

### **3. COMMUNITY UTILITIES, FACILITIES AND SERVICES AND SPACES**

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#### Goals

- To provide municipal services and facilities that adequately ~~support~~ **protect** the health, safety and welfare of the people of Bakersfield.
- ~~To provide for the physical safety of residents with high quality fire, emergency medical, and law enforcement services~~
- To promote communication of Bakersfield residents with each other and with a wider community.
- To provide code-compliant interior spaces that support community activities.
- To provide exemplary educational services to the children of Bakersfield.
- To broaden access to educational and vocational training opportunities sufficient to ensure the full realization of the abilities of all Vermonters.
- To ~~promote~~ **ensure that regulation of land development in Bakersfield does not negatively impact the availability of** safe and affordable childcare ~~in Bakersfield.~~

#### Policies

##### Overall

- ~~Look ahead and predict the town's future needs in regard to public facilities and services based on patterns of growth and development~~ **Ensure that the town's utilities, facilities and services have sufficient capacity and quality to accommodate the rate of growth.**
- ~~Consider other growth control measures, including development of a capital budget, a yearly limit on the maximum number of building permits, and phasing of building construction, to reduce the impact of development on municipal services~~
  - 1.
  - 2. **Identify and plan for municipal equipment and facilities that need replacement, retrofit, or upgrade and develop methods of financing the replacement. This may include a capital budget and program or similarly effective method.** ~~Identify equipment and facilities that need to be upgraded and develop methods of financing the replacements.~~
  - 3. Evaluate the extension of municipal services based on system adequacy, ~~and~~ fiscal feasibility **and supporting the patterns of growth outlined in the Land Use chapter.**

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Additional policies related to specific services are listed throughout the chapter.

## **BAKERSFIELD GRAND ISLE**

### Town Plan

Publicly funded community services and spaces provide for the health, safety and well-being of Bakersfield residents. ~~Facilities and services are provided by a municipality for the benefit of its residents and are supported by the community as a shared responsibility.~~ In a small, rural community such as Bakersfield, the ability to provide a broad range of municipal services is limited. ~~To address the need for services, However, with continued growth and development there is increasing demand for these services. To address this demand,~~ the ~~T~~town ~~P~~plan includes a goal of establishing ~~public policies~~policies that balance development with the town's ability to provide services. These policies may include managing the timing of development so that town services can keep pace, or ways to increase services to make sure they continue to meet the needs of the community. -

## **Municipal Water**Water and Wastewater

### **Policies**

- ◆1. Explore opportunities to provide shared ~~coordinate in the provision of~~ septic services for buildings within the village core.
- ◆2. Consider if and when a municipal wastewater system would be appropriate and cost effective to service the village area. Consider purchasing or conserving land near the Village for a leech field.
3. Ensure that the municipal water system continues to provide adequate, healthy, clean drinking water for village residents and that the water supply remains public and is not privatized.
- ◆4. Consider opportunities to expand access to the public water system.

### **Water**

Bakersfield has a municipal water system, under the jurisdiction of Fire District #1, located on Kings Hill southeast of the village. ~~There is a 120,000-gallon concrete reservoir located northwest of the village.~~ Access to the municipal water system is limited to areas closest to the village. ~~The most recent upgrade was in 2007, when an additional well and pump was added, covered by a rate increase. In order to continue to meet demand, the Fire District identified a need for an additional well and pump for the water system. In 2007, the Fire District raised their rates in order to cover the cost of this upgrade.~~ It is the goal of the Fire District to ensure a safe and unchlorinated water supply.

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The Bakersfield Zoning Bylaws designate a protective zone, the “Aquifer Overlay District” around the source of the municipal drinking water supply. This zone is consistent with the source water protection area identified by the state of Vermont Drinking Water Supply Division. No new construction is permitted in this district in order to protect the quality of the community drinking water.

For residents not on the village water system, Bakersfield can be a difficult area to find a reliable water supply. In recent years, residents in the East Bakersfield Road area outside the village have had problems with running out of water in private wells. The Town should consider opportunities to expand access to the public water system.

### Wastewater Sewage

There is no municipal sewer system in Bakersfield and disposal is handled through individual septic systems. Presently there are no plans for a municipal sewer plant due to the expense and the population size in Bakersfield.

Sewage disposal is an issue for the town hall, historical society, and Congregational Church. In 2002, the historical society upgraded the septic system on property owned by the school. The lack of sewage disposal facilities has been and continues to be an impediment to the growth of small businesses appropriate commercial development, such as restaurants, in the village district. As technologies improve, the town of Bakersfield should continue to explore opportunities for shared wastewater systems within the village core.

## **Solid Waste Management**

### ***Policies***

1. Support efforts to educate residents about solid waste disposal options, currently available through the Northwest Vermont Solid Waste District (NWSWD), in order to reduce junk and hazardous materials from being disposed of improperly.
2. Prohibit the unregulated storage of junk cars and other waste on properties in Bakersfield and require clean-up of existing sites.
3. Consider the establishment of a transfer station for processing junk vehicles for transportation to a local, permitted junkyard. Collaborate with NWSWD and other partners to establish programs that can help residents dispose of bulk trash and junk vehicles.

Bakersfield is a member of the Northwest Vermont Solid Waste Management District (NWSWD), which has a regional solid waste management plan and a certified regional facility. The district operates a drop off site at the old fire station every Saturday morning. The Northwest Solid Waste District also sponsors many activities such as “special collections” (bulky items, scrap metal, and tires) and Household Hazardous Waste

## **BAKERSFIELD GRAND ISLE**

### *Town Plan*

(HHW) collections (oil based paints, solvents, cleaners, pesticides, and other chemicals that would be harmful to the environment if not handled properly). ~~The district operates a drop off site at the old fire station every Saturday morning.~~

One goal of the District is to make solid waste disposal as convenient as possible for residents and reduce incentives to dump or burn garbage illegally. Recycling and food waste drop-off are free, and household trash has a small fee.

Residents and Town leadership have identified issues with large amounts of junk vehicles and other bulk waste stored outdoors on certain properties throughout town. This is likely due to the cost and difficulty of transporting these items. Cleaning up these sites would bring a public benefit to residents, and collection of vehicles and scrap metal would likely be profitable for businesses as well. The Town should coordinate with NWSWD, local scrap businesses and residents organize the collection of junk vehicles and bulk waste. Bakersfield should also look to neighboring communities for examples in dealing with this issue, so that compliance with the regulations are high. By making pick up and drop off of garbage easy and recycling virtually free (there is currently a \$1.00 handling charge), there should be less incentive to dump or burn garbage illegally. The special collection of bulky and hazardous materials keeps these materials out of the waste stream and disposed of properly. The state of Vermont has set a goal of reducing the amount of waste needing disposal by 50 percent. In order to help meet this goal, the district has adopted regulations making it mandatory in district towns to separate certain recyclable materials from waste going to landfills.

## **Fire, Emergency and Police Services Protection and Emergency Rescue**

### ***Policies***

- 1. Identify and pursue opportunities for funding to enhance police protection in Bakersfield.**
- 2. Continue to recruit and train volunteers for fire and emergency services.**
- 3-2. Consider opportunities for the adaptive reuse of historic buildings**

Bakersfield is served by a volunteer fire department that includes a First Response Program. ~~There are approximately 28 volunteer members who serve on the fire department, including first responders. The equipment consists of a 1997 Pumper, a 2012 Pumper and a 2006 Rescue SUV. The 2012 pumper and the 2006 rescue SUV are recent replacements for much older vehicles. Thanks to federal and state grants, the department was able to upgrade personal protection gear including SCBA air pack devices in 2005. In order to continue to meet the needs of the Bakersfield community, the Fire Department purchased the former Sticks and Stuff Building near the Brigham Academy. The Fire Department has been in its~~

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## **BAKERSFIELD GRAND ISLE**

### *Town Plan*

~~current location since 2012, a former commercial building that was renovated mostly by volunteers. The current building is adequate to house modern equipment and meet the needs of the community. Using mostly volunteer help, the Department renovated it to provide a building large enough to accommodate bigger modern fire engines including the 2012 pumper.~~

The town of Bakersfield has an agreement with Enosburgh Ambulance Services for emergency response service. ~~– Bakersfield is served by Northwestern Medical Center in St. Albans City. Many residents also use the walk-in emergency clinics operated by NOTCH in Enosburgh and St. Albans.~~

Bakersfield has a ~~Local Rapid Response Plan~~ Emergency Management Plan (LEMP) to help organize the town in case of an emergency. ~~– The Rapid Response Plan~~ LEMP contains basic emergency preparedness essential for responding to local emergencies. ~~– It includes critical phone numbers, contact persons, and critical facilities. – The Town of Bakersfield is also a member of the Franklin County Mutual Aid Agreement. – This is a formal agreement among the municipalities and emergency first responders within Franklin County to lend resource assistance across jurisdictional boundaries for disasters and other emergencies that exceed local resources when required, either by an emergency that exceeds local resources or a disaster. – The Agreement helps the town achieve compliance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) strategy. – The Town has a permanent generator at Bakersfield Elementary School, and the~~ In 2010, the Town received federal money to install a permanent generator at the Elementary School. That building ~~now~~ now serves as a designated emergency shelter in case of a crisis. ~~– Bakersfield is served by Northwestern Medical Center in St. Albans City. Many residents also use the walk-in emergency clinics operated by NOTCH in Enosburgh and St. Albans.~~

### **Police Protection**

The Vermont State Police (VSP) is the primary law enforcement agency responsible for public safety in Bakersfield. ~~– As in many rural communities, the level of police protection is a concern in Bakersfield. – Because of the limited service, response times can be long.~~

# Telecommunications

## Policies

- Support the enhancement of the telecommunications network when such facilities do not have significant adverse health, environmental or scenic impacts. Work with providers to expand cell service in Bakersfield in a way that meets the needs of residents and visitors, especially along VT-108 and VT-36. Supported solutions include monopoles rather than lattice towers, with collocated providers.**
- ~~2.~~
- Support access to broadband internet that meets the needs of current and future residents and businesses.**

Access to telecommunication services, including high speed internet and cellular phone service are important not only to the quality of life for residents of Bakersfield, but for economic development as well. Under Governor Jim Douglas and current Governor Peter Shumlin, Vermont is pursuing a course to provide universal cellular and broadband coverage throughout the state. Such advances in telecommunication technology have the potential to significantly impact the local economy in rural communities such as Bakersfield, as they allow more residents to telecommute and may enable more people to live further and further from population centers. The Town must determine if there are planning and zoning ramifications for antenna towers and other telecommunications infrastructure. Guidance to site towers where community interests for historic and aesthetic preservation should be considered

### Cell Service

Currently, large areas of Bakersfield do not have access to cell service. In the 2025 Town Plan survey, cell was service the lowest rated public service in Bakersfield, with 74% of residents rating it as poor. Over half of survey respondents and workshop participants rated improving access to broadband and cellular service as a top priority to consider over the next eight years.

Lack of cell service is a quality of life issue in Bakersfield that causes inconvenience, economic barriers, and threats to health and safety. Many residents who work outdoors rely on cell service for their businesses, and lack of cell service in the Village is an obstacle to economic growth. Cellular service is also extremely important to reach 911 in the event of an emergency, especially since landline service in Bakersfield is being phased out. Internet-based phone service relies on electricity to operate, which may not be available in the event of a disaster.

Increasing cell service is a very high Town priority, and outreach efforts show that the public strongly supports expanding cell infrastructure in Bakersfield. In current business models, cellular companies build towers directly, or tower companies build towers and then lease space to cellular providers. The Town should work to identify a sites for cell towers that would provide the maximum coverage benefit for residents and visitors. The

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## **BAKERSFIELD GRAND ISLE**

*Town Plan*

[Town can play a role coordinating with interested landowners and tower/cell companies to accomplish this goal and bring more cell service to Bakersfield.](#)

### **Broadband Internet**

[According to state data, roughly 85% of residents have access to internet service that meets the federal definition of broadband. Fiber internet has also become increasingly available to residents and offers greater internet speeds. As the availability of working from home provides more economic opportunities to residents, access to reliable internet service is increasingly important. The Town supports maintaining high-quality internet access to meet the current and future needs of residents and businesses. Bakersfield is a member of Northwest Fiberworx, the](#)

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### Town Plan

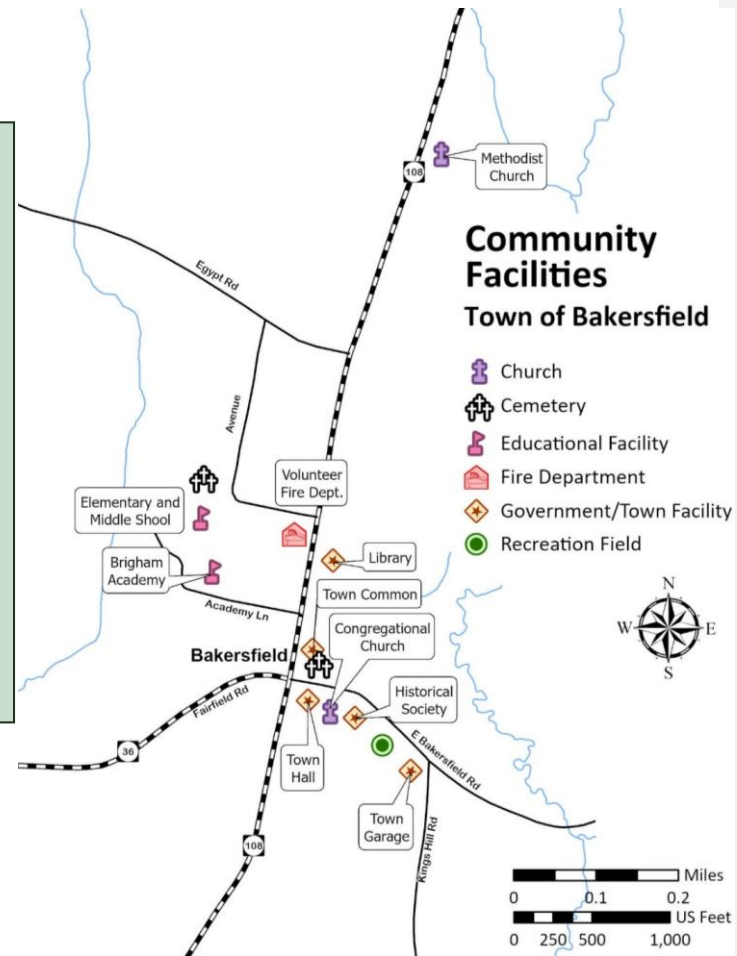
communications union district serving the region, and has a member appointed by the Selectboard. The goal of Northwest Fiberworx is to leverage partnerships between municipalities to procure funding for regional internet upgrades.

## Community Spaces and Facilities

### Policies

1. Provide adequate recreational facilities to meet the needs of community residents
2. Encourage intergenerational programs that promote healthful living.
3. Support the conversion of the Brigham Academy building to serve as a multi-purpose municipal facility for senior/affordable housing, business, and/or other community use.
4. Ensure that designated emergency shelters are accessible and properly equipped.
5. Continue to provide library services that meet the needs of the community.
6. Maintain a website that provides information on Bakersfield town governance and a calendar of town activities, and support the website's growth as a means for meaningful communication and information sharing.
7. Support the retention of the US Post Office in the village.

The public facilities of Bakersfield include the Bakersfield Elementary and Middle School, the presently empty Brigham Academy and its front lawn, the Town Hall, the Volunteer Fire Department garage, the town garage, cemeteries, and two recreational fields. Within the village are also a post



## **BAKERSFIELD GRAND ISLE**

### *Town Plan*

office, a church, the HF Brigham Memorial Library, and the Bakersfield Historical Society building (see map on right).

## **Municipal Facilities**

### ***Policies***

- ~~1. Provide adequate recreational facilities to meet the needs of community residents~~
- ~~2. Encourage intergenerational programs that promote healthful living.~~
- ~~3. Restore the Brigham Academy building to serve as a multi-purpose municipal facility for education, senior/affordable housing, recreation, and/or other community use.~~
- ~~4. Ensure that designated emergency shelters are accessible and properly equipped.~~
- ~~5. Continue to provide library services that meet the needs of the community.~~
- ~~• Encourage the Selectboard to adopt municipal ordinances to enforce the clean up of junkyards and other “quality of life” issues, such as farm animals in the village, noise pollution, etc.~~
- ~~6. Establish and maintain a website that provides information on Bakersfield town governance and a calendar of town activities.~~
- ~~7. Support the retention of the US Post Office in the village.~~

The public facilities of Bakersfield include the Bakersfield Elementary and Middle School, the presently empty Brigham Academy and its front lawn, the Town Hall, the Volunteer Fire Department garage, the town garage, cemeteries, and two recreational fields. Within the village are also a post office, a church, the HF Brigham Memorial Library, and the Bakersfield Historical Society building (Figure 4.1).

### ***Town Hall***

The Bakersfield Town Hall was constructed in 1909. The building provides office space for the Town Clerk, Treasurer, Listers, and Zoning Administrator, and has a community meeting space. The second floor of the town hall has an auditorium, stage and kitchen and has served as the town teen center. The stage had a painted curtain which is now at the Vermont Historical Society.

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## **BAKERSFIELD GRAND ISLE**

Town Plan

### **Town Garage**

The Bakersfield town garage houses the town's road equipment, including three snow plows, three dump trucks, a 4x4 pick up truck, a Front End Loader, a Grader, and a bulldozer/15 ton excavator. The town garage provides adequate facilities and no major improvements are planned for this facility. ~~The relocation of the town fire department to the renovated Sticks and Stuff building provided the Town additional storage space when it was transferred from the Fire Department to the Town.~~

The Town Hall is used each year for Town Meeting, when residents come together to vote and make important community decisions. Credit: Nancy Hunt.

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### **Brigham Academy**

The Brigham Academy, though vacant for the past 20 years, has the potential to be a significant public asset. ~~As of 2026, the Town of Bakersfield has a purchase and sales option with a firm to convert the building into senior housing. This building was under the ownership of the Bakersfield school district. A School Board vote in March 2013 required the Board to sell the building to the Town. That sale was completed September 15, 2014. Studies in 1995 and 2012 found the building to be structurally sound and noted the potential for adaptive reuse of the building as an educational facility, senior housing or for other community use. Adding a commercial component or community space would bring further economic benefits to the Village. The Town should continue to play an active role in its redevelopment to ensure that its restoration brings as much public benefit as possible. Under a current agreement with the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, any rehabilitation of the building should provide for 75 percent school use and 25 percent community use, however it may be possible to renegotiate this agreement to allow for affordable or senior housing.~~

### **H.F. Brigham Library**

The H.F. Brigham Library is located in the center of the village on the east side of Main Street across from the Brigham Academy. ~~The library's goals include serving the community as a center of reliable information and cultural enrichment. The library has 263 registered borrowers. In 20213, the library was visited 1,709 times and hosted more than 9070 events (including arts and craft groups, book clubs, and children's story time, book discussions, family movie nights and special speakers). The library also has public computers and WiFi available for patrons to use. The library had 2,715 visitors, (1,688 adults and 1,027 children) that year, too. Computer usage is a growing way to meet the library's goals "to provide access to reliable information, to educate and entertain".~~

H.F. Brigham Library

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### *Town Plan*

~~Currently, public outdoor recreational facilities available in Bakersfield are mostly limited to the recreation fields associated with the school. This includes a well-equipped little league field, soccer field, basketball court and a playground. These facilities represent the efforts of many volunteers in the community. The privately owned Bakersfield Country Club provides golfing facilities to the public.~~

~~Since their 2011 dedication, the Bakersfield Town Park and Community Trails have been steadily improved by the Bakersfield Conservation Commission. The Park is near the head of one of the trails and consists of several historic town buildings and a large picnic area adjacent to the town square across from the Town Hall. The space is now regularly used during the now annual Fourth of July celebration, especially for a robust horseshoe competition.~~

~~Currently there is no adequate indoor public space that is handicapped accessible and available throughout the week for townspeople for all ages. The school gymnasium with its kitchen facilities is used extensively on weekends for community events. The one handicapped bathroom is in the main part of the building and is not available.~~

### ***US Post Office***

While it is not a municipal facility, the Bakersfield Post Office is an important asset for the village of Bakersfield and provides an informal meeting spot for members of the community to interact.

### ***Bakersfield Historical Society***

The Bakersfield Historical Society occupies the St. George's Church, the oldest public building in Bakersfield. The building is open to the public on a regular basis from May to October and by appointment throughout the year. Although the Bakersfield Historical Society's building is handicapped accessible with a bathroom and kitchen that is potentially available throughout the week, there is no public funding for its supervised use and maintenance. The Board of Directors, however, has made the facility available to the community whenever possible for bereavement luncheons, meetings, charitable events, school programs, the town meeting luncheon, as well as their own programs and fund raisers.

### **Recreation Facilities**

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Currently, public outdoor recreational facilities available in Bakersfield are mostly limited to the recreation fields associated with the school. This includes a well-equipped little league field, soccer field, basketball court and a playground. These facilities represent the efforts of many volunteers in the community. The privately owned Bakersfield Country Club provides golfing facilities to the public.

Since their 2011 dedication, the Bakersfield Town Park and Community Trails have been steadily improved and maintained by the Bakersfield Conservation Commission. The Park is near the head of one of the trails and consists of several historic town buildings and a large picnic area adjacent to the town square across from the Town Hall. The space is now regularly used during the now annual Fourth of July celebration, especially for a robust horseshoe competition.

Currently there is no adequate indoor public space that is ~~handicapped~~ accessible and available throughout the week for townspeople ~~for~~ for all ages. The school gymnasium with its kitchen facilities is used extensively on weekends for community events. The one ~~accessible-handicapped~~ bathroom is in the main part of the building and is not available.

### ***Churches and Cemeteries***

The churches and cemeteries of Bakersfield are important resources for the town. ~~—~~The United Church of Bakersfield and East Fairfield serves the congregations of one current and two former church buildings: the Congregational (1850) and Methodist (1854) churches in Bakersfield and the church in East Fairfield. ~~—~~The parishioners hold services in the Congregational Church Building on East Bakersfield Road. During 2013, the Methodist Church and the East Fairfield Church were sold. The former East Fairfield Church now is owned by that community and the former Methodist Church is owned by a private museum curator. ~~—~~In addition, the Congregational Church in Bakersfield is governed by its own board of trustees and manages its own endowment.

The Cemetery Commission manages the Maple Grove Cemetery and Park, a five acre burial ground in the center of the village that was deeded to the town in 1804. ~~—~~Residents at the time of their death are entitled to a free plot. ~~—~~Its maintenance budget is based on income from endowments and gifts. ~~—~~While the cemetery provides green space in the center of the village, it does not serve as a true village commons because its use is limited to activities approved by the Cemetery Commission. ~~—~~The war memorial, benches, and flower gardens are an asset to the village center. ~~The cemetery commission currently uses the hearse house for storage, but the building is in need of repair.~~

A second cemetery in the village is located at the west end of the Avenue. ~~—~~It is owned and operated by the Catholic diocese. ~~—~~A third cemetery is in East Bakersfield and is closed. ~~—~~It is maintained minimally by the town as required by state statute.

## Education and Childcare

### Policies

1. Establish fair and effective measures to control the pace and impact of development on educational services.
2. Support programs that provide activities for youth, children, families and seniors, programs such as “Caring Communities,” the Teen Center, and “Success by Six”.
3. Assess the need for and availability of childcare services in Bakersfield and support efforts to expand childcare services.

Caring for and educating our children is a high priority for the Town of Bakersfield. The town has a strong history as a center for academic excellence. Today, approximately 208% of Bakersfield’s population is below the age of 19 and providing a high quality education and safe and accessible facilities continues to be a priority for the community.

It is the town’s responsibility and in its best interest to provide for the education of its school population without overcrowding, inefficient division of basic education facilities, or reduction in the quality of its educational programs. Through careful planning and growth management, the town can ensure that it is able to continue to provide high quality education to our children.

### Childcare

Bakersfield has become primarily a bedroom community to the surrounding towns and cities, and availability and cost of childcare is a growing concern for working families. Many child development experts believe that children often do not have the maturity and self-care skills to be left unsupervised until the age of 12. The 2020 U.S. Census indicates that there are 213 children under the age of 14 currently living in Bakersfield. Childcare in Bakersfield is provided by the Early Childhood Program at the Elementary School, with a capacity of 20 children, and the Bakersfield After School Program, which has a capacity of 25 children. Data on other childcare options, such as grandparents, siblings, stay at home parents, un-registered childcare homes or other opportunities is not available. According to the “Stalled at the Start” Report by Let’s Grow Kids, 74% of infants and 54% of toddlers in Franklin County do not have access to regulated childcare.

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## **BAKERSFIELD GRAND ISLE**

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It is also important to note that the childcare industry can contribute to the local economy by creating jobs and supporting a stable workforce. The accessibility, affordability and quality of health care may affect a parent's ability to enter and remain in the workforce and to be a productive employee. Bakersfield supports efforts to expand childcare services and ensure that families have access to safe and affordable childcare.

### ***Childcare Services***

Bakersfield has become primarily a bedroom community to the surrounding towns and cities. Therefore, finding high quality and affordable childcare is a growing concern for existing and prospective families. A 2005 Legislative Report from the Vermont Child Care Advisory Board reports that the average cost for center-based care in Vermont is \$140.92 for infants and \$125.71 for preschoolers per week. Statewide, more than 27 percent of low-earning families spend more than one fifth of their income on childcare.

Many child development experts believe that children often do not have the maturity and self-care skills to be left unsupervised until the age of 12. The 2010 U.S. Census indicates that there were 280 children under the age of 14 currently living in Bakersfield at that time. According to state data, Bakersfield currently has two registered childcare homes and two childcare centers, with a total capacity of 56 children. Data on other childcare options, such as grandparents, siblings, stay at home parents, un-registered childcare homes or other opportunities is not available. Without additional data on the vacancy rates of childcare facilities, as well as the quality and affordability of these services, it is difficult to assess the availability of childcare in our community.

It is also important to note that the childcare industry can contribute to the local economy by creating jobs and supporting a stable workforce. The accessibility, affordability and quality of health care may affect a parent's ability to enter and remain in the workforce and to be a productive employee.

### ***PreK-8 Education***

The Bakersfield Elementary School is on a site adjacent to the old Brigham Academy. Grades K-8 are given instruction in this building with the remaining grades enrolled at the high schools of neighboring municipalities.

The Bakersfield Elementary-Middle School is a wood frame structure. This construction was used to save money and time after the tragic fire that razed the K-4 elementary school in 1985. While the student population experienced in 1997 has

	<b>2010</b>
Under 5 years	80
5 to 9 years	95
10 to 14 years	105
<b>Total</b>	<b>280</b>
Source: 2010 US Census	-

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## **BAKERSFIELD GRAND ISLE**

### *Town Plan*

~~diminished, the school has had to deal with space limitations.~~ The school can accommodate approximately 165 students, ~~and has been at or near this capacity in recent years.~~ ~~In the 2025-26 school year, 126 students were enrolled. The school population has slowly declined over past decades, down from 173 students in 2005. The Town does not anticipate issues with school capacity given recent trends.~~

<b>Academic Year</b>	<b># Students Enrolled</b>
1997-1998	196
1998-1999	173
1999-2000	172
2000-2001	175
2001-2002	178
2002-2003	176
2003-2004	173
2004-2005	167
2005-2006	167
2006-2007	159
2007-2008	168

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## BAKERSFIELD GRAND ISLE

### Town Plan

2008-2009	163
2009-2010	155
2010-2011	172
2011-2012	172
2012-2013	165
2013-2014	159
Source: VT Department of Education ( <a href="http://education.vermont.gov/data">http://education.vermont.gov/data</a> )	
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There are no plans to expand the current school building. The wood construction doesn't allow for a second story on the building so any additions would have to be at ground level. Furthermore, if the building were to be expanded it would need to come into compliance with current codes which would likely be difficult. Overall, the current building provides a safe and inviting environment for academic success.

The school has been able to create some additional space to accommodate students. The principal's office has been moved to the rear of the school to create a larger library area and there is a new all-purpose classroom used for art, meetings, and other academic activities. Overall, the building provides a safe and inviting environment for academic endeavors.

### High School Education

**BAKERSFIELD GRAND ISLE**

Town Plan

**Table 7.3. Enrollment in area High Schools**

<b>Academic Year</b>	<b># High School Students Enrolled</b>
1997-1998	83
1998-1999	92
1999-2000	95
2000-2001	78
2001-2002	75
2002-2003	65
2003-2004	65
2004-2005	73
2005-2006	86
2006-2007	92
2007-2008	84
2008-2009	87
2009-2010	81
2010-2011	77
2011-2012	75

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## **BAKERSFIELD GRAND ISLE**

### *Town Plan*

Beginning in the ninth grade, Bakersfield students must choose to attend one of the surrounding area high schools. The majority of Bakersfield high school students choose to attend Enosburg High School, but students also attend BFA St. Albans, Essex, MVU, and BFA Fairfax. (Table 7.4). Vocational education is offered at the Cold Hollow Center in Enosburg Falls, Northwest Technical Center at BFA St. Albans and the Voc Ed Center at Essex High School. These three facilities provide a wide range of programs for high school students and evening classes for adults as well. Tuition costs for area schools continue to rise, as does Bakersfield's school tax rate.

<a href="#">2012-2013</a>	<a href="#">71</a>
<a href="#">2013-2014</a>	<a href="#">70</a>
<a href="#">Source: Northeast Franklin SU</a>	

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### **Home Schooling**

~~Bakersfield has 10 children being home schooled at this time (2013). These students are from 4 families in town.~~

**Commented [LS13]:** Seems too specific to include in the Town Plan

### **Other Educational Facilities**

The majority of colleges are located either in or around Burlington or in St. Albans. The Community College of Vermont (CCV) offers courses and degree programs in several locations including Winooski and St. Albans. The CCV is part of the Vermont State College System and has links to other higher education facilities around the state. The University of Vermont, St. Michael's College, and Champlain College are all located in the Burlington area. ~~Vermont State University has a campus Johnson State College is~~ located in Johnson in our neighboring county to the southeast.

Vermont Adult Learning located in St. Albans offers classes to help adults improve their math, writing, and reading skill. It also provides a GED completion program. ~~Vermont Adult Learning also has some satellite classes available in Swanton in Richford.~~

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**BAKERSFIELD GRAND ISLE**

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**Table 7.4. Attendance by High School with Tuition Rates**

<b>High School</b>	<b># of Bakersfield Students Attending</b>	<b>Tuition Rate (2014/2015)</b>
Enosburg High School	40	\$14,940
BFA (St. Albans)	25	\$14,450
Essex	±	\$12,950
BFA Fairfax	±	\$11,825

Source: Northeast Franklin SU

## 4. TRANSPORTATION

### Goals

- To provide and maintain a safe, convenient, cost-effective, and functional transportation network for vehicular, pedestrian, and recreational use within the town
- To promote public transit and carpooling and to provide commuter parking

### Policies

- ~~1. Regulate all classes of roads including access to private roads~~ ~~Assure the town's ability to assure provide~~ public safety for all any development. ~~by town regulation of all classes of roads, including access to private roads~~
- ~~2. Maintain a road maintenance and improvement program for the repair and/or rebuilding of the existing road network in an orderly cycle. Maintain town roads according to a systematic review of condition and levels of use~~
- ~~2.~~
- ~~3.~~ Reclassify any remaining Class 4 roads, ~~that - which~~ are not expected to serve public uses for motorized traffic, to legal trail status, ~~so that they may continue to be used for recreational uses and the right of way kept for future use.~~
- 2.4. Provide road signs, where necessary, for safety and traffic control purposes.
- 3.5. Assess the traffic impact of any new development on local roads before granting building or subdivision permits.
- 4.6. Limit road or driveway extension into important resource areas, including critical natural areas, wellhead protection areas, large blocks of intact forest, and important agricultural lands.
- 5.7. Design all future roads, including culverts and ditching, that are to be taken over and/or maintained by the town to standards approved by the Selectboard.
- 6.8. Maintain the scenic character of the town's rural byways.
- 7.9. Increase participation in the Northwest Regional Planning Commission's Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC).
10. Encourage the expansion of the sidewalks within the village, ~~including the current Bakersfield Sidewalk Project,~~ to provide improved pedestrian access and safety.
11. Investigate solutions to reduce vehicle speeds through Bakersfield Village.
- ~~8. Reduce the speed limit to 25 miles/hour within the Village District~~
12. ~~The Town should explore the possibility of changing the recreational ATV ordinance.~~ Reduce air pollution by encouraging public transit, carpooling and the use of park and ride lots.
- 3.13. Adopt and implement the most recent (currently 2013) VTrans Town Road and Bridge Standards, or stricter standards.

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## **BAKERSFIELD GRAND ISLE**

### *Town Plan*

Bakersfield lies approximately 14 miles east of Interstate 89, ~~which (Exit 19) and~~ is easily accessible by VT Route 36. The village is bisected by VT Route 108, which provides a connection to Enosburg to the north and through Fletcher to Jeffersonville to the south. ~~The spring, summer and fall of 2013 brought much needed upgrades to Route 108 between Jeffersonville and Bakersfield, making the southerly commute much more comfortable. As is the case with many rural communities, Bakersfield residents depend greatly on privately owned motor vehicles and the local road network for access to jobs, goods and services. The Village has a sidewalk network along North Main Street, and the southwestern corner of Town~~ contains a 2.5-mile segment of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT), an important

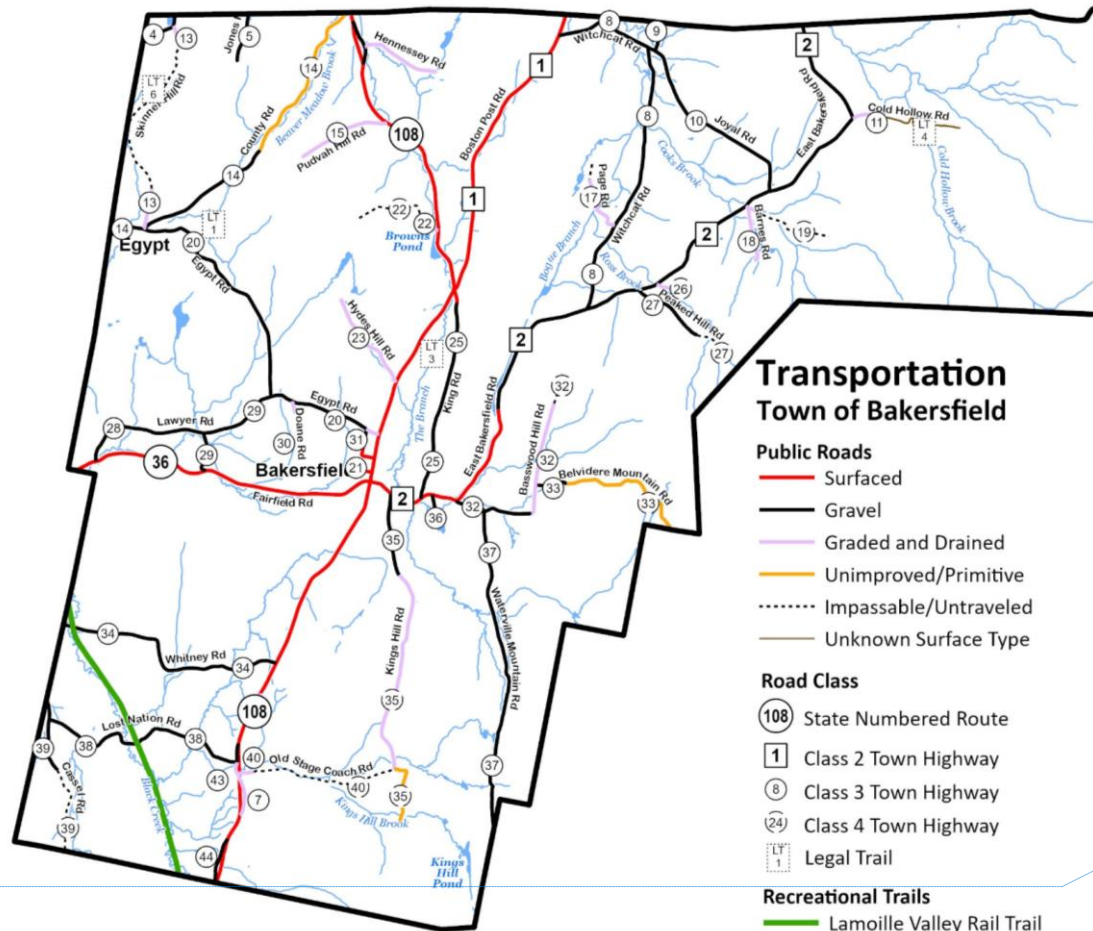
## BAKERSFIELD GRAND ISLE

### Town Plan

long-distance bicycle route that spans many communities and brings tourism to the region. As is the case with many rural communities, Bakersfield residents depend greatly on privately owned motor vehicles and the local road network for access to jobs, goods and services. Providing The goal of this chapter is to provide a safe and efficient transportation system that incorporates all modes of travel and meets the needs of Bakersfield residents and visitors now and into the future. will meet the residents of Bakersfield now and into the future will require thoughtful planning. Such a system will provide a variety of transportation options beyond motor vehicles. In developing this plan, it is important to recognize that transportation is inter-related with many other sections of this plan, including land use, energy, recreation, and housing.

### Travel to Work

On average, workers in Bakersfield traveled 32.6 minutes to get to work



Commented [LS15]: Commuting data is in the Economic Development chapter

## **BAKERSFIELD GRAND ISLE**

### *Town Plan*

in 2000 (Table 5.1). This figure was not collected in the 2010 Census. In 1990, it took 12% of workers (58 people) less than 10 minutes to get to work. By 2012, this number decreased to 4.6% of workers (31 people). Meanwhile, the commute times longer than 20 minutes increased in Bakersfield. The most significant increase between 1990 and 2012 is seen in the 20-29 minutes interval. This category increased from 17% of workers (77 people) to 22.9% of workers (154 people). Commutes of over 45 minutes also increased by around 90 people between 1990 and 2012.

According to the 2000 Census, the majority of Bakersfield residents worked within Franklin County (Table 5.2). Per 2011 data, this has changed dramatically with only 35.8% of workers working in Franklin County. About 40% of workers in 2011 commuted to Chittenden County compared to almost 25% in 2000. The percentage of workers in Bakersfield has also dropped dramatically between 2000 and 2011 (19.3% to 1.6%).

In 2012, 76.2% of workers in Bakersfield drove to work alone using either a car, truck, or van (Table 5.3). This is near identical to the 2000 figure of 77%, yet higher than in 1990 (64%). The percentage of Bakersfield residents who worked at home dropped from 2000 to 2012 after remaining steady from 1990 to 2000. Only 5.2% of Bakersfield residents as of 2012 works from home. This is similar to the county-wide rate of 5.1%. Carpooling is still not a habit for Bakersfield commuters. However, the percentage of carpooling commuters increased between 2000 and 2010. The reason for the low number of carpooling commuters is unknown. A possibility could be the lack of commercial establishments in town forces commuters to complete errand outside of town after work hours.

~~While the clustering of development helps decrease transportation costs, it is not the only answer. Most residents travel to Enosburg, Swanton, St Albans, or Chittenden County for employment, entertainment, medical needs, or supplies. Car pooling is beneficial for these residents not only because it conserves fuel, but also because it reduces wear and tear and maintenance costs on individual vehicles.~~

~~One important component of any car pooling program is the provision of a location where car poolers can leave their vehicles. Currently, there is only one formal designated "park and ride lot" in Northern Franklin County. The lot is located in Enosburg on VT Route 105 near the National Guard Armory.~~

## **Town Road System**

Vermont's local roads are classified according to their importance and general use. This classification system applies to all town highways, and is used to determine the amount of state highway assistance provided to each community. The Bakersfield road system is depicted [to the right, on Figure 5.1.](#)

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## BAKERSFIELD GRAND ISLE

### Town Plan

Table 4.15-4 shows the classification of roads in Bakersfield.

**Class 1** roads are ~~those~~ highways that are ~~the responsibility of the town to maintain, while being extensions of the state highway system and carrying a state highway route number.~~ **Class 1 roads are generally maintained by the State unless the municipality has requested Class 1 Town Highway status.** In Bakersfield, all Class 1 roads are state maintained and listed under state highways.

~~Bakersfield currently has no Class 1 roads.~~

**Class 2** roads serve as important corridors between towns and carry a large volume of local and regional traffic. East Bakersfield Road and the Boston Post Road are both Class 2 roads.

Many of Bakersfield's roads are considered **Class 3** roads. ~~In Bakersfield, these~~ **These roads are generally unpaved, but are passable year-round by standard passenger vehicles.**

**Class 4** roads receive little or no maintenance and may be impassable during winter and "mud season." Many former Class 4 roads have been reclassified to Legal Trails.

The Town should ensure that Class 2 and 3 roads are maintained and repaired on a regular schedule.

~~In the Town Plan survey, 52% of residents rated the quality of roads as good or excellent, 37% rated them as fair, and 8% as poor.~~ ~~carrying a state highway route number.~~ ~~Bakersfield currently has no~~

~~Class 1 roads. The roads that are designated as Class 2 serve as important corridors between towns, and consequently carry a large volume of local and regional traffic. East Bakersfield Road and the~~

~~Boston Post Road are both Class 2 roads. Many of Bakersfield's roads are considered Class 3 roads. These roads are generally unpaved, but are passable year-round by standard passenger vehicles. Class 4 roads receive little or no maintenance and may be impassable during winter and "mud season."~~

Table 4.1: Road Mileage in Bakersfield

State Highways	
<b>VT Route 108</b>	8.03
<b>VT Route 36</b>	2.51
<b>Total</b>	10.54
Town Highways	
<b>Class 1</b>	0
<b>Class 2</b>	9.36
<b>Class 3</b>	31.81
<b>Class 4</b>	8.32
<b>Legal Trails</b>	2.74
<b>Total</b>	52.23

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## **BAKERSFIELD GRAND ISLE**

### *Town Plan*

The town of Bakersfield currently has an ATV Ordinance that allows ATVs- ~~all town roads east of VT 108 except Boston Post Road on Class 3 and 4 Roads.~~ ~~All ATVs must be registered and receive a sticker that allows them to legally operate on town roads and trails.~~ ATVs are used primarily as recreation vehicles and not strictly for transportation, with much of the traffic coming from out of town drivers. Many farmers and maple producers also use them for access to areas of their properties. ~~Operation of ATVs on the roads of Bakersfield, however, should be allowed for Bakersfield residents only. Operators with a registered vehicle would be required to obtain a permit from the town clerk's office for this privilege. Air and sound pollution would be greatly reduced on sunny weekends on our back roads.~~

The most direct route between Bakersfield and communities to the east, including Johnson, is the Waterville Mountain Road. However, during the winter months, this road becomes impassable. The decision of whether or not this road should remain open year-round will likely be an important issue for the town in next several years. While this may be desirable for Bakersfield residents working in Lamoille County, there is also concern that opening up this road will create additional development pressure in the mountainous sections of Bakersfield. Keeping the road open and maintained would also require additional coordination between the town of Bakersfield and the town of Waterville in regard to plowing and maintenance.

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## BAKERSFIELD GRAND ISLE

Town Plan

### Complete Streets

Complete streets are streets that safely accommodate everyone using the road, including cars, bicyclists, pedestrians and public transportation. Complete streets consider the context of the road or street. For example, in a village a street may have a sidewalk for frequent pedestrian traffic, while in a rural area a wide striped shoulder may serve bicyclists and the occasional pedestrian.

### Traffic Calming

Route 108 is an important vehicular travel route that also the heart of Bakersfield's village. In the Town Plan survey, some residents expressed concerns with vehicle speeds through the Village. The Town should work with VTrans to investigate opportunities to reduce noise and increase safety by slowing vehicle speeds within the Village.

### Sidewalks

Bakersfield Village has a small sidewalk network along North Main Street that runs for 1,240 feet from Egypt Road to Route 36. These sidewalks connect the school, town hall, post office and library with residences and businesses along VT 108. These sidewalks were built in 2012 as a result of a feasibility study in 2004 and remain in good condition. The 2004 feasibility study also proposed sidewalks on South Main Street to Larry's Tree Farm, and further North on North Main Street, but these were never built. Extending the network as originally proposed would improve pedestrian access and safety within the Village. A 2004 feasibility study looked at ways to improve safety and mobility for pedestrians in the village area and connect the school, town hall, post office and library with residences and businesses along VT 108. The proposed improvements to VT 108 sidewalks was a huge project with the southern end at Larry's Tree Farm and the northern end stopping just short of the Methodist Church. In 2005, the town received a grant from the Vermont



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## **BAKERSFIELD GRAND ISLE**

### *Town Plan*

Agency of Transportation to design and construct 1,240 feet of sidewalk. In 2012, the sidewalks were completed and they consist of two segments: along VT 108 from the Brigham Library to East Bakersfield Road, and along the west side of VT 108 in front of Brigham Academy across from the library. The project includes sidewalk construction, curbing, crosswalks, landscaping as needed, and signs. Construction of these segments of the sidewalk was completed in 2011.

Most Village sidewalks are built directly on the curb with no buffer between the road. When roads are plowed in the winter, this causes snow and ice to pile up on sidewalks. New sidewalks should include adequate pedestrian buffers from the travel lane, and road plowing should be done in a way that keeps sidewalks clear of ice and snow in the winter.

### **Recreational Paths**

The Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT) runs through the southwestern corner of Bakersfield for about 2.5 miles. At 94 miles long, the LVRT is the longest rail trail in New England and connects 18 towns from St. Johnsbury to Swanton. The LVRT is a major regional destination for summer recreation. Currently, there is no dedicated bicycle infrastructure connecting the Village to the LVRT, but the Village can be accessed by riding on the shoulder of VT 36 or VT 108. The closest public trailhead is located in East Fairfield. **Exploring ways to better connect the Village to the LVRT could provide tourism benefits to the Town and increase recreational opportunities for residents.**

There are currently no specific bike trails or facilities available in Bakersfield. The Bakersfield Conservation Commission also maintains has created the Bakersfield Town Park adjacent to the Maple Grove Cemetery. The park has walking trails for recreational use at the Town Park adjacent to Maple Grove Cemetery. The Lamoille Valley Rail Trail is currently in the planning phase, however this is considered to be also a recreational resource, rather than a meaningful transportation option.

### **Public Transportation and Carpooling**

The town of Bakersfield is not serviced by fixed public transit. – Rural Community Transit (RCT) The Northwest Vermont Public Transit Network (Network) offers public transit for Franklin County and Grand Isle County. – The closest route is the Richford-St. Albans Commuter, which runs twice a day and stops in Enosburgh. Green Mountain Transit (GMT) also provides a route from St. Albans to Burlington. The Network has established

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## **BAKERSFIELD GRAND ISLE**

### *Town Plan*

~~subscription service between Richford and St. Albans and a fixed route service known as the St. Albans City Loop. Elderly residents and those eligible for Medicaid may connect with subscription service by calling the Network.~~

~~Bakersfield is a difficult place to provide consistent public transportation due to its low overall density. One available option to reduce single-occupancy vehicle trips is carpooling. While the clustering of development helps decrease transportation costs, it is not the only answer. Most residents travel to Enosburg, Swanton, St Albans, or Chittenden County for employment, entertainment, medical needs, or supplies. Car-pooling is beneficial for these residents not only because it conserves fuel, but also because it reduces wear and tear and maintenance costs on individual vehicles.~~

~~One important component of any car-pooling program is the provision of a location where car-poolers can leave their vehicles. availability of Park and Ride lots. Currently, there is only one formal designated "park and ride lot" in Northern Franklin County. The lot is located in Enosburg on VT Route 105 near the National Guard Armory. the closest official Park and Ride lots are in East Fairfield, Enosburgh and Jeffersonville.~~

~~Presently, the~~The nearest rail service for freight is in Richford (Canadian Pacific). The nearest passenger rail service is Amtrak's Vermonter which stops in St. Albans and travels south to New York City and Washington D.C with connections to Boston and other locations on the east coast. Travelling via rail to Montreal is possible on Amtrak's Adirondack line. The closest station on this line is in the Plattsburg, NY area. The Chittenden County Transportation Authority (CCTA) offers regular bus service between Jeffersonville in Lamoille County and St. Albans to Burlington four times daily during the week. There is no weekend bus service on these routes.

Burlington International Airport, approximately 45 miles to the southwest, is the closest airport with national and international connections. Trudeau Airport is located about two hours to the north in Montreal, Quebec.

### ***Pedestrian and Bike Facilities***

~~A 2004 feasibility study looked at ways to improve safety and mobility for pedestrians in the village area and connect the school, town hall, post office and library with residences and businesses along VT 108. The proposed improvements to VT 108 sidewalks was a huge project with the southern end at Larry's Tree Farm and the northern end stopping just short of the Methodist Church. In 2005, the town received a grant from the Vermont Agency of Transportation to design and construct 1,240 feet of sidewalk. In 2012, the sidewalks were completed and they consist of two segments: along VT 108 from the Brigham Library to East Bakersfield Road, and along the west side of VT 108 in front of Brigham Academy across~~

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## **BAKERSFIELD GRAND ISLE**

### *Town Plan*

~~from the library. The project includes sidewalk construction, curbing, crosswalks, landscaping as needed, and signs. Construction of these segments of the sidewalk was completed in 2011.~~

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