



Lifetime Achievement Award 2024 Nomination

Jed Merrow has been a major force in terms of habitat and wildlife connectivity in the northeast. He has been instrumental in many of the initiatives that VTrans has been involved with and he is deserving of this recognition. Jed was a participant in VTrans/VF&WD's first Highways & Habitats training in 2004 and is now helping coordinate the development of a northeast regional Highways & Habitats training. His work with reptiles and amphibians is renowned regionally, and he has been involved in rattlesnake and transportation projects in New York and Vermont. Jed led the spiny softshell monitoring project for the Swanton-Alburgh Bridge project in northern Vermont and is helping manage the wood turtle monitoring project along Route 12 in central Vermont. He coordinated the development of the Amphibian Crossing Predictive Model used by VTrans on project reviews.

In 2014 through 2016, Jed coordinated a study of Interstate 89 and US Route 2 in the Bolton – Waterbury area in north central Vermont. This study confirmed that these roads are a fragmenting feature separating the northern Green Mountains from the southern Green Mountains. In 2023, Jed utilized data from that study to help draft a FHWA Wildlife Crossing Pilot Program Grant application which proposed designing a wildlife crossing in Waterbury, Vermont. That application was successful and resulted in a \$1.62 million grant to the Vermont Agency of Transportation for development of conceptual plans for a wildlife crossing under I89 and US2. Jed worked on the design of a wildlife crossing and barrier system specifically to accommodate wood turtle passage for MassDOT in Hubbardston, MA. He also led the environmental review for the NHDOT NH Route 111 Bypass in Windham and Salem and the Manchester Airport Access Road, which incorporated wildlife crossings.

In addition to above, the long list of Jed's meaningful contributions to habitat connectivity and wildlife in the northeast includes:

- Active participant in the International Conference on Ecology and Transportation
- Active member in Northeast Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation



- Active member of the NH Transportation and Wildlife Work Group since its inception
- Designed a wildlife crossing and barrier system specifically to accommodate wood turtle passage for MassDOT in Hubbardston, MA
- Currently working with The Nature Conservancy to expand upon the VTrans “Highways & Habitats” training and extend it to seven other Northeastern states. The training is in video format and introduces viewers to the concept of road ecology – how wildlife interact with roads.
- Was involved in rattlesnake studies for a proposed highway widening in NY
- Served on his town’s conservation commission for many years, spearheaded a natural resource inventory and a town-wide culvert assessment, and helped with trail and invasive species work. He continues to monitor spring amphibian migrations and rare reptile populations.

As a project consultant, Jed has been able to successfully navigate a balance between project development and environmental stewardship, always with an eye on excellence and top-notch customer service.

Moreover, Jed has been involved with Northeastern Transportation and Wildlife Conference (NETWC) from its inception in 2004 and has helped steer the direction of this conference as it has grown and evolved over two decades.