

Purpose and Need Statement

February 27, 2019

1.1 Purpose of the Project

The purpose of the East Allen Street Scoping Study is to identify and prioritize short- and long-term improvements along East Allen Street from the Circulator to Roland Court which will foster a vibrant and welcoming gateway to downtown Winooski by enhancing mobility and improving safety for all modes of transportation. These improvements are intended to maximize gateway development and redevelopment opportunities as prescribed by the Winooski Gateway Corridors Form Based Code, while enhancing aesthetics, parking, and pedestrian and bicyclist scale accommodations along the corridor.

1.2 Needs for the Project

The needs for this project are driven by deficiencies in the current transportation infrastructure and a need for comprehensive corridor planning. These needs are further articulated below:

- **Enhance Travel for Pedestrians and Bicyclists:** The 2015 Winooski Gateways Corridors Study highlighted insufficient pedestrian and bicyclist accommodations and called for a streetscape redesign, including street trees, pedestrian scale lighting, raised bicycle track, and limited building setbacks along East Allen Street. Between 2012 and 2017, eight crashes were reported involving pedestrians along this corridor. Some of these pedestrian crashes are likely attributable to the lack of safe crossing opportunities and auto-oriented nature of the corridor. East Allen Street is shown as a High Priority and High Feasibility corridor in the CCRPC's Active Transportation Plan. The existing bike facilities along this corridor are disconnected and lack clear designation from motorists. Between 2014 and 2017, there were three bicycle crashes, all of which resulted in injuries.
- **Assist Economic Growth:** The existing four-lane section of East Allen Street lacks on-street parking that would accommodate new ground floor retail in redeveloped buildings. As a gateway to Winooski, the streetscape should serve to promote economic investment while accommodating all modes of travel.
- **Improve Safety:** There are three High Crash Location Intersections designated by VTrans along the East Allen Street Corridor. These include East Allen Street's intersections with Abenaki Way/East Street, Dion Street, and the I-89 Northbound Off Ramp. At these three intersections, there were 92 crashes between 2012 and 2016.
- **Increase Transit Accommodations:** Three Green Mountain Transit routes currently operate on East Allen Street (#2 Essex, #9 Riverside/Winooski, and #36 Jefferson Commuter). There are five bus stops along this corridor which provide limited amenities for transit users. The lack of shelters, lighting, and seating diminish the experience for existing users and do not promote transit use by new riders.
- **Manage Vehicular Congestion:** Numerous operationally inadequate intersections are present along this corridor. Long queues are present at the Exit 15 interchange and Circulator entrance, especially during weekday peak hours. These intersections, along with the intersection with East Spring Street, experience operational issues that impact the efficacy of other intersections up and downstream along the corridor.