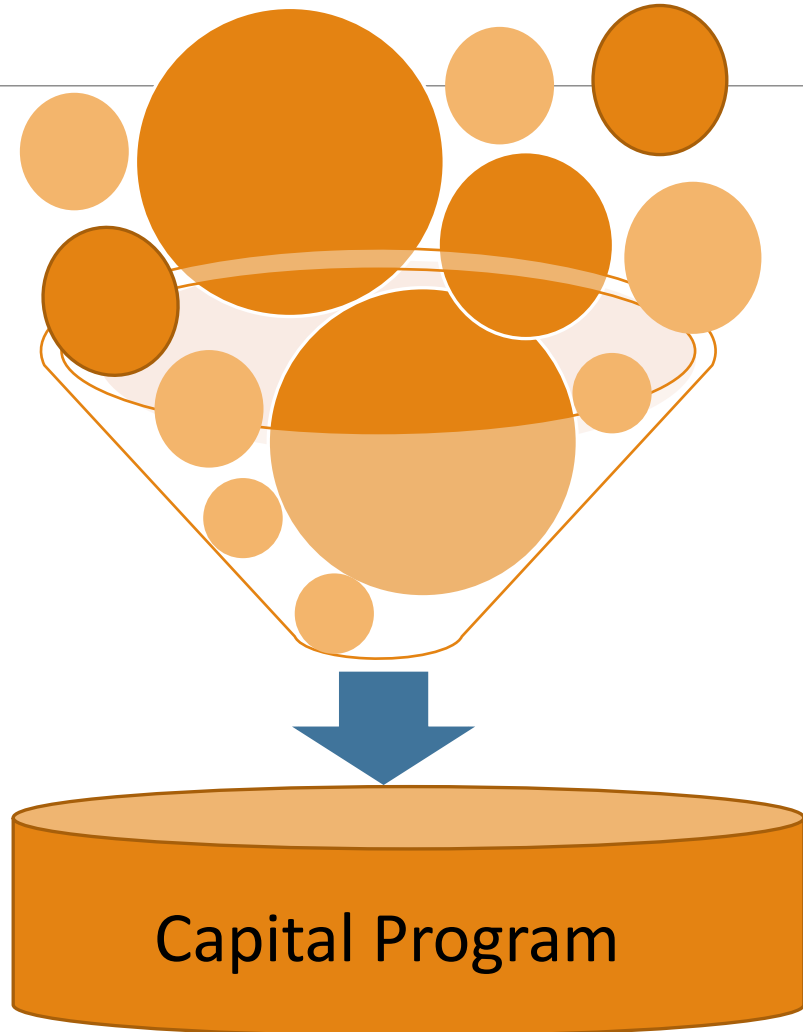# VTrans Project Selection and Project Prioritization Process

January 2021

Before there was Prioritization

- The Project Delivery funnel was overflowing!

- Inconsistency in the way new projects were selected

- Unreliable project delivery times.

Capital Program

Current System
2007 - 2020

- **Established to "burst the bubble" of overflowing funnel of projects**

- **Partnership between VTrans, Legislature, Regional Planning Commissions**

- **Based on Asset Condition, Safety, Regional Priority, Cost, Project Momentum**

- **Improved relationships and communications between VTrans and our customers**

- **Led to "The Road to Affordability" and an emphasis on preservation**

- **Did not provide a clear path for RPC's and communities to add new projects**

Vision

Develop a performance-based, data driven project selection & prioritization framework that maximizes the **"transportation value"** delivered to Vermont taxpayers.

VPSP2 Objectives

Asset Driven

Regionally Driven

Capital Program!!
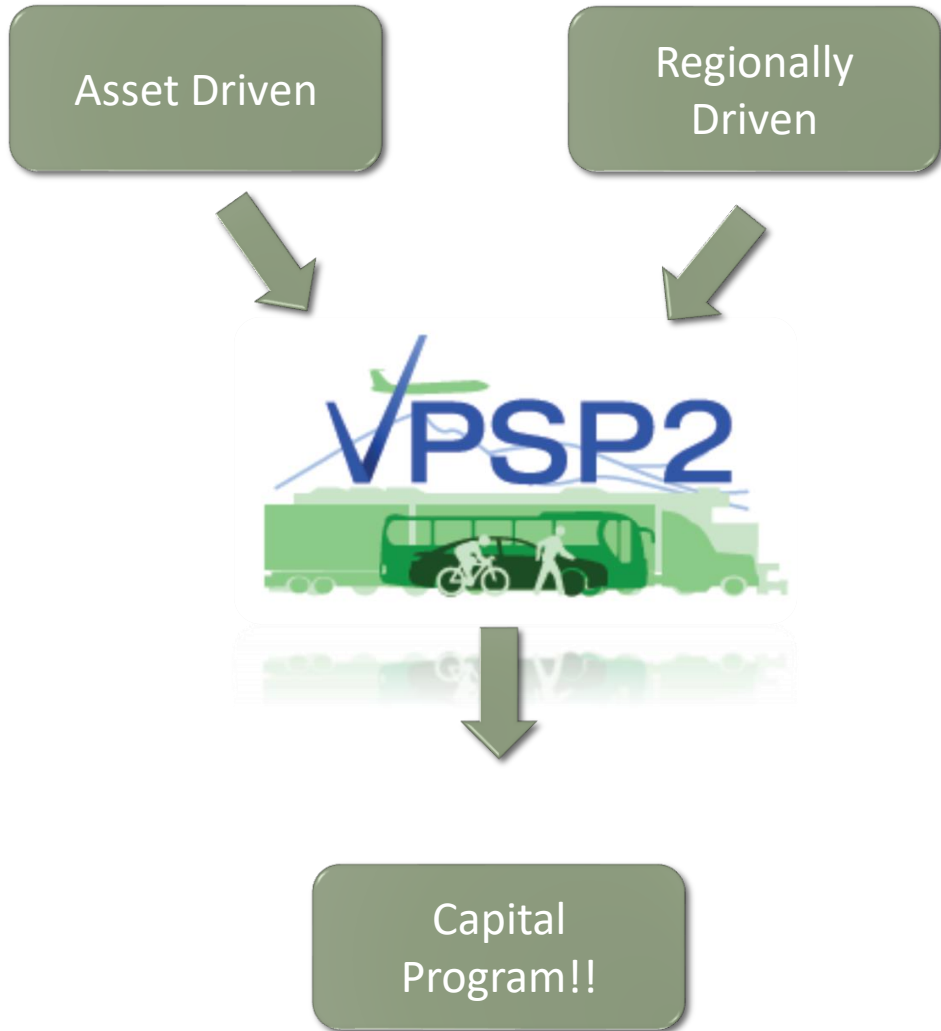
- **Identify and utilize criteria that provide "transportation value" within potential and planned VTrans projects.**

- **Develop a mechanism for RPC and communities to provide input in the selection and prioritization of transportation projects.**

- **Provide a defined, consistent, and transparent process for selecting and prioritizing the projects that ultimately make up VTrans' Capital Program**

Customer Engagement

- Held 4 Stakeholder Workshops to assess current process and develop evaluation criteria.

Cross Section of Workshop Participants
- ‣ Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs)
- ‣ Sister Agencies: VDH, ANR, ACCD, VEM
- ‣ Special Interests: VLCT, VCIL, AARP, AAA,
- ‣ Modal Interests: Rail Councils, Rail Operators, Bike / Ped Interest Groups, Transit Providers, VT Truck and Bus Association
- ‣ VTrans

FIVE MODES

HIGHWAY

RAIL

WALKS, TRAILS & PATHS

TRANSIT

AVIATION
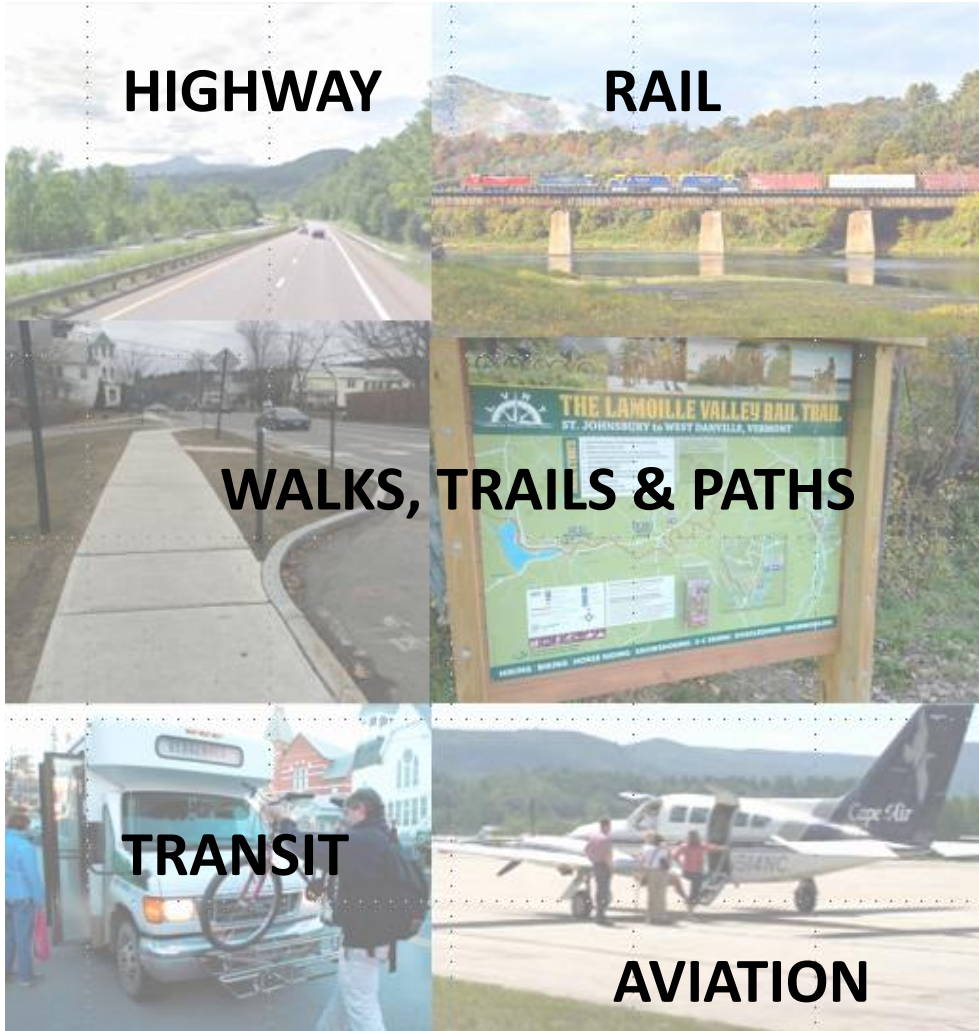
EIGHT CRITERIA

SAFETY
Max points = 20

ASSET CONDITION
Max points = 20

MOBILITY / CONNECTIVITY
Max points = 15

COMMUNITY
Max points = 10

ECONOMIC ACCESS
Max points = 10

ENVIRONMENT
Max points = 10

RESILIENCY
Max points = 10

HEALTH ACCESS
Max points = 5

VTrans _Working to Get You There_
Vermont Agency of Transportation

VPSP2 - 8 Evaluation Criteria

- **Safety:** reducing the risk of crashes of any type and user.

  - *Roadway and Intersection crashes, curve reduction factors*

- **Asset Condition:** maintaining multimodal infrastructure to preserve its current condition, by rehabilitating it to improve the condition and extend service life, and/or replacing it to improve its condition and service.

  - *Customer service level, new asset/capacity, optimal treatment time*

- **Mobility & Connectivity:** increasing the reliable connectivity to jobs and other destinations and/or increasing the number of mode choices available for people and goods.

  - *Connectivity to bicyclists, pedestrians, public transit and multi-modal facilities*

VPSP2 - 8 Evaluation Criteria

- **Economic Access:** increasing the ability of a region to attract and retain businesses and the workforce by providing better access to jobs.

  - *Project Impact Map depicts the number of employed individuals potentially impacted by upcoming projects within ½, 1, and 2 mile vicinities.*

- **Resiliency**: minimizing the impacts of planned and unplanned events (e.g., work zones, floods and extreme weather).

  - *Uses the Transportation Resilience Planning Tool (TRPT) to determine a project's resilience score (combo of vulnerability and criticality scores)*

- **Community**: conforming to the goals and objectives defined in local and regional plans, and supporting the outcomes of a robust public process.

  - *Identified in any local or regional planning document, town/Selectboard support, impacts to surround community facilities (schools, library, town offices, churches)*

VPSP2 - 8 Evaluation Criteria

- **Environment:** reducing the negative impacts of travel (e.g., reducing greenhouse gas [GHG] emissions, improving air quality, enhancing safe wildlife passage, and/or improving water quality).

  - *Impacts to wildlife, air quality, water quality, cultural resources (look at required vs. voluntary mitigation in project scope).*

- **Health Access:** increasing the opportunity for physical activity and increases access to destinations that improve health (i.e., healthcare, education, and healthy food).

  - *Access to health care/physical activity facilities (senior centers, parks, community gyms), healthy food destinations (grocery store, food shelf, school lunch programs), improved opportunity for physical activity (connect to existing sidewalk networks or links to facilities)*

HIGHWAY MODE – PROJECT SELECTION

- Two Year Pilot that will address:

  - Year 1 (2021) – Paving, Roadway, Traffic & Safety programs

  - Year 2 – (2022) Bridge programs

  - Process Addresses Asset Driven & Regionally Driven projects

  - Nine Step Process for Potential Projects

- Grant programs, Rail, Aviation, Public Transit under development

HIGHWAY MODE – PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS STEPS

1. VTrans develops programmatic budgets (Sept 1 – Oct 31)

2. VTrans performs network level analysis to identify list of <u>potential</u> projects and develops preliminary transportation value (TV) for five VPSP2 criteria (November 1 – February 28)

3. VTrans transmits list of **Asset Driven** <u>potential</u> projects and associated TV to RPC (March 1)

4. RPC to provide TV scoring for three VPSP2 criteria for list of **Asset Driven** <u>potential</u> projects (March 1 – May 31)

HIGHWAY MODE – PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS STEPS

5. RPC to identify **Regionally Driven** <u>potential</u> projects and works with VTrans to calculate preliminary TV for these projects (March 1 – May 31)

6. RPC's transmit list of **Asset and Regionally Driven** potential projects and associated TV to VTrans (June 1)

7. VTrans compiles all RPC input and TV and identifies the list of potential projects recommended for inclusion in the Capital Program (June 1 – July 31)

8. VTrans sends recommended projects to RPC for review, comment and response (August 1– September 30)

HIGHWAY MODE – PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS STEPS

9. VTrans finalizes the list of <u>potential</u> projects that will become ***<u>projects</u>*** to be included in the Capital Program!!!!

HIGHWAY MODE – PROJECT PRIORITIZATION EXISTING PROJECT

- All existing capital program projects will have a transportation value calculated and reviewed on a two year cycle and/or add major project milestones.

- VTrans will work with RPC's as part of the two year cycle to review and update the eight VPSP2 criteria

- Transportation value for existing projects will be used to make budget decisions and to review value at a programmatic level.

Questions?