

Dorset Tomorrow

Community Forum Notes

Compiled from focus group discussions held with over 100 Dorset residents and the VCRD Visiting Team on July 24, 2019

Although the prioritization work of Dorset Tomorrow requires the town to decide what is most important as they move forward with Task Forces, nothing is lost in the process from the long list of concerns and ideas expressed in early community focus sessions. Many interesting and diverse thoughts are represented here, and are presented as a reminder of issues explored, and a possible foundation for future projects.

Working and Natural Lands: Agriculture, Forestry, and Recreation

Visiting Team: Paul Costello (facilitator), Erin O'Farrell (scribe), Tom Berry, Catherine Bryars, Chris Callahan, Donald Campbell, Jonathan Cooper, Rebecca Ellis, Lisa Thornton

What are the Assets in this Area?

- There is a successful farmer's market in Dorset that hosts many local producers.
- There are many different varieties of farms that produce veggies, poultry, lamb, sheep, cattle, fruit, and maple syrup.
- Some apple and blueberry farms sell their produce at a commercial scale.
- There is ample forest in the town that serves as a connection of the Northern Highlands to the Hudson Valley of Green Mtns.
- Dorset has one of the biggest segments of un-fragmented forests in the state.
- There is an extensive trail system in the town that is close to major trails like the Long Trail and Appalachian Trail.
- Dorset has a 300-acre town forest that hosts many miles of hiking and biking trails, including 2 mountain bike specific trails.
- There are Vermont Land Trust lands in Dorset.
- Saddleback Farm is an asset to the town.
- There has been development of forest-products in town.
- Some of the trails in Dorset connect to other towns, bringing in tourists and business from surrounding towns.
- Dorset is located within Green Mountain National Forest.
- There are many class 4 roads in the forest.
- There are snowmobile trails used in the winter.
- Dorset is home to marble quarries.
- There is Nature Conservancy land in the town.
- We have calcium-rich soils in Dorset, which makes for very productive forests and leads to successful forest management businesses in the town.
- The forest health is in generally pretty good condition.
- There are marshlands in Dorset, which are one of the only Class 1 wetlands in VT.
- The beauty of our town is a big asset.
- The headwaters of Otter Creek and Batten Kill are located in Dorset.
- We have some prime ag. land in Dorset, with streaks of good soil throughout the geography of the town.
- There are bolted climbing routes used for outdoor recreation.
- The Dorset Horse Show (Vermont Summer Festival) is a huge asset.
- There is a frisbee golf course in the town.
- The Northshire Area Trails System is a non-profit that works on managing and creating trails in Dorset.
- There is an active conservation commission with interest in working landscapes.
- The Batten Kill is a good fishery location.
- We have abandoned logging roads that are now used for hiking and nordic skiing.
- There is a historic golf course established in 1886.
- We have a State Park in Dorset.
- Dorset is hiring a part-time recreation director who will help manage the stewardship of trails, marketing, events, etc.
- There is a strong outdoor recreation culture, among locals and visitors, in the town.
- There is a 100-person CSA.
- The intellectual and financial capacity of the population is a big asset.
- The Northeast in general has a good landscape, natural resources, and climate; it will be place for climate refugees in future.

What are the Challenges?

- Town bylaws can be restrictive, but it should be noted that the town plan is currently being revised.
- Our population of second-home owners makes for inconsistencies in the marketplace throughout changing seasons.
- Access to outside markets for farmers can be difficult.
- Farmers are not organized around the realms of marketing and distribution. There is little communication/collaboration among farmers.
- Limited broadband is a challenge for farmers trying to market their products online.
- The expense of using lands for ag. and forestry makes for a great burden on the individual, in terms of keeping up with taxes and other expenses.
- The increasing frequency of extreme weather conditions combined with the topography in Dorset creates issues, like severe washouts from rain.
- Changes in snow patterns are impacting maple syrup production.
- Invasive insects and caterpillars impact forests, maple trees and syrup production.
- There has been an increase in the tick population in our town. We are seeing more people getting ill and children impacted.
- The Emerald Ash Borer and Ash Yellow's fungus is impacting forests in our town.
- Parcels in Dorset are fragmented. Many people hold small parcels of land and it is hard to find big parcels that can be used as ag. land. It is also hard to get people to aggregate their land together.
- Dorset is a desirable place to be, but the costs of moving here are high.
- Current uses designated for small parcels are not available for use with properties under 25 acres.
- There are no active dairy farms.
- The town plan is missing info on working lands conditions and the number/locations of working lands and farms.
- 50% of the properties in Dorset are owned by second-home owners/residents who do not live in Dorset year-round. This can create a population that is not necessarily as invested in the town and land.
- There is a socio-economic divide between East Dorset and Dorset Center, which leads to challenges in leading initiatives to connect resources and ideas between the two centers.
- There are lots of invasive plants in the forests, which interferes with forest re-growth.
- There is a lack of education and retention of young people getting into working lands businesses
- We have limited housing for young people.
- There is a concern regarding the carrying capacity of Dorset Quarry that comes with its many visitors and popularity.
- It can be hard for young people who are interested in residential-scale working lands uses to access land/properties.
- The brook trout population is in danger from climate change threats.
- Topography is super steep, making it hard to make it accessible to all.
- The steep slopes throughout our town makes farming hard in lots of places.
- Little accessible space exists currently for kids to play in the town, especially in winter.
- It is unsafe to walk along the major roads in town, making it difficult for walkers to recreate.

Opportunities: What Should Be Done?

- In addressing farming marketing challenges, Earth Matters has been investigating regenerative agriculture as solution to climate change.
- We should consider adopting a regional food plan to address food distribution, marketing, and food insecurity in Dorset and surrounding towns.
- We should put an emphasis on recycling and sustainability.
- We should set up a composting program/service, which also presents itself as a new business opportunity.
- There is a need for a better First Aid squad in town to ensure public safety.
- We should strengthen partnerships between businesses and entities in town.
- We should incentivize resource management planning for land owners of all property sizes by perhaps implementing a tax break for resource management at 25 acre or less level.
- We should focus on better communication/organization/education of our children and their surrounding working landscapes.
- The town should build capacity to do more farm-to-school work, more farm-to-forest work, and more next generation science education.
- We should look into building a USDA-sponsored poultry processing plant; More meat processing could help boost existing poultry farms and businesses in Dorset.
- We should build a cohort for conservation management of Dorset lands by pooling together useful resources.
- We should create space for young children to play in Dorset.

- We should lead efforts to make farmers in the surrounding towns be cohesive in communicating and sharing resources.
- We should feature Dorset as a community with a world-wide reputation as good place to live and visit.
- We need better promotion of the town's assets, along with producers and working landscape laborers. Since it is more expensive to do this on individual level, we should collaborate together on a single website.
- We need additional skill-training and peer learning with producers and land managers about how to manage lands in our changing climates. We could use education in help with practices that deal with soil carbon, water quality, and carbon sequestration.
- We should look beyond Dorset town proper and consider working with towns outside of the town in marketing and collaboration of resources.
- We should use our current intellectual resources and people who have made lives off the land as resources for the next generation of working landscape laborers.
- There is a concern over whether Dorset is town set up for working landscape laborers in the first place or whether it is primarily a place for second-home owners.
- We should market Dorset as a destination point for tourists
- Even if there are less farms in the town center than surrounding towns and lands, we should use the town as a place to sell and market the products that come from these other places.
- We should better support agro-tourism in Dorset.
- We should lead efforts to make relatively affordable housing units available.
- Conservation efforts can bring down land prices to be more affordable, so the town should designate priorities of land use so organizations such as VT Land Trust can help conserve land.
- We should consider bundling lands with VT Land Trust.
- We should look at organizations such as Habitat for Humanity to build affordable houses in Dorset.
- We should invest in the problem of invasive species by increasing community awareness and creating a campaign toward the collective action of exterminating invasive species from the land.
- We should look into building something like the Manchester Rec Center as a safe place for people to recreate and socialize.
- We should create a survey of farms and working lands to have a better assessment of what exists in the working landscape businesses in Dorset.
- We should reach out to second-home owners on these issues to get them more invested and involved in the town's land and resources.
- We should welcome more diversity into the town.
- Eco-tourism seems like it will be essential part of future, so we should use resources to expand trails and market existing natural resources.
- We should make sure the community and visiting community realizes that the vitality of this place depends on the un-fragmented nature of forest lands. It is important to keep the conservation of this forest central in our vision for the future.

Reflections of the Community Visit Team

- It is apparent that there is a tremendously rich resource base for outdoor recreation in Dorset.
- The town should consider if there is a way you want to use the resources and ecosystem services as an economic resource. You can use a conservation commission to address issues and ideas like this.
- In assets, there is incredible administrative capacity in the town. This, combined with volunteers in the community, is a huge asset.
- People already working together in the town. Now they need to decide what they want to do in terms of working lands.
- Developing and changing the town plan will be great for the community.
- A regional food plan is something that people have been talking about for years and Dorset is a great community to get this going in.
- A missing asset in this discussion is are the highways (7 and 7a) as something that makes the community accessible to visitors.
- Un-fragmented forests and fragmented development seem to be both good and bad for the community. It is healthy in terms of ecosystem services but can be bad for some economic development in terms of broadband connection and connecting businesses to collaborate.
- Soil in un-fragmented forests will be key resource in climate resiliency.
- Making connections with other communities to make a sum of vibrant collaboration would be a great idea.
- A key question moving forward is whether Dorset wants to use all their natural resources to cultivate economic activity maintain them for their own use?
- It has been refreshing to hear supportive and positive dialogue throughout this meeting.
- Dorset is a great name for which to build a brand around.
- The impact of climate change on the town's natural resources is clear in this conversation.
- If you are already sensing issue with second home owners, this will only increase with climate migration, so

you will want to think about how you want to deal with this in the future.

- I've been impressed with the knowledge about forestry, trails, and forest resources that the community's residents have.

- It might be interesting to connect trail connection organizations with forestry people in Dorset.
- Dorset is a happy community and needs to rally around issues brought up in order to make the step into being an activist community.

Dorset Tomorrow

Visiting Team: Paul Costello (facilitator), Jonathan Cooper (scribe), Tom Berry, Catherine Bryars, Chris Callahan, Donald Campbell, Rebecca Ellis, Erin O'Farrell, Lisa Thornton

What are the Assets in this Area?

- Raptor Lane purchased by town, with clean slate for development options.
- Concerns that a lack of business and industry leads to increased residential tax base and limited jobs in town.
- Committees working on Raptor Lane acquisition, "town website" buildout, conservation issues, etc.
- Vermont Summer Festival (horse show), Beebe Farm (host) as economic hub of our town.
- Education system is why people choose to live here. A real asset for our community, and regional differentiator.
- Natural beauty, hiking, bicycling, snowshoeing, the arts.
- Theatre is top-notch, really important asset.
- Older residents bring knowledge, volunteerism, and care for their community.
- Wildlife variation and beauty.
- Land use history: quarries, geology, natural resources, stewardship.
- Revolutionary War history is rich.
- Neighboring communities provide ski resorts, parks, civic centers, museums, libraries, and other amenities.
- [Dorset-Manchester relationship is reimagined as more two-way than in the past.]
- Really strong and well-supported institutions: Dorset Library, Dorset Historical Society, Wilson House, Field Club.
- Business community cooperative with one another, and cares about providing job opportunities to residents and kids.
- Dorset provides social diversity, and welcomes different ideas with healthy conversation.
- We have a lot of remote workers, generating cash flow from out of state.

What are the Challenges?

- We are wrestling with potential for change, currently rewriting town plan.
- Misses the residences in the core and the villages, all turning into businesses.
- Challenges with water, especially East Dorset. With hotter weather, streams are drying up. Might need new sources, but system is still run with hundred-year old pipes. Villages have water (spring-fed, main well); wastewater is all individual.
- Increasing traffic on Route 30, Route 7.
- We need young families; we need kids in the school. Fluctuation in kindergarten enrollment year-on-year.
- Need more low-cost housing, rental units. Difficult to work here and live here in early career.
- Employers have a hard time finding employees.
- Opioid crisis pulling families apart.
- Aging demographic creates concerns for the future.
- Finding the balance between community vibrancy and rural character. How to maintain both at the same time?
- It's really hard to make a living here. Kids love growing up here, but it's hard for them to find a way to stay.
- Geography divides town: East Dorset is industrial and year-round residents; "Dorset Village" is retirement and second-homes.
- Infrastructure: water/sewer, cell towers (two, but ineffective), high-speed internet.
- Firefighters, EMTs, first responders are hard to find, and don't live in the area so response time is slowed.
- No major forum (online/public) for direct social interchange and awareness.
- Chicken and egg situation: you can build the workforce housing, but you won't have the employment opportunities to keep families working in town.
- Livable wage jobs are lacking in this area.
- Local employers see economic opportunities, but are concerned that they'll be poaching from one another to grow.

Opportunities: What Should Be Done?

- We don't have an overarching mission/vision.
- Feel ownership of whole town: Dorset/East Dorset residents need to feel cooperative collaboration and

trust in one another as partners. Status quo is separate fire departments, separate water companies, which reinforces distinctions.

- Consider locally-produced energy as an opportunity to focus on local, shared resource and economic opportunity.
- Offer training and support to employers willing to hire and keep on people in recovery.
- Can we play on the density of the two population centers, and promote village-centered residential development?
- Encourage mixed-use areas for housing and small businesses along existing corridors.
- Engage with ongoing town planning process, and ensuring that community vision is spelled out in new town plan and then reinforced in zoning regulations.
- Open up the Raptor Lane process to the town's full population, including second home owners.
- Separate out visioning process from planning process. Start with vision, and let plans respond to that.
- Developing broad-based questionnaire to secure public input for Town Vision.
- Bring Dorset's kids into the process, and let their visions for the future give them a reason to come back.
- Review results from other VCRD town visits to see what has gone well and apply learnings.
- Dorset is a Sleeping Giant, with a great deal of potential and just getting ready to stir. Capture and build upon the momentum in the room.
- General Stores in Dorset are a point of pride, and bring that model to East Dorset.
- Don't force ourselves into compartments, maintain community-based attitude, focus on Dorset in sum.
- Create and maintain a welcoming community to bring more racial and ethnic diversity.
- Focus on growth among remote workers.

Reflections of the Community Visit Team

- Intra-municipal divides can't become normalized, there is strength in unity. Zoning rewrites need to follow on planning process.
- Lots of different ideas and visions. Some are project-based (wastewater, buildings, etc), others are fabric-based (communications, information-sharing).
- No huge deficit to overcome, thank goodness, but can prevent emergence of one single common cause. Regional collaboration can help clarify.
- Consensus on assets and challenges is very encouraging. Town plan is at perfect moment for draft input and commentary.
- "One Burke" helped create common vision, common cause.
- Dorset often ineligible for external funding due to income eligibility issues, but this ensures that actions are based on community needs and interests, not grant criteria.
- The Dorset Tomorrow process is meant to be inspirational, and generating ideas that community can rally around. Prioritizing leads to collective action - everybody working on the One Big Thing is likelier to happen than people may realize! East Burke and West Burke are night and day: derelict stagecoach inns/Kingdom Trails.

Energy Generation and Energy Efficiency

Visiting Team: Jon Copans (facilitator), Madison Kremer (scribe), Michele Boomhower, Ken Jones, Laura MacLachlan, Jeff Monder, Haley Pero, Jim Sullivan, Tom Thacker, Becca White

What are the Challenges and Assets in this Area?

- Energy storage: Green mountain power, tesla battery power residential installation; great customer service and installation; helps GMP to not have to store energy, creating micro-grids for community and helping individual be more resilient, e.g. storms.
- Heating and transportation are two largest areas of energy use in VT. EVs save individual money (esp. paired with solar). Dorset needs EV charging stations.
- Energy audit: residential audit recommendations helpful and led to improvements, esp. in old, drafty home
- Who uses what? Participants rose hands to indicate their primary source of home heating: fuel oil (~15), propane (3-4), cord wood (2), pellets (2), heat pumps (3-5), electric (0), passive solar (2-3).
- Energy costs: GMP bill may fluctuate greatly. Residential/commercial rate billing: federal tax credit will disappear soon (6%). 5% rate increase followed by Oct. 2.9% increase. GMP will be charging for tree removal and storm damages.; fuel oil prices variable, has decreased this year because of fracking
- Concerned that heat pumps or heat pump hot water heater less effective, esp. in older homes/colder areas? Or confusing/one-size-fits-all advice
- Efficiency Vermont and Dorset Energy Committee are good points of contact for questions about residential energy, but not always taken advantage of.
- Diversity of homes means that advice needs to be tailored.
- Efficiency Vermont provides free home energy visits.
 - Not many outages (trees are trimmed regularly)
- Dual-systems to manage costs –burning wood takes much energy—but we can't just do one thing

- Vote: Strong majority of people heat with multiple sources
- Non-automated systems (wood) makes it easier to conserve energy because you are more attuned to how much is used/needed.
- Youth don't care about energy efficiency, but respond to "if I save energy, I don't have to stack more wood" and more personal connections
- Talking with BROCC and other experts can help make savings and differences of experience more tangible.
- Energy Plan in Dorset is model.
- Residents get excited about audits and programs but there has historically been a lack of contractors to do audits and weatherization work in the county (have to wait, or lose momentum). Include health and wellness aspect.

Opportunities: What Should Be Done?

- More micro-hydro
- Community solar (especially paired with affordable housing), municipality and folks without access to their own land could benefit
- Dorset has identified spots where solar would be best-placed, good first step.
- Opportunity to find/cultivate more contractors who'd serve as "energy service provider"—many are currently focused on one source. Regional energy plan relies on diversification of energy systems, but businesses don't necessarily follow that model and would be helpful to meet local goals.
- Workshops, e.g. in winter, to explain why, how, etc. of weatherization, transportation, etc.
- Wants to know that "if I make a change, that change is going to continue to benefit me." Tackling uncertainty of payoff, esp. with rate increases, would help adopt new technology/lifestyles. May feel forced to make an upgrade that individual does not need/company won't service or replace old product (issue of trust?)
- Engaging with stories of climate change/impact globally/elsewhere
- The majority of people have taken advantage of Efficiency Vermont/other energy programs, 5-8 say they would take advantage if they were made available
- Planning for a future (more a/c use as example) now before bills reflect these costs
- Dorset-specific cost: hundred-year old water system (town water) costs may make residents, of up to 200 homes who'll bear hundreds of thousands of dollars of cost, delay home improvement/efficiency measures
- Many funding sources for improvements may disappear as things change; strength is in acting as a group to together create micro-grid. Electricity/energy are going to drive residential and transportation costs so we have to act now. Metering capacity is "first-come, first-serve." Particular capacity and rules amenable.
- Micro-grid creates an island not reliant on greater system, more resilient, can be independent. Local energy produced=local energy needed.
- Low-hanging fruit: solar and batteries for emergency shelters in municipal buildings on own micro-grid
- Solar panels decommissioning costs (esp. chemical disposing) borne at the front end so that properly disposed
- Introducing renewable energy could better sustain Dorset economy, esp. because money spent on fuel oil/gas leaves the state.
- Require building of new construction to solar orientation
- Take advantage of new technologies – esp. micro-hydro.
- Dorset Energy Committee has investigated, "not worth it" in Dorset. Only 500 kw for a large dam, but variable based on weather.
- Waste removal (esp. since other countries won't take) could use our waste to generate energy.
- Transportation: everyone in Dorset has their own car, nobody shares. Could we have a small van or more sharing model?
- We should consider adopting a regional food plan to address food distribution, marketing, and food insecurity in Dorset and surrounding towns.
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Reflections of the Community Visit Team

- Dorset energy plan, a lot of work and information on solar siting available. Renewable energy generation facility in Dorset is huge resource.
- Opportunities for houses abound.
- A lot of interest—need more education, but that seems fairly easier to tackle. Didn't seem like cost is huge issue but credit unions and others help
- Those who have done this work could open their homes, guide their neighbors through how to take on projects and sharing ideas
- Vermont Energy Education Program: community dashboard, homes and communities can list projects that have happened locally which is good to measure. Opportunities for youth to do outreach and engage because they will be the future, and they are an avenue to share with the rest of the community (parents and others).
- Dorset target community is a good thing, can provide more resources. Those who have done
- Audits and other projects may be self-selecting, need to get word out more. Button-up Vermont happening this

September to spread word. As a municipality as a community up to \$4000, and 90% of project, available as target community. Resource for advice.

- Technical information is needed.
- Carbon focused and making sure homes and businesses are fueled as clean as possible. 90% of GMP power is carbon-free, 60% is renewable, with lofty goals and high level of concern. Technology that can be more efficient.

Transportation is good opportunity to incorporate electricity into fuel-used. \$2/hr is the break-even point between oil and electricity—if you're paying any more than that EV is more cost-effective. GMP provides incentives.

- Select board and Dorset energy committee: open and public for those interested. Would love to have more people!

Improving Transportation Options

Visiting Team: Michele Boomhower (facilitator), Jon Copans (scribe), Madison Kremer, Ken Jones, Laura MacLachlan, Jeff Monder, Haley Pero, Jim Sullivan, Tom Thacker, Becca White

What are the Assets in this Area?

- There is one park & ride – making plans to pave it. It is in Manchester, at intersection of Rte 7 and 12 and 30. Improvements are being made.
- Park & Ride Program – available for municipal land. Municipal owned or controlled.
- At St. Pauls church in Manchester - parking lot gets used as a park and ride.
- Montpelier is initiating an on-demand micro-transit pilot.
- Other communities are working on community-based models to provide on-demand rides to those in need. Mad River Valley and Hinesburg as examples.
- There are great resources at the state for van-pooling and carpooling.
- Bill Laberge – providing level 2 charging at their business – Grassroots Solar.
- EV Charging coming at HW Williams Store.
- State of VT held two rounds of grants for EV charging infrastructure. Next round will be for fast charging. Unclear what comes next after that.
- Jeff Monder describes GMP's current EV charging offerings.
- Amtrak comes through the area at noontime and 5:00 only.
- There are two Uber drivers in Manchester
- One or two taxi services in the area as well.
- Shires Connector – runs from Manchester to Bennington to Albany – provides the same connection that a train would. We need to make sure that service is fully taken advantage of and serving Dorset in particular.
- Greater Manchester – Neighbor to Neighbor. Provides rides to Doctors appointments and more.
- Not many kids walk to Dorset School. Maybe 6 on a typical day. Otherwise kids are taking the bus or getting dropped off by their parents.
- Bus rides can be very long – one of the contributing factors for parents who are choosing to drive their kids to school.
- Bus service is provided to both Burr and Burton Academy and the Long Trail School.
- Long Trail School buses kids from as far away as Rutland. They are all over the place with vehicles.
- Burr and Burton also has a bus that travels far.
- State of Vermont invests \$13 million annually in bike and pedestrian resources

What are the Challenges?

- Route 30 corridor is one issue. Route 7 corridor is another issue.
- Bus service along the Route 7 corridor presents a challenge. Bus is always going the wrong direction.
- Our cars are under-utilized. They are parked most of the time.
- On the Rte. 30 side – village is dense enough and walkable, but no infrastructure for walking. People drive from point to point between places in close proximity due to the lack of infrastructure.
- Observation for Dorset, Manchester, and other areas. Bike paths along major routes – not safe and not aesthetically pleasing.
- Example of a home tour – traffic noise is loud along major thoroughfares.
- Kid biking to school on Rte 7 – concerned about safety.
- Danby Mountain Road – School Bus won't go up there. Once the parents drive them down the road, they go the rest of the way.
- Sidewalks and paths aren't adequate.
- In East Dorset, all kids have to go to the General Store to catch the bus. Not all families can do that.
- Any expansion of train infrastructure and operation is very expensive.
- Many kids are all driving themselves to school.
- There are negative health impacts of driving everywhere. When walking is part of a daily routine it helps people stay healthy.
- Retired people drive to the supermarket every single day. Maybe they could team up and go together.

Opportunities: What Should Be Done

- For those who have businesses in Dorset – many employees are commuting in from NY state. Much traffic is generated as a result. How could we serve these employees? Is there a way to work cross-state?
- Michelle B. responds – we do work across state lines at times. Particularly when workforce is involved
- Public transit that is available doesn't serve my needs. Most efficient vehicle is best option. Or ride-sharing. Somehow connecting more community-based or micro-transit options.
- I would like to suggest as far as car-pooling – we don't have a place to park our cars. Community could have a park & ride or parking spaces.
- Albany airport to and from. If there was some coordinated bulletin board or website to ride-match.
- The back parking lot, during the week, at the Dorset Church might also be available as a park & ride facility. Especially during the week, during work hours.
- Sidewalks and bike-lanes can enable people to get out of their cars. We are trying to plan for a bike lane on Rte. 30. Walk path/bike path. Eventually get into the Manchester bike path.
- I'd like to see Dorset build out its current EV infrastructure.
- Bring back rail service – Bennington to Rutland County and back. Running all day every day.
- Several elderly people spoke to me about not wanting to drive to Manchester for shopping. Would appreciate the help to get to Manchester. How can we serve this population to minimize their need to drive to Manchester?
- School buses – the small ones. Not used in summer and weekends. Could those buses be used for other purposes? Would need a driver.
- Could we place "share the road" signage on local roads? VTtrans - we don't put them up on state routes – not enough \$\$\$ to do it adequately in all places.
- How do we get more people to encourage kids to take the bus? Congestion around the schools for drop-off has become an issue.

Reflections of the Community Visit Team

- Consider electric vehicles as a way to reduce costs and emissions.
- How about the bus? There wasn't much talk of it. It already serves part of this area. Could that service be better promoted?
- Electric bikes are an emerging transportation alternative. There is a new GMP program providing a \$200 incentive.
- Vermonters take a high number of trips. The Go Vermont page is a great resource and under-utilized. Could employers get involved in promoting the various Go Vermont tools and alternatives to single-occupancy vehicles? Currently it is kind of up to the individual to find.
- There is a chicken and egg dynamic. There is already all of the existing infrastructure. The community has the power to build demand. Building demand would get people interested in Dorset. It would bring partners willing to fund better service.
- Transportation Climate Initiative – It will increase in cost of gas and diesel, and proceeds are invested in the states that participate. Keep your eyes open about the proposal. If Vermont participates, how do those funds roll back into Vermont? Where does Dorset fit in this?
- Recognizing Dorset's location and where the trips go. Similar to a conversation in Winhall. Let's have the conversation regionally. Engage our regional transit provider.
- Are there services to have in Dorset to avoid car trips? Can we re-localize certain services?
- Could you reformat the school bus routes to minimize the trip time for children.
- The example in Rutland around school drop-off. Student led initiative.
- Local Motion E-bike lending library.
- Electric Bus RFP has been released. Due August 15.
- Use this as an engineering challenge and get your school involved.
- Drive Electric Vermont is a great resource on electric vehicles. Electric vehicle expo as an example.
- Micro-transit pilot is of interest. Walkability of downtowns is a big deal. Life in downtown White River Junction as an example. What are the ways to build walkability?
- Another plug – Drive Electric Vermont – a great resource related to electric vehicles.