

Neighbors, Together
Community Values Meeting #1
Jan 31, 2016

Some 40-45 town residents gathered at St. Stephen's on Sunday, Jan 31, from 3-5 PM, to discuss how Middlebury can survive and thrive during the upcoming replacement of our downtown bridges and repair of the rail line. Attendees broke into groups of five and then reported out on what they regarded as the critical and important community values to preserve during construction. A second community values meeting will be held Thursday, Feb 4, 6-8 PM.

Critical & Important Values

- Maintain the economic stability and vitality of our downtown. In particular, protect our small businesses. Promote a "shop local" mentality.
- Maintain the accessibility of downtown businesses and services and provide adequate parking.
- Maintain Middlebury's status as the hub of Addison County: its economic, social, and legal center.
- Preserve Middlebury as a cultural center and maintain support of the arts during construction.
- Keep Middlebury a year-round tourist destination. Ensure that our lodgings are able to stay open and care for visitors to our town.
- Preserve the family festivals and downtown community events.
- Maintain Middlebury's reputation as a progressive, vital town.
- Preserve the social interactions that take place downtown.
- Preserve the integrity of Middlebury's historic buildings and the aesthetics of our downtown.
- Keep Middlebury attractive, clean, and livable.
- Keep Middlebury safe during construction. In particular for our children, elderly, and disadvantaged populations.
- Maintain emergency services.
- Promote a collaborative community spirit in responding to the challenges of this project. Support the Town's leadership.
- Maintain the integrity of our food services (e.g., dust particles in food served outdoors).
- Safeguard the quality of the water in Otter Creek.

Jim Gish
Community Liaison
Downtown Middlebury Bridge Replacement Project