

# Rural Resilience and Adaptation Sub- Committee

VT Climate Council



Report on Objective 2 / Task 2 – Rural  
Transportation Resilience

July 16, 2021

Chris Cochran, ACCD/DHCD  
Bronwyn Cooke, ACCD/DHCD  
Catherine Dimitruk, Northwest RPC  
Ben Rose, VEM  
Joe Segale, VTrans

# Reframe the Question

## Original Question

Develop recommendations for fortifying transportation infrastructure in rural communities.

## Reframed

Develop strategies to **improve the resilience** to climate change of the **transportation system** in rural communities.



# Transportation Resilience and Adaptation Pathways

- **Pathway 1:** Vermont's (rural?) transportation system will be **resilient to major disruptions** and **incremental impacts** caused by climate change.
- **Pathway 2:** VT's transportation system will **transform** to support the actions necessary **to reduce green house gases**.

**Pathway1** : Vermont's  
(rural?) transportation  
system will be resilient  
to major disruptions  
and incremental  
impacts caused by  
climate change.

**Existing strategies to continue and improve:**

- Apply emergency management practices to reduce the response and recovery time resulting from major disruptions.
- Identify and proactively mitigate transportation infrastructure and services that are highly vulnerable to damage and are critical to providing mobility and access.
- Consider the strategic abandonment of vulnerable, non-critical infrastructure.
- Incorporate flood resilient design standards into the preservation, rehabilitation and reconstruction of existing transportation infrastructure (asset management).
- Design and locate new transportation infrastructure to be resilient to flooding and other impacts.
- Design infrastructure for an increasing range of high and low temperatures, freeze/thaw cycles, and mixed precipitation (maximize life span, reduce annual maintenance and operational costs).
- Provide sufficient funding for the cost of improving infrastructure resilience.
- Develop a multi-modal (transit, rail, bike/ped), smart transportation network to provide access and mobility following system disruption.

**New strategies to develop:**

- Support remote work and tele-services to reduce the impact of travel disruptions.
- Provide a transportation system to meet greater mobility and access needs if population growth accelerates due to climate change migration.

Pathway 2: VT's transportation system must transform to support the actions necessary to reduce green house gas emissions.

- Provide a transportation system that supports a land use pattern that requires less vehicles miles travelled.
- Incorporate GHG reduction goals and CAP strategies and actions in the transportation planning and project development process.
- Provide flexibility as transportation projects and services are designed and implemented to accommodate future transformations.