

# ACRPC

update February 2016

## 2016 Vermont Walk/Bike Summit

The Rutland Regional Planning Commission is set to host the 2016 Vermont Walk/Bike Summit on April first and second at the Paramount Theatre in downtown Rutland. This year's summit will include interactive mobile workshops, peer exchanges, a highly-acclaimed keynote and a variety of dynamic presentations and topics.

This year's keynote speaker is David Chernushenko, who serves as Councillor of Capital Ward, Ottawa, Ontario and is also a film director and sustainability consultant. Other guest speakers include Harry L.

Chen, M.D., Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Health and Chris Cole, Secretary of the Vermont Agency of Transportation. Attendees will have four track topics to choose from, which include:

### Built Environment

The Built Environment track provides an opportunity to find out the importance of a community vision for network planning, cost-effective measures to increase bicycle/pedestrian accommodations, and to hear about innovative practices that your community can implement towards greater biking and walking potential.

### Advocacy and Education

The Advocacy and Education track offers participants a chance to learn more about the Everyday Bicycling Project, Pop-Up Events and demonstrations from around the state, as well as how to best advocate for low-cost/short-term bicycle/pedestrian road improvements.

### Economic Development

The Economic Development track will highlight the impact that walkability and bikeability have on communities. Topics include Walk Score, tourism opportunities, and the value of active transportation infrastructure. Led by Vermont Realtors®, this track offers CE credits for realtors.

### Public Safety

The Public Safety track will focus on how a walkable community is a safer community. Points of emphasis range from crime prevention, with more eyes on the street, to long-term skills for children through Safe Routes to School. All road users, from law enforcement to citizens, are invited to participate in this track.

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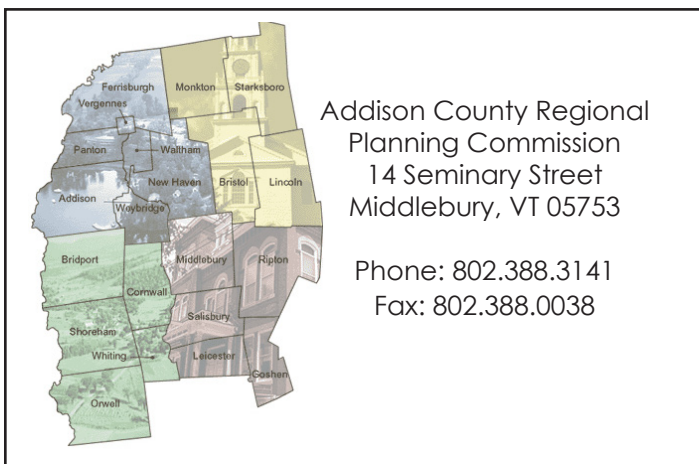
*This newsletter is financed through the State of Vermont Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the State of Vermont. All programs of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission are handicapped accessible.*

## Commission Calendar

February 2016

10	7:30pm	Full Commission Meeting
17	7:00pm	TAC Meeting
18	7:00pm	ACSWMD Meeting
24	6:30pm	Executive Board Meeting
3/3	4:30pm	Act 250/Section 248 Committee Meeting

Meetings are held at ACRPC, 14 Seminary Street, Middlebury, and are open to the public.



Addison County Regional Planning Commission  
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# Grants, Events & Workshops

The Vermont Walk/Bike Summit is an excellent opportunity to connect with community members, employers, planners and various professionals from throughout the state for in-depth sharing on current efforts, new ideas, and networking to advance more livable communities.

The registration cost ranges from free to \$25 depending on the activities you choose to partake. For full details and to register for the event, please visit: <http://walkbikesummitvt.com/>.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Kimberly Griffin at [kimberly.rapac@gmail.com](mailto:kimberly.rapac@gmail.com).

## **New DHCD Planning Manual**

DHCD is pleased to announce that the 2016 edition of the Planning Manual is now available for download on the DHCD Planning Manual webpage. This edition comprehensively overhauls the last one written in 1988, and is designed to help communities identify the issues that matter most and to help them focus on developing action-oriented strategies to tackle them.

The 2016 update includes two modules:

*Module 1* is The Municipal Plan that includes new concepts on developing a shared community vision, more concise and user-friendly plans, and effective implementation strategies. It gives advice on how to work with existing plans and includes a section on the role of the municipal plan in state Act 250 land use permits and Section 248 proceedings for electric generation facilities.

*Module 2* details all five of the State Designation Programs (downtown, villages, etc.) and includes case studies that show how cities and towns have used the programs to implement their plans and achieve their goals.

## **Conservation Success Stories**

In an era of forest fragmentation, declining species, and rising global temperatures, it can be difficult to remain hopeful about the future of the environment. But the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions (AVCC) is looking to show that Vermont's grassroots conservation efforts are great examples of conservation successes.

The association is compiling Conservation Success Stories on their website, [vtconservation.com](http://vtconservation.com), in an effort to demonstrate what works in conservation. The stories include everything from streambank restoration projects to education programs that connect kids with nature.

Jens Hilke, a conservation planning biologist for the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department serves on AVCC's board. According to Hilke, the board is hoping these success stories will serve as promising examples for others to follow.

"Amazing conservation work is happening at the local level in Vermont," said Hilke. "We're asking local conservation groups to share your stories to build on this work and serve as a resource for other groups working on similar issues. We want to know who you partnered with, what your challenges were, and what was critical to your success."

One of the nearly 100 success stories currently on the website is the conservation of Zack Woods Pond and the surrounding 400 acres in Hyde Park, Vt. Local residents had grown increasingly concerned about rampant trash dumping, out of control fires, and overused campsites on the land. They formed Friends of Zack Woods and partnered with several statewide conservation organizations to work towards solving these issues. In 2013, the state of Vermont accepted the property into the Green River Reservoir State Park, ensuring that these lands will remain forever conserved.

Karen Freeman is the conservation director for the

# Grants, Events & Workshops

Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, and also serves on the board of the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions. According to Freeman, “Vermont’s local conservation commissions are defined by their willingness to work together and learn from each other. These partnerships continue to strengthen the state’s conservation legacy, ensuring that Vermont’s wild places, outdoor recreational resources and working landscape will remain healthy and available for future generations.”

Vermont conservation groups looking to get information about past successes, or to share their stories with others, can access the website at [vtconservation.com](http://vtconservation.com).

## 2016 Addison County Legislative Breakfast Schedule

Date	Location	Town
Feb. 1	Grange Hall	Bridport
Feb. 8	American Legion	Middlebury
Feb. 15	Parish Hall (w/ ACCC business issues)	King Street, Vergennes
Feb. 22	Town Hall	Whiting
Feb. 29	Grange Hall	Bridport
March 7	Rikert Ski Center	Ripton
March 14	**Governor’s Lunch** American Legion	Bristol
March 21	Congregational Church	Maple Street, Salisbury
March 28	**AG Lunch** Community Hall	Bridport
April 4	Congregational Church	Weybridge
April 11	American Legion	Middlebury
April 18	Parish Hall	King Street, Vergennes
June 6	Grange Hall	Bridport

- All events are sponsored by Bridport Grange #303 and Addison County Farm Bureau, with

support from Addison County Chamber of Commerce and Addison County RPC

- All breakfasts start at 7:00am, with programs running 7:30 - 8:45am
- Luncheons begin at 12:00pm and end at 1:45pm.
- Purchase of breakfast is not required to attend, but helps to defray costs incurred by event hosts

## FY2017 Vermont Better Roads Grant Program

The Vermont Agency of Transportation is pleased to announce the 19th year of funding to support projects on municipal roads that improve water quality and result in maintenance cost savings. The grant funds are provided by the VT Agency of Transportation with partnership through the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. The Vermont Better Roads Program’s goal is to promote the use of erosion control and maintenance techniques that save money while protecting and enhancing Vermont’s lakes and streams. Funds, subject to availability, will be distributed as grants to municipalities to address town erosion problems.

### *Program Changes for FY2017*

Additional funding is anticipated from the Transportation Bill through Act 40 and from the Clean Water Fund through Act 64. This year’s grant application features additional categories to reflect this additional money as well as increased grant amounts. With these changes the Better Backroads Program has undergone a slight name change to the Better Roads Program to reflect the inclusion of paved roads into the program for the first time.

### Applications due by 5pm on Friday April 15th, 2016.

The application may be downloaded here: <http://vtrns-engineering.vermont.gov/bureaus/mab/better-backroads>. Paper copies of the applications will be mailed to all towns. Please contact Alan May, Better Roads Coordinator at (802) 828-4585 or [alan.may@vermont.gov](mailto:alan.may@vermont.gov) if you have any questions.

# Grants, Events & Workshops

## Homeland Security Grant Program

The Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) is seeking applications for the items listed below. This funding, provided through the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) Program, will allow State of Vermont Recognized Special Teams, i.e., bomb, hazmat, USAR, etc., and local agencies with formal agreements with the Department of Public Safety for assets that can be utilized during an emergency or incident to enhance their Capabilities. DEMHS application review will be in coordination with the Special Operations Working Group,

Please note that this funding opportunity is for Federal Fiscal Year 2016, which will not be awarded to the VT DPS DEMHS until mid-fall, calendar year 2016. FEMA has modified the way in which States apply for funding which requires States to provide detailed information as to who the subrecipients of the funding will be at the time of application. This changes our methodology of how we award grants and causes us to release an RFP, review applications from local and state entities and make decisions on potential sub-grants prior to VT DPS DEMHS applying for the

funding. This means that as a local or state entity, you will not receive a grant agreement for items approved for purchase until mid-fall, calendar year 2016 when we receive the funding. The grant agreement will need to be executed BEFORE any equipment can be ordered or purchased, as is currently the practice.

DEMHS will be holding four outreach meetings on the dates outlined below to provide program updates, answer questions on allowable items for application and to assist in the development of applications.

Remaining outreach session dates, times and locations:

- February 8, 2016, 6:30 p.m., Royalton State Police Barracks, 2011 VT RT 107, Bethel
- February 9, 2016, 6:30 p.m., Derby State Police Barracks, 35 Crawford Road, Derby

**\*\* Applications will not be reviewed unless all requirements are met at the time of application review.** This includes signatures by all appropriate parties on the cover page; assistance in completing the application can be obtained by contacting Jessica Stolz, [Jessica.stolz@vermont.gov](mailto:Jessica.stolz@vermont.gov) or (802) 241-5094. \*\*

## Other Important Dates & Deadlines

<b>March 1st</b>	Vermont Town Meeting Day
<b>April 1st &amp; 2nd</b>	2016 VT Walk/Bike Summit
<b>April 15th</b>	Better Roads Grant Program application deadline