

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FIRST STATEWIDE VERMONT WALK/BIKE SUMMIT TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY

Burlington, VT – In partnership with VTrans, Local Motion and a number of other participating organizations and sponsors, the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission will host the first statewide Vermont Walk/Bike Summit this Saturday, March 29 in Burlington.

The Summit will feature over 10 dynamic presentations, interactive workshops, peer exchanges, a highly acclaimed keynote, and much more. Burlington Mayor Miro Weinberger will provide opening remarks, and Burlington’s Department of Public Works Director, Chapin Spencer, will moderate the opening panel and act as the Summit emcee. Sessions will highlight current and future initiatives that advance Vermont’s pedestrian and bicycle landscape.

As the primary sponsor of the Summit, VTrans looks forward to participating.

“The Vermont Department of Transportation remains committed to developing a multimodal transportation system that supports cycling and walking as transportation choices – for personal health, community, vitality and addressing climate change,” said Deputy Secretary of Transportation, Sue Minter. “Working closely with advocates and experts helps inform our best practices and provide feedback on our progress. We are excited to be part of this Summit and look forward to the ideas that will come out of it.”

Burlington Mayor Miro Weinberger praised the efforts of Summit partners and participants, saying: “The Summit rightly focuses energy on safety for pedestrians and bicyclists, as well as thoughtful approaches to build more ‘complete streets’ that encourage the use of healthier, more environmentally friendly, and less expensive forms of transportation. I am pleased that years of work by transportation advocates and the City’s commitment to the Go for Gold campaign to enhance the active transportation and recreation elements of the City’s multimodal infrastructure have placed Burlington on the path to becoming an even better, safer place for bikers and pedestrians.”

Statewide, much is being done to facilitate the advancement of bicycling and pedestrian initiatives that strengthen Vermont’s transportation infrastructure. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont is involved in numerous events and programs that encourage and promote a focus on wellness in the everyday lives of Vermonters.

“We’re so thrilled to be involved in the 2014 Vermont Walk/Bike Summit,” said Catherine Hamilton,

Ph.D., Vice President of Consumer Services and Planning for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont. “Supporting this event is an example of our commitment to the health of Vermonters. The nice thing about walking and biking is that these are wellness activities that many of us can participate in readily. In addition to being a gold sponsor, we are partnering with Terry Bicycles in what we are calling a “Wellness Revolution” program. The program is designed to support and encourage women to integrate cycling into their lifestyles,” said Hamilton.

Another Summit sponsor invested in walking and biking improvements in Vermont is Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB).

“The transportation consulting staff at VHB are committed to improving walking and biking throughout New England,” said Mark Colgan of VHB’s Vermont office. “We’re pleased to sponsor the 2014 Vermont Walk/Bike Summit to showcase the innovative and important work happening across Vermont and how VHB is contributing to these efforts.”

As a university partner and sponsor of the Walk/Bike Summit, the University of Vermont Transportation Research Center is heavily involved in efforts to advance transportation improvements in Vermont.

“The Vermont Walk/Bike Summit is the best opportunity to connect with community members, employers, planners and researchers from throughout the state for in-depth sharing on current efforts, inquiry on new ideas and networking to advance more livable communities,” said Glenn McRae, Ph.D., Associate Director of the University of Vermont Transportation Research Center. “Our University research community is made up of avid walkers and bicyclists who have both a personal and professional stake in advancing the state of knowledge of these issues from many different disciplines and making sure that research and data needs for advancing these agendas are supported.”

Saturday’s Summit begins with breakfast and networking at 8:30am, followed by a full day of sessions beginning at 9:30am.

To learn more about the Walk/Bike Summit and to register, visit: bit.ly/vtwalkbike.

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