

VERMONT WALK / BIKE SUMMIT

Bennington | Friday, May 8



Presenters

Jeff Alexander

Jeff Alexander (He/Him) is the Director of Strategic Partnerships and Business Development at Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports since 2017. He has worked in the NFL, MLB and Major Indoor Soccer League, as well as various minor league affiliates. Jeff has an Environmental Science degree and worked in Marketing and Events for over 25 years. Jeff has a Visually Impaired and Cognitive Adaptive Snowboard Instruction Certification and a BICP Level 1 Adaptive Mountain Bike Certification. He is passionate about making sure everyBODY has access to play in Vermont. His claim to fame is being a Pro-Bowl Mascot for the Philadelphia Eagles in the mid-90s.

Richard Amore

I'm someone who loves a good village stroll, a quiet paddle, and a well-earned creemee after a long bike ride. I'm endlessly curious about how places shape us and how we shape them in return. Whether I'm exploring small towns across Vermont or public spaces around the world, I'm always looking for signs of life, joy, and connection. With a background in planning and placemaking, I've spent years working alongside Vermont's towns and villages to bring public spaces and streets to life. I believe the most powerful changes start at the local level often with a sidewalk, a bike lane, block party, or a simple place to stop and say hello.

Mark Anders

Mark Anders is the Senior Transportation Planner at the Bennington County Regional Commission where he has worked since 2010. Mark also serves as the Municipal Project Manager for many of Bennington's Bike/Ped projects.

Bevin Barber-Campbell

Bevin Barber-Campbell is a bicycle advocate in the NEK and executive director of Ticket to Ride. She is a champion of the Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) and Bicycle Friendly Business (BFB) designations, recently assisting Newport in securing a bronze BFC award and helping North Country Hospital to win a silver BFB. She has been a certified safe cycling instructor for over a decade and has extensive experience in developing education and encouragement programming.

Jessa Berna

Jessa Berna, AICP, is a Senior Transportation Planner at Stantec based in Portland, Maine, with experience leading data driven safety and multimodal planning efforts across New England. She has 20 years of local and regional municipal planning experience in Maine and New Hampshire. Jessa has contributed to a wide range of projects, including transit oriented development master plans, parking studies, safety action plans, and active transportation plans. She brings a strong background in inclusive public engagement and in translating technical analysis into practical strategies that support community goals.

Marianne Borowski

Marianne is a retired biochemist and lifelong biker. She has ridden cross country and on rail trails all over the country. In 2017, she developed the Cross New Hampshire Adventure Trail and has been collaborating with the New Hampshire Rails Coalition since 2018.

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Dave Cohen

Dave Cohen is an integrative psychotherapist in Brattleboro, VT, specializing in approaches in mind and body modalities and ecopsychology. In 2016, he founded VBike, an advocacy group dedicated to promoting new bike design and technologies for everyday bicycle transportation in Vermont. Through a state contract Dave has provided free consultations to Vermonters looking to reduce their automobile dependency and shift to e-bikes, e-cargo bikes. He belongs to the Climate Psychology Alliance and has presented his work focusing on the psychology of transportation at conferences in the US and Canada. Dave's work has been featured in numerous podcasts and in the internationally-screened cargo bike documentary Motherload.

Dayton Crites

Dayton is a creative and strategic planner. He leads multidisciplinary teams to build plans that illustrate and articulate community and client visions. As a visual thinker, Dayton constantly strives to make the complex clear, and develop plans that foster collaboration and guide implementation.

Briana Cronin, P.E.

Briana is a Project Manager for the Ground Transportation Division and has been with Hoyle Tanner since Spring of 2023. She is a seasoned professional with a rich background in transportation engineering, specializing in roadway, bicycle & pedestrian, and bridge projects. With extensive experience in both large and small-scale projects, she navigates state and federal project development processes with ease. Briana's expertise shines in her ability to coordinate complex permitting for linear transportation projects, ensuring that each project aligns seamlessly with regulatory standards and community needs. Her commitment to efficient, sustainable solutions makes her an invaluable asset to every project she undertakes. She earned her Bachelors of Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and her Masters of Civil Engineering at the University of Delaware. Her thesis was published in 2007 "Load ratings using an in-service bridge monitoring system". Briana has experience from roadway to railway and has spent the last 12 years of her career focusing on rail trail and alternative transportation projects. She spends her free time with her three girls coaching and cheering at Softball, Soccer, Basketball, Field Hockey, Mountain Biking and Skiing events.

Bryan Davis, AICP

Bryan joined the CCRPC in 2007 and is passionate about sustainable transportation options. He focuses on regional Transportation Demand Management programs, specializes in bicycle and pedestrian projects, and believes in the power of public participation. A graduate of Texas A&M University, Bryan moved to Colorado to pursue mountain biking and public service with the US Forest Service. He then gained non-profit experience in land conservation and affordable housing, and found his way to Vermont for graduate school at UVM where he earned a Master's degree in Natural Resource Planning. Bryan lives in Burlington with his family and thrives on music, trails, and fire pits.

Evan Detrick, P.E.

Evan Detrick is the Chief Transportation Engineer for VHB in Vermont. He has over 40 years of experience as a Designer, Project Manager, and Technical Advisor for a transportation projects in Pennsylvania, New Hampshire and Vermont. Evan has developed a wide variety of projects including reconstruction of the Burlington Greenway, reconstruction of Main Street in both Burlington and Winooski, new roadways such as American Parkway in Allentown, PA, construction of the Rail Trail here in Bennington, reconstruction of the

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downtown streetscape and sidewalks in Stowe, and replacement of the Quechee Covered Bridge following Tropical Storm Irene.

Evan Drew, PE PTOE RSP1

Evan Drew is a Senior Transportation Engineer at Stantec and has comprehensive and extensive experience as a traffic engineer, generally in the fields of public infrastructure planning and design and safety-related studies and improvement projects. Evan has participated and lead nearly two dozen road safety audits (RSAs) in New Hampshire and Massachusetts, while also contributing safety analysis and design element and improvement contributions to other multi-disciplinary projects throughout New England, from small municipalities to regionally significant, multi-agency projects.

Jack Evans

Jack Evans works at Local Motion as a Complete Streets Specialist where he advocates for sustainable transportation systems and provides technical assistance to communities trying to advance active transportation.

Kati Gallagher

Kati Gallagher joined VNRC in fall 2021 as the Sustainable Communities Program Director. Prior to VNRC, Kati worked with the Mad River Valley Planning District, implementing a program of bioregional planning focused on affordable housing, sustainable transportation, and placemaking. Kati also gained experience as a grassroots advocate, organizer, and researcher while working with the Vermont Public Interest Research Group (VPIRG). Kati holds an M.S. in Community Development & Applied Economics with a concentration in Community Resilience & Planning from the University of Vermont. Her master's research focused on Vermont's "new economy," including social entrepreneurship and alternative wellbeing measurement. Kati lives in Waterbury Center with her family and overgrown garden.

Marcie Gallagher

I grew up in a walkable community and learned early that cars are the least joyful way to move. My simultaneous experiences studying environmental issues at UVM while grassroots organizing across rural Vermont led me to realize that cars are actually destroying our environment, harming our health, and isolating communities. I've dreamt of working at Local Motion ever since, and I'm thrilled to finally have the opportunity to turn passions into professional advocacy. Personally, I love to bike near and far— whether through the snow with studded tires, soaking in the precious Vermont summer sun, or biking to every Vermont general store and purchasing copious amounts of gatorade. I proudly live in Burlington's Old East End in a housing cooperative with four dear friends and my dog, Pepper - who is always ready to join me on my bike.

Lucy Gibson

Lucy is a transportation engineer who has worked on projects throughout New England and across the country, focusing on planning and designing streets, corridors, and networks to be safe and vibrant places. She has worked on right-sizing projects around the U.S., and applying best engineering practices to make safer, more equitable streets and public spaces. She was the lead author of "Complete Streets – A guide for Vermont communities", and is a long time Vermont resident. Outside of work, Lucy enjoys traveling, hiking, skiing, and exploring the back roads of Vermont by bicycle.

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Michael Giguere

Michael Giguere is the City Planner for the City of Essex Junction, where he supports active transportation initiatives by staffing the City's Bike/Walk Advisory Committee and advancing local bike and pedestrian projects. He also oversees development review and contributes to long-range land use planning. His favorite modes of transportation are walking and trams.

Abigail Johnson

Abigail Johnson (she/her) is a Recreation Planner and Researcher at CRO Planning & Design. Abigail has previously supported adaptive recreation initiatives at the U.S. National Park Service and was the recipient of an H. Allen Brooks Traveling Fellowship to study access to nature at the European Tourism Research Institute in Sweden. She is passionate about working across institutions and borders to create more opportunities for accessible and adaptive outdoor recreation. Abigail holds a Bachelor of Arts in Quantitative Social Science from Dartmouth College.

Elena Juodisius

As a landscape designer, Elena works on a wide range of projects, from site-responsive planting plans and construction details to helping communities understand and visualize the potential of places. Passionate about connecting people to the natural world in balanced and meaningful ways, Elena brings her creative and detail-oriented problem solving to every project.

Elena's background includes ecological inventory and design, working in design-build creating intimate spaces, and community engagement in design-thinking. You may find her developing site-responsive planting plans, carefully considered construction details and addressing complicated grading and terrain to leverage high-quality built work, or helping communities and clients visualize and agree upon strategies for housing, connectivity, parks and recreation, and the outdoor economy. This interdisciplinary expertise allows Elena to make thoughtful contributions across project scales and phases. Elena holds a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science with a minor in Art from Allegheny College and a Master's of Landscape Architecture from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry. She is active in the Vermont Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Hugh Kelley

Hugh is a data analyst who has worked on projects across the country, focused on quantifying and estimating how people move around and through their communities every day. He has contributed to Active Transportation and Safety Action Plans in communities of all different shapes and sizes. A resident of Bennington, outside of work Hugh is an OpenStreetMap contributor, member of Magic Mountain Ski Patrol and is frequently seen on his bike across Southern Vermont.

Abraham Koffman

Abraham has served as a VTrans Planning Coordinator for two years. He is passionate about understanding the complex funding, maintenance, and social environment that our transportation system is embedded in. Abe believes deeply in building a fair world. He graduated from Worcester Polytechnic Institute with a degree in Environmental and Sustainability Studies.

Carolyn Lawrence

Carolyn Lawrence (she/her) is a Recreation Planner at CRO Planning & Design where she helps clients across multiple sectors with projects focused on expanding outdoor recreation opportunities. Previously the

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Executive Director of a trail building nonprofit and a Master Naturalist, she brings a unique perspective to project work with a passion for the intersection of outdoor recreation, land conservation, natural resource protection, and economic development. You can find her skiing, mountain biking, admiring plants or foraging for mushrooms in the woods around Vermont.

Jacqueline LeBlanc

Jacqui provides project management, planning, analysis, and outreach support on a range of transportation and community development projects as a Transportation Planning Lead at Stantec. As a native Vermonter and long-time public sector employee, she has a solid understanding of the unique contextual challenges and opportunities inherent in different communities. She enjoys helping all users of the transportation system safely access and enjoy their community infrastructure. Before joining Stantec, Jacqui worked in planning and outreach for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans). Prior to that, she worked in marketing, communications, and on community development projects across the country. She once lived in Canberra, Australia, often referred to as the “roundabout capital”, where she developed her appreciation for traffic calming by design and the value of planning.

Bruce Lierman

Bruce Lierman is a CyclingSavvy Instructor (CSI) and League Cycling Instructor (LCI) with more than 15 years experience. He is the Bennington County Regional Commission Commissioner for Transportation. He has previously taught motorcycle safety training (MSF Ridercoach, VT DMV) and was a USAF Flight Instructor. He's also a board member and frequent volunteer at the Bike Hub, Bennington's non-profit community cycling center.

Laird MacDowell

Laird is passionate about building and maintaining trails for hikers and cyclists since they benefit everyone, no matter the age. He has been the Co-Chair of the Cambridge Greenway Path Committee for 20 years, Chair of the Cambridge Trails Committee for 9 years, and the Chair of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail Committee for 6 years. He previously worked as a chemist for IBM Corporation in Essex Junction, VT for 33 years before retiring in 2013, and as a part-time Nordic ski instructor at Smugglers Notch Resort in Jeffersonville, VT for 20 years, retiring in 2016. Laird enjoys snowboarding, cross country skiing, mountain biking, disc golf and motorcycling and resides in a log cabin in Jeffersonville, VT.

Melissa Needham

Melissa Needham is a Public Health Specialist at the Burlington District of the Vermont Department of Health, focused on advancing Healthy Communities initiatives. She collaborates with community partners across Chittenden County to develop plans, policies, practices, and programs that enhance health and well-being for all.

Sean Neely

Sean leads and supports a range of transportation planning and engineering projects at Stantec. He enjoys the technical aspects of the work as well as engaging with the public and project participants. Sean aims to serve all users of transportation systems, no matter age, ability, or how they travel.

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Peggy O’Neill-Vivanco

Peggy O’Neill-Vivanco is the Coalition Director of Vermont Clean Communities, a US Department of Energy-designated coalition. She brings together stakeholders in the public and private sectors across Vermont to help fleets shift to affordable, efficient, and clean transportation fuels and technologies. Her work with stakeholders covers a wide range of topics including transit options for rural and underserved areas; car sharing and other equitable transportation options.

Drew Pollak-Bruce

Drew Pollak-Bruce (he/him) is the Owner & Founder of CRO Planning & Design where he helps municipalities, counties, state agencies, federal land managers, non-profits, and private sector clients navigate complex projects on public lands across North America. He has worked for over two decades as a professional planner, advocate, and journalist—often focusing on the intersection of communities, trails, and economy. Drew is a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional (CPRP) with the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) and holds a Master of Regional Planning from Cornell University and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Laural Ruggles

Laural Ruggles is the current volunteer President of the V2V Board. She also serves as the appointed Danville representative on the Regional LVRT Trail Council, the V2V representative to the ad hoc town committee for a federally funded shared path and sidewalk project in Danville. In this role she facilitated several community engagement projects including a walking audit, community surveys, and public meetings.

Deb Sachs

Deb Sachs is Executive Director of Net Zero Vermont, a statewide non-profit helping communities advance a shared vision for vibrant, people-centered downtowns and low carbon transportation and energy systems through collaborative projects and community engagement initiatives including Walk to Shop and Williston Walks!

Jeff Sauser

Jeff Sauser is Principal and Co-Founder of CommunityScale, an urban planning firm based in Massachusetts that specializes in housing analysis, market studies, and zoning for communities nationwide. He brings over 15 years of experience and holds degrees from New York University and the Georgia Institute of Technology. At CommunityScale, Jeff leads local and regional housing studies that combine data-driven analysis with stakeholder engagement to support housing and economic development goals. Jeff’s team recently completed a Housing Needs Assessment for the Town of Stowe and is currently conducting housing feasibility studies for the Towns of Dorset and Hancock, VT. Much of CommunityScale’s Vermont work addresses the need for more housing diversity in rural places with limited infrastructure and amenity centers that can support density and walkable (or at least car lite) lifestyles.

Melinda Scott

Melinda Scott serves as the Senior Energy and Community Development Planner for the Town of Williston, Vermont. Melinda formerly worked as a GIS Planner for Lamoille County Planning Commission from 2011 – 2015 and then moved to local planning for the Town of Williston, where she served as Conservation Planner

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for six years before moving into her present position. Melinda enjoys engaging communities in problem solving to help build places that are vibrant, healthy and livable.

Evelyn Seidner

Evelyn joined the VNRC team in August 2024 as the Climate Action Organizer. She graduated from the University of Vermont's Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources where she received a BS in Environmental Studies and a minor in Equine Studies. Born and bred in Vermont, Evelyn has a long-standing passion for the environment. She has been involved in climate action work in the state for a number of years, beginning with the Youth Lobby in high school. More recently she has worked for VPIRG and completed the EAN summer research internship before joining the team. In her free time, Evelyn competes in the equestrian discipline of dressage with her horse Don Quixote. She also enjoys spending time outdoors, especially when her corgi Arthur can come along.

Rita Seto

Rita Seto, AICP is the Senior Transportation Planner at the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission for 19 years. She runs the Transportation Planning Program that includes access management, bike/pedestrian issues, public transit, traffic counts, pavement and bridge project programming and represents our region in statewide modal planning efforts. She has a Masters in Urban Planning from McGill University. Rita works with multiple communities as Project Manager through the VTrans Municipal Assistance Program. She provides GIS technical assistance, and assists with emergency management planning, regional capacity studies and other special projects. On a personal note, Rita is obsessed with baking goods for her coworkers and curling in her spare time in between juggling two elementary kiddos.

Alyssa Smith, EI, RSP

Alyssa is a transportation engineer for the Ground Transportation Division and has been with Hoyle Tanner since fall 2021. She is an expert at identifying transportation infrastructure and streetscape designs that improve safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other road users. Alyssa has experience in the design of pedestrian and bicycle facilities, Road Safety Audits, crash analysis, pedestrian facilities reviews, Safe Routes to School, streetscape and gateway design, traffic calming scheme reviews, cycle route reviews, and intersection capacity analysis. Supplementing her US experience is several years working as a traffic and road safety engineer in Britain, allowing her to bring an innovative, international perspective to developing solutions for local projects.

Alyssa earned her Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and her Master of Science in Transportation Planning and Traffic Engineering at the University of Leeds in the UK. She has performed Road Safety Audits in England, New Hampshire and one in the Republic of Ireland. She spends her free time with her family hiking, gardening, and forever renovating their 150-year-old home.

Jim Sullivan

Jim Sullivan is the Vice-Chair of the Bennington Select Board and was on the staff of the Bennington County Regional Commission for 33 years where he served as Executive Director 2011 to 2022.

Christopher Yuen

Christopher Yuen is the Community Development Director for the City of Essex Junction, Vermont, where he leads planning, zoning, transportation, and public realm design initiatives. His work focuses on coordinating

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land use, walking and biking infrastructure, and public transit to improve safety, access, and opportunity in town and village centers. Chris managed the development of Essex Junction's Transit-Oriented Development Master Plan and several multimodal corridor and pedestrian safety projects along the Pearl Street corridor. Previously, he was a Senior Associate at Jarrett Walker + Associates, where he worked on bus network redesigns across North America. His experience bridges land use and transportation planning to create connected, multimodal communities.

Samuel West Robertson

Samuel West Robertson is a senior geography major at Middlebury College with a strong interest in active transportation. Growing up in Saint Paul, Minnesota, he spent countless hours walking and biking for recreation and to get around. His various experiences waiting for the city bus in the Midwestern winter instilled in him a passion for good multimodal design. He will be presenting key takeaways from his honors thesis research.

Nick Zaiac

Nick Zaiac is a Regional Planner at the Bennington County Regional Commission. Previously, he was the Town Administrator of Arlington, Vermont and before that led the federal Transportation and Infrastructure program at the R Street Institute in Washington, DC.