



March 20, 2020

City Council
City of Montpelier
39 Main St
Montpelier, VT 05602-2950

Re: Montpelier Downtown Core Master Plan

Dear Council,

Firstly, we hope that you are all doing well. These past few weeks have been, for lack of a better word, unprecedented. While at this point, the future is somewhat uncertain, we have taken some professional solace in finalizing this planning document that sets forth a clearer vision for your beautiful city. It is vital to remain mindful of tomorrow and be ready to take a step forward. We hope this plan helps the City do just that.

Since the draft was published, we received many helpful and constructive comments—thank you. We have taken the time to address them. Specifically, this final plan addressed the following:

- *Final review for typos*
- *Text and format changes throughout for improved clarity and flow*
- *Updated introductory text to clarify the purpose of the document and how it is structured*
- *Additional graphics to more fully explain recommendations, including:*
 - *Elm Street Plan and Sections*
 - *Open Space, Infill, and Bike/Ped Recommendations Plan*
- *Clarification of the proposed expanded stormwater treatment study and process for this project*
- *Updated Table of Contents with an improved format*

We also believe this document reflects a workable consensus between the hopes and visions of City staff, the Steering Committee, and the broader Montpelier community. For some, it might not seem “bold” enough, but the recommendations advance some very progressive ideas for the evolution of the downtown core.

The recommendations incorporate the following:

- significantly increasing pedestrian space,
- defining new and unique outdoor civic spaces,
- adapting the streetscape to support parking where needed, but allow it to rethink those needs in the future,

- establishing a new approach to street trees that will enable them to be healthier and more contributing to the sense of place,
- rethinking circulation within the downtown core to establish a secure bike route while enhancing the streetscape's pedestrian flow,
- prioritizing access to the river, the establishment of riparian open spaces, and smart infill as core land-use objectives, and
- establishing the nexus between stormwater management, streetscape design, and land use strategy to support a downtown core that reaches higher in the treatment of its urban runoff.

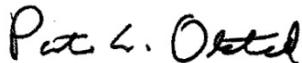
The vision established in this plan was the result of considerable efforts on the part of City staff, the Steering Committee, and the general public. SE Group, in partnership with Stantec and Watershed Consulting, wishes to thank all involved for their perspectives, energy, and commitment.

We look forward to seeing Montpelier take the next steps in advancing this vision.

Regards,
SE Group



Mark D. Kane
Director of Community Planning and Design



Patrick Olstad, PLA
Senior Associate Landscape Architect

cc: Stantec
Watershed Consulting