, Waterbury, VT 05671-0408).

### **Vermont State Infrastructure Bank**

This State loan program has \$1.3 million available to lend to eligible and qualified municipal and private sector borrowers for projects that improve transportation facilities and provide economic development benefits. Contact: Steve Greenfield, Vermont State Infrastructure Bank, 58 East State Street, Montpelier, VT 05602, Tel: (802) 828-5627.

### **Rehabilitation Investments Tax Credit.**

Ongoing eligibility. Provides a 20% federal tax credit for qualified rehabilitation of qualified income-producing historic buildings. The credit can apply to access improvements within the historic building and to new construction, such as added ramps if they are clearly for access purposes. For information contact Curtis Johnson, Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, National Life Building, Drawer 20, Montpelier, VT 05620-0501, Tel: 802-828-3047.

### **Vermont Youth Conservation Corps**

Since 1985 VYCC, a non-profit organization, has coordinated trail crew work with VT youths in a variety of conservation projects including trail building and wildlife habitat enhancement projects. VYCC leaders provide expertise and oversight for crews. Communities can either hire a trail crew through the Fee-for-Service program or apply for a Greenways Crew funded by AOT and FHWA. January deadline. Contact the Youth Corps at 1-800-639-8922 or 802-241-3699 (PO Box 482, Waterbury, VT 05676), , [ycorps@together.net](mailto:ycorps@together.net)

## Foundations

Many foundations support conservation initiatives, including trails and greenways development. It is important with any foundation prospecting to call ahead to discuss your project and request specific guidelines, and to focus on specific project needs that best fit the goals of the foundation's giving program. In Vermont, a good place to start is the Vermont Directory of Foundations (\$40) published by CPG Enterprises, PO Box 199, Shaftsbury, VT 05262 (802-447-0256). The Directory covers foundations incorporated in Vermont as well as those outside of Vermont making regular Vermont contributions, and is the only publication specifically designed for VT grant seekers. CPG also publishes a newsletter NonProfit Vermont, to facilitate communication within the nonprofit community (One yr/6 issues \$24).

### **Vermont Community Foundation**

VCF provides modest grants to projects that leverage other resources and make a significant difference to the state and address a clear community need in the areas of environment, public affairs, community development, social services, education or the arts. Recent grant amounts have been in the \$2,000 - \$8,000 range. April and October deadlines. Contact VCF at 802-462-3355 (PO Box 30, Middlebury, VT 05753). The VT Community Foundation website [www.vermontcf.org/link.html](http://www.vermontcf.org/link.html) has many good nonprofit resource links.

### **New England Grassroots Environment Fund**

A project of the NH Charitable Foundation; small grants of \$500 to \$2,500 are available to both non-profit and ad hoc groups for projects that foster and give voice to community-based environmental initiatives in New England. Jan/May/Sept deadlines. Contact NEGEF at 802-223-4622 (PO Box 1057, Montpelier, VT 05601), [www.grassrootsfund.org](http://www.grassrootsfund.org), [cfischer@plainfield.bypass.com](mailto:cfischer@plainfield.bypass.com)

**The Foundation Center** is a national information center on corporate and private foundations, community foundations, and grantmaking public charities. They publish The Foundation Directory, a national reference with detailed descriptions and giving histories that you can find at most libraries. You can also subscribe to it online at the Foundation Center's website.

You can also check the Environmental Grantmakers Association directory (212-812-4260, 437 Madison Ave., 37th Fl., NY, NY 10022). Their web site includes many nonprofit and foundation links.

The **Directory of Funding Sources for Grassroots River and Watershed Conservation Groups in New England and New York** is an extensive resource from the Northeast Watershed Round Table and River Network (202-364-2550).

Several organizations offer help in nonprofit management, organizational leadership, and grantmanship. These include the **Vermont Community Foundation** (TAP-VT, 802-388-3355, ), **The Grantsmanship Center** (800-421-9512, ), and the **NonProfit Management Institute** (in Boston at 617-728-9151).

## 4. Appendix:

Available upon request  
from the Poultney Town Offices