

# Transportation Efficiency in Vermont



## Clean Cities April 14, 2009

**Richard Watts, Director of Research  
Transportation Research Center**



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## University of Vermont Transportation Research Center

- Founded in Fall 2006 (SAFETEA LU)
- One of 10 National Transportation Centers
- Theme: Sustainable Systems and Advanced Technologies for Northern Communities
- Multi-disciplinary
- Service to Vermont



Picture Description / Source



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## Research, Students & Programs

- Research Funding
- Transportation Scholars



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## Clean Cities Mission

***“...advance the economic, environmental and energy security of the U.S. by supporting local decisions to adopt practices that contribute to reduced petroleum consumption in the transportation sector...”***



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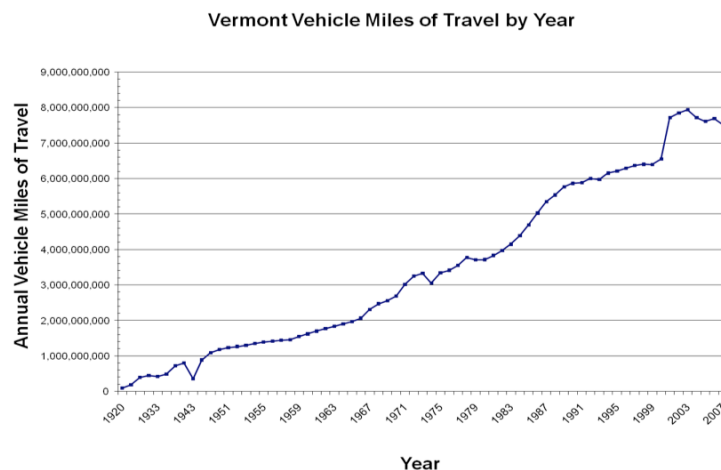
## TRC Signature Focus Areas

- Land Use & Transportation
- Tailpipe Emissions
- Tourism Travel
- Mobility & Seasonality  
(walking, biking, rural access)
- Transportation System Efficiency
- Data Collection



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## Vermont Vehicle Miles Traveled

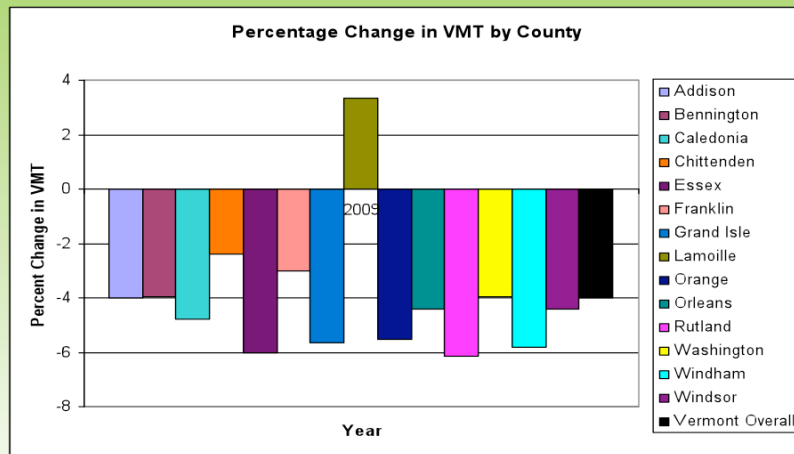


Source: Vermont Agency of Transportation.

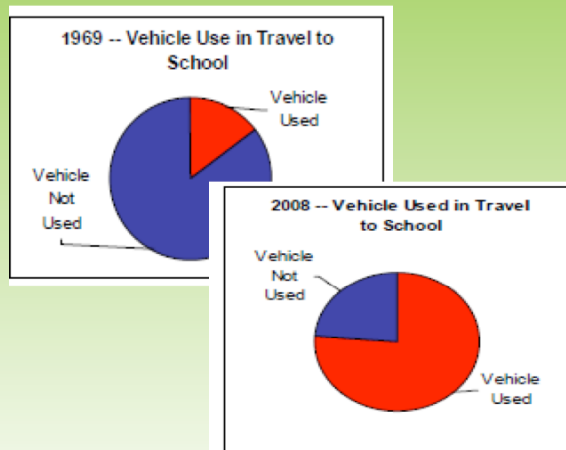


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## 2008-2009 VMT Declines By County

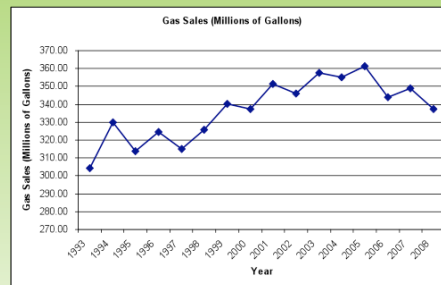
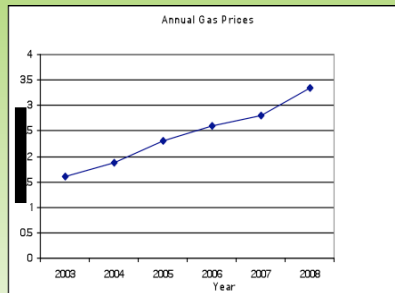


## Driving Kids to School Increases



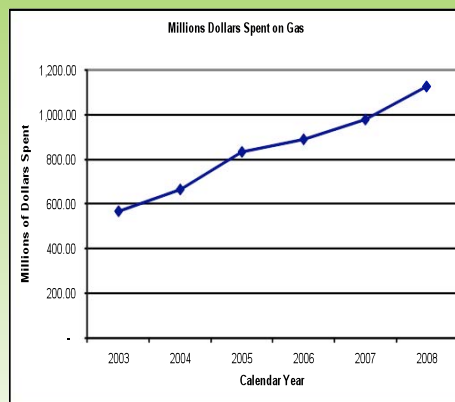
Source: National Household Travel Survey, 2009. <http://nhts.ornl.gov/>

# Driving Less: Spending More



Vermont Energy Report, 2009

# Costs to Consumers Increases

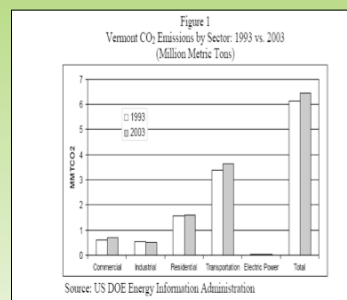


Source: Joint Fiscal Office, Vermont Legislature

## Reduce Petroleum Use

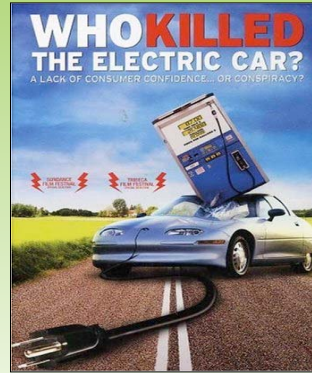
- 1. Vehicle Efficiency (CAFÉ standards, vehicle purchases trends)
- 2. Switch Vehicle Fuels
- 3. Increase Transportation System Efficiency (reducing vehicle miles traveled, switch modes, increase vehicle occupancy rates, driving behavior, etc.)

## Plug in Hybrid Electric Vehicles





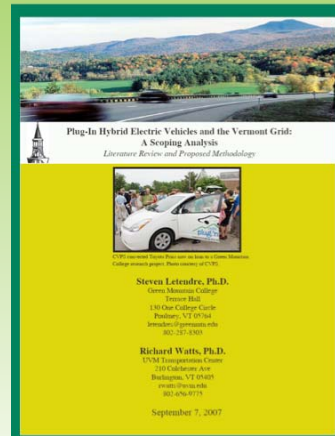
# Electric Cars in Vermont



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## Phase 1 PHEV Vermont Study

- How many PHEVs could the Vermont electric power system charge assuming three plausible consumer charging patterns?
- What is the MPG equivalent cost of displacing gasoline with electricity?
- How much gasoline could be displaced annually from three different PHEV penetration scenarios?
- What are the net regional emissions impacts from the introduction of PHEVs in Vermont?



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# PHEV Technical Specifications

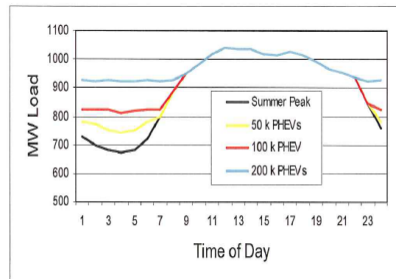
**TABLE 3 PHEV 20 Technical Specifications for Vermont Study**

Nominal Battery Pack Size (kWh)	7.5
Usable Energy in Battery Pack (kWh)	6
Round Trip Battery Efficiency (%)	85
Charger Efficiency (%)	82
Charge Rate (kW)	1.4
Time for Full Charge (hours)	6
Purchased Electricity per Charge (kWh)	8.4
Electric Efficiency (miles / kWh)	3.49
All Electric Range (miles)	20

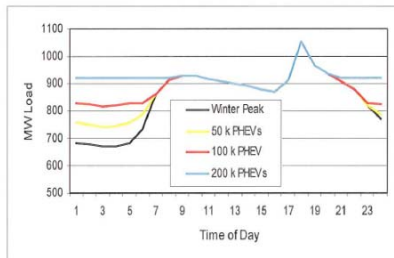


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## Best Case Load Impacts



**FIGURE 7 Summer Peak PHEV Load Impacts: Optimal Nighttime Charging**



**FIGURE 8 Winter Peak PHEV Load Impacts: Optimal Nighttime Charging**



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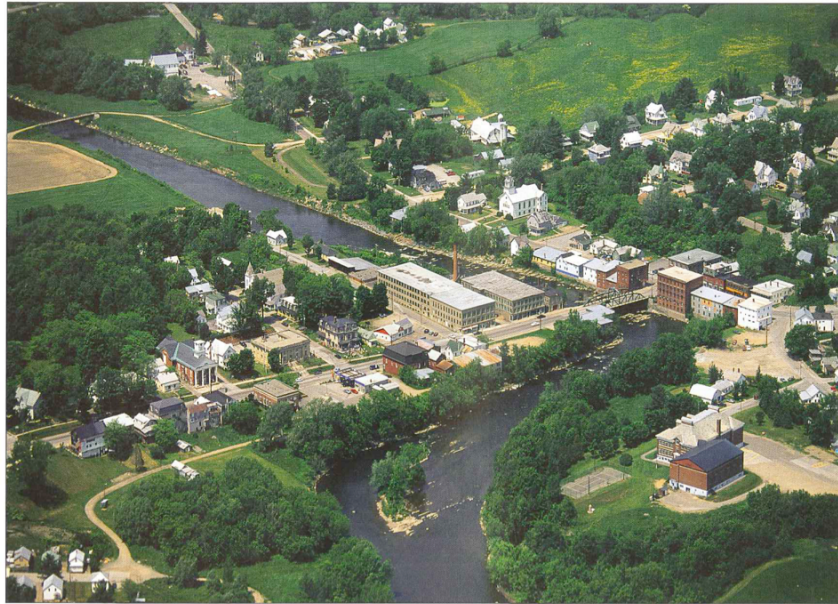


# Transportation System Efficiency

- SmartGrowth Study in two Maine towns
- Efficient driving behavior (with VEIC)
- Social Networks
- Town-based Efficiency (Hinesburg)

## Smart Growth in Lisbon, Maine





3.17 Historic Richford Village with vacant industrial buildings in the center along the river.

Source: Above and Beyond, Julie Campbell, Elizabeth Humstone, Alex Macdonald  
 2002, American Planning Association. Used with permission of the author.  
 id Beyond

## Revitalize Existing Buildings





# Once Vibrant Transit Systems



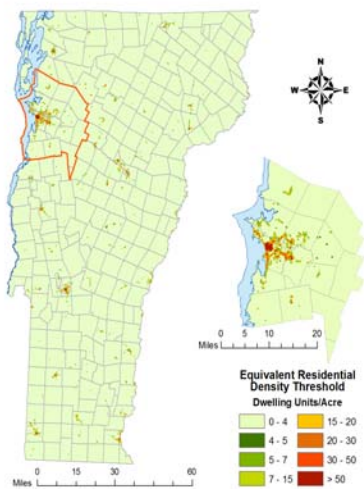
Burning the last street car in downtown Burlington, Main St. Aug 4, 1929, Courtesy of Special Collections, Bailey Howe Library



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# Transit Viability Index

**Transit Supportive Zones in Vermont**  
Based on Equivalent Housing Units and  
Residential Density Threshold



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## Social Networking



## Hinesburg Rides – Town-Based Efficiency Programs



## The Future?



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