

Chapter 11: Regional Coordination

Adjacent Towns

Development in Middlesex has had little impact on surrounding towns. Although Middlesex has two small industrial parks, most of the development has been in the form of residential construction. Housing growth in town is strongly influenced by our proximity to Montpelier and our interstate access to Barre, Berlin, and Burlington. In particular, the growth in business activity and state government in Montpelier and Berlin has increased the demand for housing in the region, and we expect this demand to continue.

To the north, Middlesex abuts Worcester, and at present both towns have conservation zoning districts along the North Branch. A change in zoning in this valley by either town would have significant impact on its neighbor.

To the south Middlesex abuts Moretown and Berlin, with a mixture of industrial, village and residential zones. A new bridge over the Winooski River and the widening of Route 100B in Moretown may increase traffic in this area. At present, no major zoning changes are contemplated along this border.

To the west, Middlesex borders the town of Waterbury along the eastern slope of the Worcester Mountain range. This is a rugged area that has not yet come under development pressure. This area is currently used primarily for recreation and the harvesting of timber. Any future use of this portion of Middlesex would have little impact on Waterbury. The Town road that once connected the two communities through the Middlesex Notch is no longer passable by motor vehicles due to erosion and extensive beaver dams.

To the east, the Town borders Montpelier and East Montpelier. Middlesex residents rely on Montpelier for shopping, employment and a wide range of other services. Montpelier's stated economic development plan, if successful, could have a major impact on the demand for housing in Middlesex.

Regional Cooperation

The Town of Middlesex is committed to working cooperatively with neighboring towns to address issues of mutual concern. Middlesex cooperates with other towns in a number of areas, including schools (as part of the Washington Central Supervisory Union), emergency services (as a member of the Capital West Mutual Aid System), and solid waste (as part of the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District). As a member of the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, Middlesex participates along with all Washington County towns and three Orange County towns. The opportunity exists for the towns abutting the Worcester Mountains to develop a long-term plan for the range.

Compatibility Statement

The Middlesex Town Plan as proposed is unlikely to have an adverse impact on the plans of neighboring towns. The Planning Commissions of all neighboring towns have been provided with a copy of this proposed plan and we have received no comments from them.