

South Hero Plan Implementation

Implementation Strategy	Specific Implementation Action	Timing	Responsibility
ENGAGE (Introduction)	Encourage citizen participation at all levels of the planning process.		
ENGAGE (Introduction)	Continue working with Town residents to find ways to turn their vision for the future of South Hero into reality.		
ENGAGE (Facilities and Services)	Encourage the involvement of community members in community affairs and Town government in order to increase the number of individuals represented while addressing Town issues. This will provide a broader perspective of ideas to consider when making important decisions.		
ENGAGE (Facilities and Services)	Encourage volunteers to participate in town government.		
COLLABORATE AND COORDINATE (Introduction)	Collaborate with other municipalities and regional organizations to address important regional issues, such as improving water quality in Lake Champlain.		
COLLABORATE AND COORDINATE (Introduction)	Consider the impact of land use decisions on adjacent municipalities.		
COLLABORATE AND COORDINATE (Facilities and Services)	Explore ways to save on supplies, equipment and Town services (such as plowing) through cooperative efforts with other towns.		
COLLABORATE and Coordinate (Facilities and Services)	Ensure the Town continues to be represented in and participate in local and regional planning organizations such as the Northwest Regional Planning Commission, Lake Champlain Islands Economic Development Corporation (LCIEDC) Northwest Solid Waste District, etc.		
COLLABORATE AND COORDINATE (Transportation and Complete Streets)	Support and participate with the LCIEDC's S.H.O.R.E project to improve bicycle safety, share the road etiquette and other opportunities to create optimal experiences for cyclists from the Island Line Bike Ferry and local residents.		
COLLABORATE AND COORDINATE (Transportation and Complete Streets)	Communicate and coordinate with local residents on planned road improvements.		
COLLABORATE AND COORDINATE	Support regional cooperation on trails development, interconnectivity of trails and connectivity of trails with destinations in order to provide non-motorized means of travel.		

(Transportation and Complete Streets)			
COLLABORATE AND COORDINATE (Transportation and Complete Streets)	Coordinate with VTrans on pedestrian accessibility and the need for reduced speeds and a crosswalk near the former Apple Island Resort property.		
COLLABORATE AND COORDINATE (Natural Resources and Land Use)	Support and participate in Federal, State and local efforts to improve water quality in Lake Champlain.		
COLLABORATE AND COORDINATE (Natural Resources and Land Use)	Support State of Vermont efforts to minimize pollution to the Lake and groundwater.		
COLLABORATE AND COORDINATE (Natural Resources and Land Use)	Work cooperatively with the newly created Conservation Commission where appropriate.		
COLLABORATE AND COORDINATE (Transportation and Complete Streets)	Support the construction of an additional park and ride lot near Exit 17.		
COLLABORATE AND COORDINATE (Transportation and Complete Streets)	Support and coordinate with CIDER on providing transportation for elderly, disabled or other nondrivers.		
COLLABORATE AND COORDINATE (Climate and Flood Resilience)	Continue to be a member of the National Flood Insurance Program.		
COLLABORATE AND COORDINATE (Climate and Flood Resilience)	The Planning Commission, Selectboard, and Town emergency services personnel shall work with State and Federal agencies to ensure that connection to mainland Vermont via U.S. Route 2 is maintained during a flood event.		
COLLABORATE AND COORDINATE	The Town Plan endorses the recommendations of the LHMP.		

(Climate and Flood Resilience)			
REGULATE (Natural Resources and Land Use)	Restructure the Town’s Development Regulations to define and include the Proposed Land Use Areas of Village Core and Village Neighborhood.		
REGULATE (Natural Resources and Land Use)	Encourage agricultural easements in subdivisions and promote Planned Unit Developments (PUDs) where soils are suitable.		
REGULATE (Natural Resources and Land Use)	Require that “building envelopes” be defined for house sites in subdivisions to ensure coexistence with wetlands, natural areas, and farmland.		
REGULATE (Natural Resources and Land Use)	Reconsider the lot size limitations in zoning regulations.		
REGULATE (Natural Resources and Land Use)	In the Town Development Regulations, provisions shall ensure that development compatibly coexists with the following special environmental areas: a. Natural areas, especially significant fossil sites b. Critical habitat on the outer islands c. Public access areas on the lake shore d. Lake Champlain shoreline i.e., wetlands, including the “Crick” and the area of Round Pond e. Scenic views f. Flood plain areas		
REGULATE (Natural Resources and Land Use)	Ensure that the conversion of seasonal homes to year-round use meets local zoning standards and results in safe and adequate sewage disposal, water supply, and road access.		
REGULATE (Natural Resources and Land Use)	To protect the Lake Champlain shoreline and recognize its diverse and unique character, the Town Planning Commission and Conservation Commission shall keep apprised of lakeshore land use and identify shoreland areas that may be treated differently in the Town regulations.		
REGULATE (Natural Resources and Land Use)	Town zoning and subdivision regulations shall be strictly and consistently enforced. All Town officials should be well-informed about these regulations.		
REGULATE (Housing)	Implement zoning regulations in the town’s rural areas that allow residential subdivisions to use land efficiently and preserve important resource lands, including planned unit developments, clustering lots, expanding on the existing road network and sharing infrastructure.		
REGULATE (Housing)	Implement zoning regulations in the town’s village districts that allow for concentrated residential development at higher densities than allowed in other zoning districts.		

REGULATE (Housing)	Support efforts that incentivize the development of accessory dwelling units for their ability to provide affordable housing options.		
REGULATE (Transportation and Complete Streets)	When conversions of seasonal homes to year-round occupancy are proposed, ensure that adequate all-season access is provided for the occupants as well as for emergency vehicles as part of the zoning approval process for conversions.		
REGULATE (Natural Resources and Land Use)	Ensure the Town's Development Regulations are complimentary to regional and state water quality improvement efforts.		
REGULATE (Natural Resources and Land Use)	The Planning Commission and Conservation Commission should determine how best to regulate these areas and monitor the effectiveness and enforcement of town regulations.		
REGULATE (Climate and Flood Resilience)	The Planning Commission and Zoning Administrator shall ensure that the Land Development Regulations meet all NFIP minimum requirements. The Planning Commission shall ensure that the Land Development Regulations continue to protect floodplains, prevent damage to property, and mitigate risk to human lives.		
REGULATE (Climate and Flood Resilience)	The Planning Commission and Zoning Administrator should work with the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources to investigate future adoption of River Corridor or Fluvial Erosion maps and regulations.		
REGULATE (Local Economy)	Home businesses should be encouraged, provided such operations do not interfere with the residential and agricultural character of the surrounding area.		
REGULATE (Local Economy)	Commercial development should be limited to where there is adequate sewage disposal capability, water supply, and road access and where the development will not adversely impact gateways to the village areas or contribute to strip development.		
EVALUATE/STUDY/PLAN (Natural Resources and Land Use)	Evaluate making provision for a Town Center with adequate capacity to host the Town Offices, recreation fields and other functions and facilities as the need develops. Commercial enterprises, in a public/private partnership or just private, should also be included in the evaluation.		
EVALUATE/STUDY/PLAN (Natural Resources and Land Use)	The Town Planning Commission and Conservation Commission should stay up to date on State and federal regulations concerning wildlife, wetlands, natural areas, and water quality.		
EVALUATE/STUDY/PLAN (Facilities and Services)	Explore innovative ways to finance and provide town services to reduce property tax burdens.		
EVALUATE/STUDY/PLAN (Facilities and Services)	Investigate adopting impact fees, which would help finance the cost of specific town services.		
EVALUATE/STUDY/PLAN (Facilities and Services)	Explore ways to increase the tax base without adding significant burdens on Town services. Among the ways to do this are to encourage light business growth in central locations, the use of vacant private and Town buildings for new uses, and encourage home-based businesses.		

EVALUATE/STUDY/PLAN (Transportation and Complete Streets)	Complete a Streetscape Scoping Study to improve pedestrian accessibility, including sidewalks, traffic calming elements and other streetscape amenities. Coordinate with LCIEDC's S.H.O.R.E. project.		
EVALUATE/STUDY/PLAN (Climate and Flood Resilience)	The Planning Commission and Selectboard shall draft and adopt a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) for South Hero that addresses mitigating risks posed by flooding and other disasters.		
EVALUATE/STUDY/PLAN (Climate and Flood Resilience)	The Selectboard shall annually adopt a Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP).		
EVALUATE/STUDY/PLAN (Local Economy)	Continue to study and support solutions to the lack of water and wastewater capacity in South Hero.		
EDUCATE AND INFORM (Natural Resources and Land Use)	Support, encourage and inform the public about innovative solutions for safe sewage disposal.		
EDUCATE AND INFORM (Facilities and Services)	Promote town plan objectives in the adoption of tax policies and planning for public facilities and services.		
EDUCATE AND INFORM (Housing)	Support, and share information about, programs and resources that help to lower cost of home occupancy and assist in the preservation and maintenance of existing housing units, such as energy conservation, weatherization, and utility assistance.		
EDUCATE AND INFORM (Housing)	Support, and share information about, programs and resources that assist seniors or low mobility residents remain in their homes such as HomeShare Vermont, Meals on Wheels, and CIDER.		
EDUCATE AND INFORM (Local Economy)	Promote incentives to maintain farms and preserve agricultural land, through tax policies, regulations, and the purchase of development rights and conservation easements.		
FACILITATE (Facilities and Services)	Encourage public/private partnerships to improve Town services whenever possible.		
FACILITATE (Facilities and Services)	Encourage the availability of safe and affordable child care.		
FACILITATE (Facilities and Services)	Support community events and activities such as farmers markets and weekend in the Islands		
FACILITATE (Facilities and Services)	Support the expansion of the Fire District #4 private water district and/or setting up other water districts in concentrated areas of the Town.		
FACILITATE (Facilities and Services)	Support efforts to allow properly treated and filtered water from Lake Champlain to be used as potable water for domestic and business use.		
FACILITATE (Housing)	Support efforts to provide adequate infrastructure to support concentrated development in village areas, including municipal wastewater, bicycle and pedestrian improvements and complete streets.		

FACILITATE (Facilities and Services)	Support efforts for education funding reform to address the property tax burdens imposed by Acts 60 and 68.		
FACILITATE (Natural Resources and Land Use)	Support purchase and/or donation of development rights to maintain agriculture and important natural areas outside of the village areas.		
FACILITATE (Natural Resources and Land Use)	Support the development of retail, hospitality and service-based businesses best suited to serve the needs of residents, seasonal residents and the tourist population.		
FACILITATE (Natural Resources and Land Use)	The Town shall support, seek out and apply for State, federal and private grants for the protection of natural areas, wetlands, scenic areas, recreation areas, and wildlife habitat.		
FACILITATE (Natural Resources and Land Use)	The Town shall support donations, leases, and other private, voluntary ways to protect natural areas, wetlands, scenic areas, recreation areas, and wildlife habitat.		
FACILITATE (Facilities and Services)	Support volunteers who are interested in creating and maintaining town trails and coordinate with regional trail projects.		
FACILITATE (Transportation and Complete Streets)	Support Safe Routes to School and other walking projects.		
FACILITATE (Transportation and Complete Streets)	Support public and private policies, programs or other efforts that promote alternatives to single occupancy vehicle travel such as public transit improvements, car-sharing, telecommuting, flexible work schedules and school bus usage.		
DEVELOP/CONSTRUCT (Facilities and Services)	Redevelop the Meeting House as a location for municipal and community events.		
DEVELOP/CONSTRUCT (Transportation and Complete Streets)	Implement necessary improvements for compliance with the Municipal Roads General Permit.		
DEVELOP/CONSTRUCT (Transportation and Complete Streets)	Identify and upgrade undersized culverts to prevent washouts. Use best management practices for managing runoff during road construction or reconstruction.		